

The Conquistador

Spring 2021

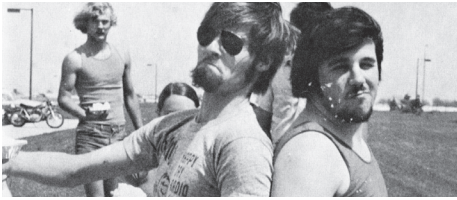
THE MAGAZINE OF DODGE CITY COMMUNITY COLLEGE



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DING
FLING**



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The Conquistador

Spring 2021
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Together We Conquer



I would like to welcome you to the Spring 2021 issue of the Conquistador magazine. Within its pages, you will find positive, upbeat stories and photos that document a very unusual semester here at Dodge City Community College (DC3).

Because of the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, the students, faculty and staff of DC3 have had to think outside of the box to make the college experience work in the face of such challenge and adversity. Not only did our instructors have to modify the way they teach, but our coaches and athletic staff had to change the way our sports seasons are structured. In fact, nearly all of our fall and winter sports were moved to the spring semester!

Also within the pages of this magazine, you will find stories and photos showcasing new programs, new equipment and classroom technology, upgrades to buildings and facilities, students engaging with our community, and stories highlighting some of our campus history. Of course, there's also a story about our Conquistador spirit squad winning its first national title in school history!

There's no question. DC3 is a special place, and I cannot be more proud of our outstanding students, faculty and staff. And before I close, I just want to thank you for being a part of our Conq Nation! Without you, we could not do what we do. Together we conquer!

Sincerely,

Harold Nolte
HAROLD NOLTE, Ed.D.
President

DC3 BY THE NUMBERS

TOTAL ENROLLMENT

1,528

AVERAGE CLASS SIZE

20

STUDENT-TO-FACULTY RATIO

11:1

STUDENTS FROM

38 STATES

24 COUNTRIES

NUMBER OF ATHLETIC PROGRAMS

18

STUDENT GENDER

51% FEMALE

49% MALE

Conq Corral

Highlights focusing on the moments that matter — Conqs on campus and around our community.

Photo by Justin Wilson



On Dec. 9, 2020, members of the DC3 faculty, staff and administration met in the Student Union Board Room for a come-and-go reception for Carla Patee. Patee, who was the Executive Administrative Assistant to the President, the Freedom of Information Officer, and the Board of Trustees Deputy Secretary and Clerk, served in a variety of capacities during her 25-year career at DC3.



Submitted Photo

Two of the helicopters from the DC3 Flight Instructor program were out for a desert run in the San Tan Mountains, southeast of Phoenix, Ariz., on Feb. 26. The two helicopters, which are both Robinson R22s, were navigated by (purple) Angela Morrow, DC3 Adjunct Flight Instructor; and (gold) Tim Brennan, DC3 Chief Flight Instructor.

Photo by Lance Ziesch



On March 31, DC3 began a major sidewalk replacement project on campus. The project, which was awarded to Brak-Hard Concrete Construction Company LLC, will conclude later this summer.

Photo by Justin Wilson



On April 9, Dr. Harold Nolte, DC3 President, was presented with the Shirley B. Gordon Award of Distinction from Phi Theta Kappa (PTK) Honor Society, at an afternoon ceremony in the DC3 Library. Nolte was nominated for the honor by students of DC3's Kappa Psi PTK Chapter, because of his strong support of DC3 student academic achievement, leadership, and service.

Photo by Abbi Worden



The DC3 women's golf program swept both the team and individual championships in all three of their Kansas Jayhawk Community College Conference (KJCCC) Match Play events this year. The team won the events by a combined 51 strokes, with freshman Thitapha Iamtragul (far left) taking the individual crown in each of the events.

Photo by Justin Wilson



On April 9, the children of the DC3 Child Development Center (CDC) planted a blue pinwheel garden in front of the DC3 Cosmetology/CDC building to honor Child Abuse Awareness Month. The project, which helps raise awareness of child abuse, is made possible by CDC staff, early childhood education students, and CASA-Children Worth Saving Inc.



DC3's 'Go-to Girl' Retires

After nearly 30 years, Ramona Shean, the Dodge City Community College (DC3) Assistant Director of Facilities & Operations is stepping down. Shean, who started at DC3 on Nov. 1, 1991, will officially retire May 1, 2021.

Hired originally as a secretary in the Maintenance Department, Shean has served in several capacities during her tenure at DC3.

"I was supposed to start on Nov. 1, 1991," Shean said. "I was driving from Cimarron at that time, and that day, there was a snowstorm. I hadn't heard any radio announcements or anything, but I actually made it to Dodge City. So, I pulled in the front of campus, and I heard on the radio that the campus was closed. I almost got stuck getting out. That was my first day."

Of course back in 1991, the DC3 offices were still doing things by hand, she said. It was still very much the era of the typewriter, as the use of personal computers (PCs) was just beginning in the workplace.

"The first PCs on campus were Apple Macintoshes," she said.

With next to no computers on campus, that meant there was also no email—that came a year or so later, she said. In fact at that time, there were only two fax machines on campus. One was in the Administration building, and the other was in the Learning Resource Center.

"When I started, the maintenance office daily work was still done by hand or by typewriter," she said. "The room scheduling was kept in a notebook and then typed on triplicate forms that were distributed for set up and foodservice."

As the new technology came out, the maintenance staff had to learn it, Shean said.

"They did on-campus training, so everything became computerized," she said.

Another change over the past 30 years is the growth of the college's fleet. When she started, the 'fleet' was one big bus, four or five 15-passenger vans, and six cars.

"But, look at us now," she said. "We have three motor coaches, four Turtle Top mini-buses, one passenger van and seven cars."

As time went on, Shean was promoted to office manager, because she started overseeing some of the maintenance night crew.

"As I supervised more people, I got to progress up," she said.

A few years later, she became the interim maintenance director, and then finally the assistant director.

During Shean's time at DC3, she has worked with seven maintenance directors and seven college presidents. And DC3 has built five new buildings (Allied Health, the Science & Math Annex, Jackson Hall, Becker Hall and the Student Activity Center) and demolished three (Sites-Franklin Hall, Russell-Rivette Hall and Gleckler-Zollars Hall).

"Many people have come and gone," she said. "And there have been many new improvements to the campus. I have enjoyed being a part of all of these."

Shean said that through the years, she has often been called the 'go-to girl' on campus. And she hopes that she has been worthy of that nickname.

"To me, maintenance is taking care of things," she said. "And of course, being a mom, you always take care of your family. The Dodge City Community College is another family to me, and hopefully I have made it better."

In turn, Shean said she thinks the college has made her better as well.

"I have learned additional skills that made my job easier, and I also have learned how to work with many different types of people," she said.

After Shean graduated from Sublette High School and began taking classes at Southwest Kansas Technical School in Liberal, she said she had a goal of working and growing with a business for 10 years.

"I met that goal. I've been here 30," she said. "That's what you want to do. You want to grow within a company, and I have here."

As she prepares to say goodbye to DC3, Shean said she thinks the college is in a good place.

"I mean, you have your down times and your hard times, but for the most part, all the changes that we have had—

'GO-TO GIRL' CONTINUED -

and how we have grown—it's all for the better," she said. "It's not always easy, but the college is doing well, and I think it is going to continue to grow. I see nothing but growth for DC3."

DC3 Maintenance/Grounds Supervisor, Jared Stevens, has been tapped to fill her position, and Shean said she thinks he will do a great job.

"I hope we keep maintaining and continue to work on our deferred maintenance," she said. "We need to really work on that. The campus was built back in 1970, so we have got to keep up with it in order to continue to grow and to bring new students on campus."

Shean said she will definitely miss the people she works with at the college, especially her Maintenance Department family. And she also will miss the daily challenges that come with her job.

"Every day is something different. Every day is a new challenge," she said. "You never get bored, because it's something new every day."

However, no matter how much she may miss DC3, Shean said it is definitely time for the next chapter of her life.

"My full-time title now is just Mimi," she said. "So, now I get to go spoil my eight grandkids."

And of course, she said she will still keep up with her college family, as 30 years of watching over the campus will be a hard thing to quit cold turkey.

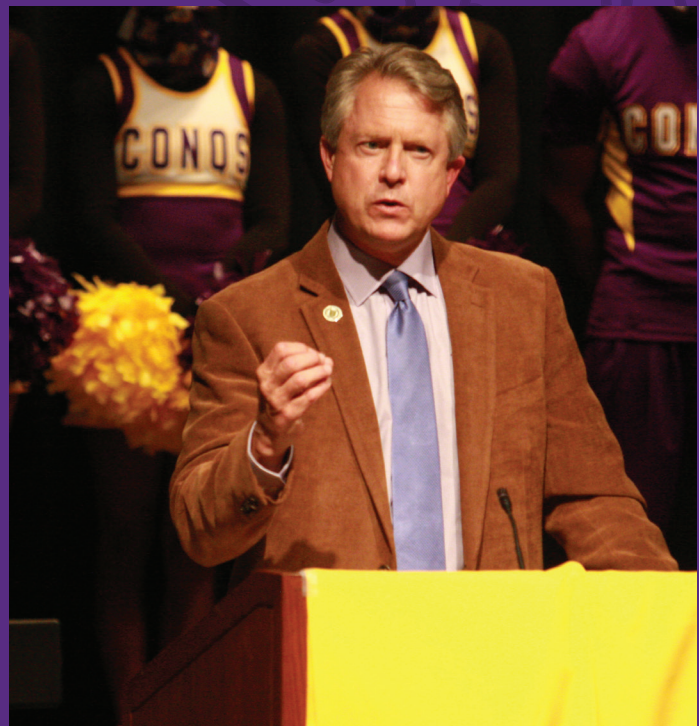
"I'll probably still watch the weather, because I've always done that," she said. "And I'll think about maintenance every time it snows, but I'll enjoy the snow in front of my fireplace now. I might send them a picture drinking my cocoa or coffee, and say, 'Sorry!'"

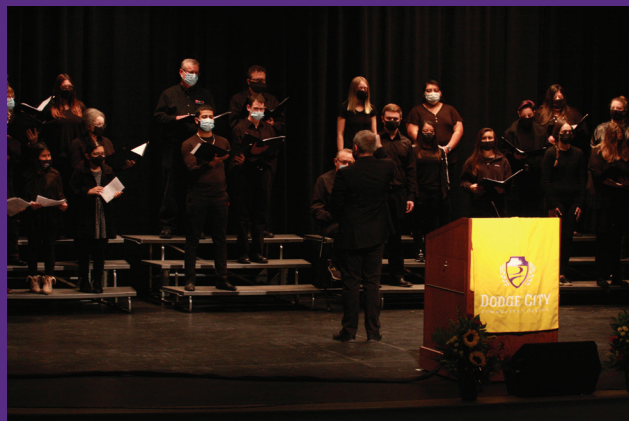
Although Shean's retirement will not be official until May, her last day of work was Friday, April 9. That afternoon from 3-4 p.m., the college honored her with a come-and-go reception in the Student Union Board Room. ●



85TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION

Dodge City Community College (DC3) celebrated 85 years on Sunday, Oct. 18, 2020, with a celebration in and around the DC3 Little Theatre. This event included a college history exhibit in the Little Theatre Gallery, a helicopter landing by the college flagpoles, a pep rally, and a celebration of the Conquistador mascot.





SPRING FLING

by Lance Ziesch

The Wild and Crazy DC3 Tradition That Began in 1972



With a few exceptions, Spring Fling—a crazy, competitive and fun week of spring activities—was celebrated nearly every year on the Dodge City Community College (DC3) campus from 1972 until at least 2011. And plans are now underway to revive this venerable event in 2022—just in time for its 50th anniversary.

Originally called Spring Fling Whing Ding in 1972—and then Spring Whing Ding Fling from 1973 to 1991—the event’s name was shortened to just Spring Fling in 1992.

The 1970s

The idea for the first Spring Fling originated with the DC3 Student Senate. According to a Conquistador newspaper article from April 5, 1972, the week was designed for students who were “bored with the daily routine of the old hum-drum way of life” and who needed to just “let go and do what they feel like doing.”

In that newspaper article, which included a schedule of events, the first Fling week ran for five days from Monday, April 10, to Friday, April 14, 1972.



Monday started with a water balloon fight “for everybody (faculty included).” Tuesday was

“a resurrection of those old movie flicks starring your favorite 1920 movie idols.” On Wednesday, the Rodeo Agribusiness Club sponsored a “Dress Western Day” that was designed to “bring back a touch of the old West.” Thursday was reserved for “a surprise from the Conq-Ettes,” which was the college’s dance team at the time. And Friday was nurses’ day, which included an off-campus Sadie Hawkins dance at the Warehouse bar. Regarding the dance, the paper notes that “Beer will be served, ID’s will be checked, and the cost will be \$1.00 per person...”

Although it’s surprising today to read about the college sponsoring a student event that includes alcohol, it’s important to note that in 1972, the legal drinking age was 18. It would not change to 21 until Jan. 1, 1985.

The following issue of the Conquistador newspaper, dated April 19, 1972, ran a banner headline on page 3 that read “Student Senate Sponsors Swell Spring Fling Whing Ding.” And with the headline and two photos of a Fling cream-pie fight, the page also included a note that said the Student Senate considered Spring Fling “a tremendous success” and that they hoped it would become an “annual affair.”

After the incredible success of the first Spring Fling, the Student Senate decided to go to the proverbial well one more time that calendar year with a six-day Fall Whing Ding Fling, which was organized for Monday, Sept. 11, to Saturday, Sept. 16, 1972.

Fall Fling included some of the same events, but also touted a pep assembly led by the Conq-Ettes and tug-of-war contests that pitted the football players against

the male instructors and the female students against the female instructors and secretaries.

The winners from the first two contests were the male instructors and the female students, respectively. And in the final tug-of-war match between the two sets of winners, the female students were declared the overall champions.

However, in spite of the spirited competition, Fall Fling failed to measure up to its spring counterpart, and the DC3 Student Senate cancelled the following year's event about two weeks prior to its planned early October date, citing a "lack of club organization and participation."

The second year for reasons unknown today, Spring Fling Whing Ding was retitled Spring Whing Ding Fling. It was originally planned for Monday, April

Spring Fling to Mark 50th Anniversary in 2022

After an 11-year hiatus, Spring Fling—a staple in Dodge City Community College (DC3) campus life since 1972—is slated to make a return next year in time for its 50th anniversary.

However, in the meantime, Brittany Gladbach, DC3 Student Activities Coordinator, said she is planning a smaller spring celebration for this year on May 5, from 1-5 p.m., in the campus quad.

"The End-of-the-Year Celebration is a chance for our DC3 faculty and staff to personally congratulate the students for their hard work and accomplishments throughout the 2020-2021 academic year," Gladbach said. "It is also one last hurrah for our students to celebrate together before the summer months."

Gladbach, who has been with the college since February, said the upcoming spring celebration will include a variety of activities, with a dunk tank being the top attraction.

"Specifically, Dr. Nolte will take his turn in the water at 4:30 p.m., for those who would like to see the main event," she said. "Of course, there will be plenty of food, music, yard games, and giveaways including TVs, AirPods and more!"

So, although she is excited about this year's End-of-the-Year Celebration, she is already starting to make plans for next year's Spring Fling.

"We are looking forward to returning Spring Fling week at the end of the 2021-2022 school year," she said. "We plan to give this long-awaited, weeklong event a proper return for what will be its 50th anniversary."

So far, Gladbach said several fun and exciting ideas have been discussed in the Spring Fling brainstorming process.

"We are looking to bring back a campus-wide picnic around Lake Charles, and we are also considering a Spring Fling dance," she said. "Other ideas have included an ice cream social, a kickball game, and even

some throwback activities like a potato-sack race."

Regarding Spring Fling's highly anticipated return next year, Gladbach said she is "extremely excited" to be able to offer a student event of this size to enhance school spirit, campus involvement and the overall college experience for DC3 students.

"As we move forward in the planning process, I would love to see alumni participate in any and all activities," she said. "I would love for them to share their memories of Spring Fling when they attended DC3, as well as interact with our current students."

DC3 President, Dr. Harold Nolte, said he also is excited about Spring Fling's return next year.

"I've said for years that Dodge City Community College has 'great bones.' That is to say, it has a great foundation and has lots of neat, unique history," he said. "Spring Fling has been a part of that history for nearly a half century now, and I'm glad we will be giving today's Conquistadors a chance to participate in this fun legacy next year."

Gladbach said she knows that the student dynamic, along with popular culture, has greatly changed over the last 50 years. And that means next year's Spring Fling, like the many others before it, will have a unique flavor of its own.

"I already know there will be high expectations, but the ultimate goal is for students to be able to reflect on events like Spring Fling that helped shape their time here at DC3," she said. "These events offer our students the opportunity to create relationships for a lifetime, and that's the bigger picture." ●



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Fellow students, are you tired of the dull, dreary occurrences of college life? SAC has again come through with a week of madness, idiocy, and general hell-raising, more commonly known as Spring Whing Ding Fling Week.

—Conquistador newspaper, April 3, 1974

9, through Friday April 13, 1973. However, due to an unexpected storm dumping 3 inches of snow on April 9, Spring Fling was rescheduled for Thursday, April 12, through Wednesday, April 18.

With some of the same events as the first year—a three-legged race, a gunnysack race, a tricycle obstacle course, a cowchip throwing contest, and a bottle-filling contest—there also were some new events such as a tire-rolling contest, a jellybean-guessing contest, a flour-bag-throwing contest, and an empty beer can collection contest.

For the winner of the beer can contest, he or she received a case of beer from Student Senate. This unusual prize was described in the school newspaper as “a new form of recycling.” Other contest prizes included a tank of gas, show tickets and a free meal.

Also planned for April 1973 were skateboard races, a school

picnic, a dance in the Student Union Ballroom (with the band Pagan Ballet), a concert in the Little Theatre (with the band Cannon Creek), an Easter egg hunt on the president’s lawn, and an orange relay.

A front-page Conquistador newspaper article from April 3, 1974, advertised the schedule for the third-annual Spring Fling, which was planned for Monday, April 1, through Friday, April 5. The article began with “Fellow students, are you tired of the dull, dreary occurrences of college life? SAC [Student Activities Council] has again come through with a week of madness, idiocy, and general hell-raising, more commonly known as Spring Whing Ding Fling Week.”

SAC, which was a standing committee within the Student Senate, planned several new events for 1974. Some of these new activities included wagon races on the

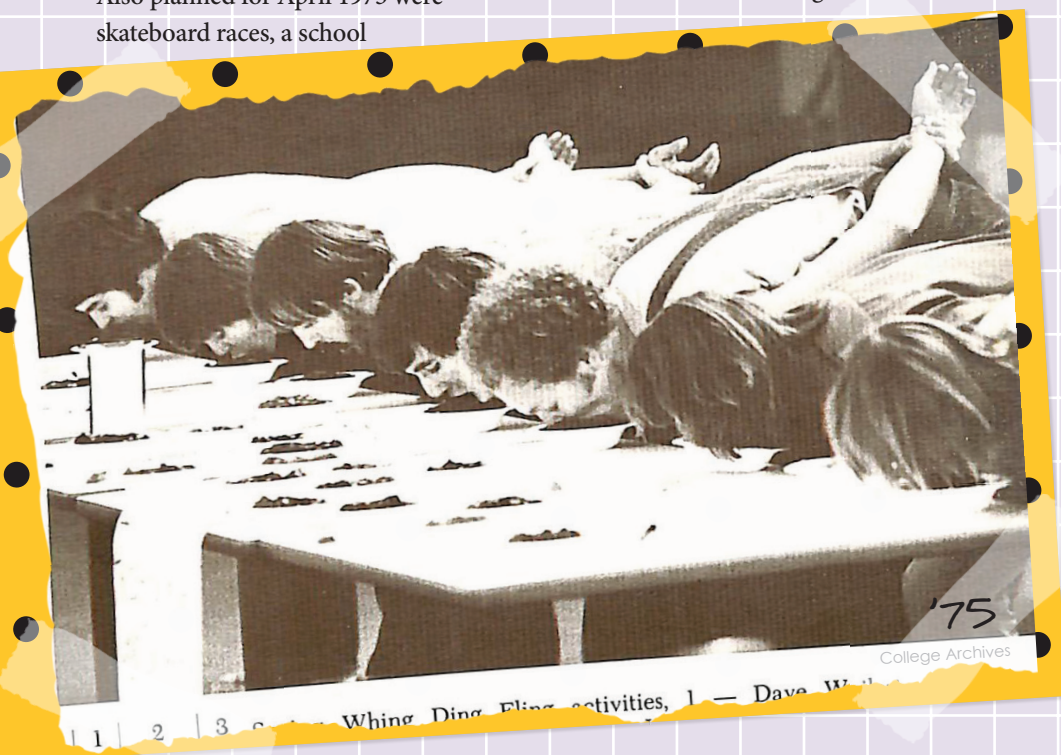


campus sidewalks, one of which resulted in a “four-wagon pileup;” a pie-throwing contest that utilized whipped cream and shaving cream; a dunk tank; a blood drive, where each donor received a coupon for a free beer; a roller skating party; a greased-pig contest; a movie shown in the Choral Room of the Fine Arts building; and a “potato race.”

The newspaper described the potato race as a “race which consists of placing a potato in a spoon in your mouth and racing over a predetermined course. This is definitely not recommended for those of you who do not use Poli-Grip!”

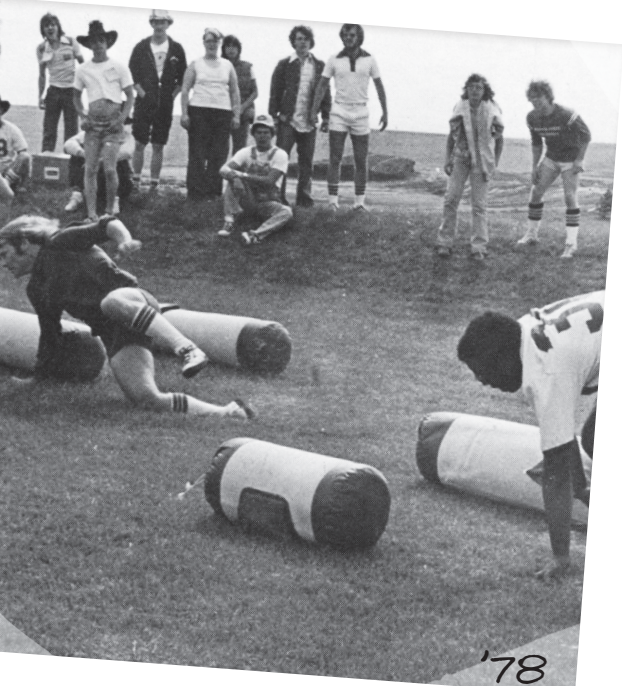
The week of Spring Fling 1975 ran Monday, April 7, through Friday, April 11. And according to the April 9, 1975, Conquistador newspaper, new that year was a Jell-O Snarfing Contest in the cafeteria (advertised as “an interesting alternative to the lunchroom meal”), a peanut race (where students pushed a peanut across the floor with their noses), and kite flying.

Spring Whing Ding Fling 1976 ran from Tuesday, April 20, through Friday, April 23. Back for its second year was the Jell-O Snarfing Contest, which was now joined with an M&M toss. This new challenge



consisted of students trying to catch as many as possible of the 50 M&Ms candies that their partners were throwing to them.

Also new that year was a phone-booth stuffing contest, a banana-eating contest, a raw-egg catching contest, and a pit barbecue at Lake Charles.



College Archives

In 1977, Spring Fling ran Monday, April 18, through Friday, April 22, and Monday was designated that year as “Grubbyday.” As explained in the April 6, 1977, Conquistador newspaper, it was a day where students should “dress as grubbily as possible.”

In addition to Grubbyday, new events included a surfing contest, a teacher roast, calf roping, a swimsuit contest, and a leg contest.

Spring Fling 1978, which included many of the same events as 1977, also included an obstacle course, wall repelling, a 1950s themed dance, and a spoon contest.

According to the 1978 Golden Shield yearbook, the spoon contest “consisted of a spoon attached to a long string” that must be passed through each team member’s clothing.

And the final event of Fling week 1978 was the Conq Ball dance.

The 1980s

For 1980, Spring Fling was scheduled for one day, which was Thursday, April 17. New that year was the Lifesaver race, where each team member was given a toothpick and then required to pass a Lifesaver candy from one person to another—toothpick to toothpick—without using their hands.

A tug-of-war contest was also organized at Lake Charles, which by design resulted in several students ending up in the water and mud. And the night ended with a dance in the Student Union Ballroom with the band Purple Express covering popular hits.

Spring Fling 1982, which was planned for Monday, April 26, through Friday, April 30, involved the usual sorts of contests and competitions, although a watermelon feast was added.

According to the April 21, 1982, Conquistador newspaper, the estimated cost of that year’s Spring Fling would be around \$3,000.

The article also stated that “topping the week is the formal affair of the Conq Ball. This year it is being held Friday evening at the Knights of Columbus Hall from 9 p.m.-1 a.m. Scheduled to entertain is the band Doubletake. No alcohol is allowed.”

In addition to the live music at the Conq Ball, the 1982 Golden Shield yearbook records that there were also two other nights of concerts that year. The first was on Monday night in the “natural amphitheater” on the east side of the Physical Education building. It featured the bands Sheik and Bluebird. The second was a performance of Purple Express on Thursday night in the Little Theatre.

In 1984, Spring Fling was planned for Monday, April 30, through Friday, May 4. And it also again featured a concert with the band Bluebird. However, according to the 1984 Golden Shield yearbook, the concert was planned for earlier in the evening than the previous year because of “last year’s citation issued to the Student Senate for disturbing the peace.”

Spring Fling activities for 1984 included some new twists, such as a scavenger hunt that had students looking for 25 different things within an hour. Items ranged from a graded math assignment to a receipt from Dillons or Wal-Mart for the amount of \$1.20.

On Wednesday of Fling week, eight teams competed for gold-colored medals in the first-ever Superteam Competition. Each team, which was made up of three men and three women, competed in a myriad of events including a pie-eating contest, a shopping-cart race, an obstacle course, a water-balloon toss, and an “apple dunk,”



College Archives



Contests that year included a blindfolded lemon-cream-pie feeding contest, a shopping-cart relay, and an obstacle course. In addition, on Thursday, mud volleyball was added to that day's festivities.

race, a blindfolded banana-eating contest, and stock-tank apple dunking. Highlights of Spring Fling 1988 included the Superteam Competition and a pillow fight in the Physical Education gym.

The 1990s

After skipping a year in 1990, Spring Fling was revived by the DC3 Student Senate in 1991 for the week of Monday, April 22, through Friday, April 26. And the following year, in 1992, Spring Whing Ding Fling would officially shorten its name to Spring Fling.

For the 1986 Spring Fling, which was planned for Monday, April 21, through Friday, April 25, new attractions were again added. One of these included Hawaiian Night, which included a best and worst tan contest, a best tourist contest, and a marshmallow-eating contest.

In either 1992 or 1993, the planning of Spring Fling migrated from the Student Senate to the DC3 Housing Department, and the scope of the week began to change from an all-student bash to an event geared mostly toward residence-hall students.

For that year, the Conq Ball was moved to Tuesday night, with a "Paradise Island" theme. And the live band was called The Heat.

Under the management of the Housing Department, Spring Fling 1993 was scheduled for Monday, April 26, through Friday, April 30. It was described in the April 21, 1993, Conquistador newspaper as a "mini-Olympics with 10 events for students to participate in."

And for its third year, the Superteam

Like the previous Superteam Competitions in the 1980s, some of the 1993 Spring Fling activities were designed for teams of six people—three men and three women. And the list of team contests included a peanut race (in which contestants pushed a peanut across the floor with their noses), a baseball bat race, a three-point shooting contest, a volleyball match, a cow-patty toss, an egg toss, a balloon toss, a three-legged race, an ice-cream eating contest, and a jalapeño-eating contest.



Competition returned with events such as a shopping cart race, a blindfolded football kick, a tricycle race, an apple dunk, and an egg relay.



which was described in the yearbook as three team members stepping into "a water-filled horse tank to grab apples with their knees, while three others took the apples in their mouths and dropped them into a trashcan for the last event."

Also new for Spring Fling 1984 was the crowning of both a king and a queen at the Conq Ball, which was held at the Holiday Inn Holidome. Eldon Clark Jr., a sophomore from Minneapolis, Kan., and Patsy Stegman, a sophomore from Dodge City, were elected king and queen.

On Wednesday of the 1985 Fling week, the Superteam Competition returned for its second year, adding new challenges.

Another new attraction for Spring Fling 1986 was an Air Band Contest on Friday night, which boasted prizes for the top three placings: \$150 for first, \$100 for second, and \$50 for third.

Spring Fling 1987 was planned for Monday, April 20, through Friday, April 24. And with the exception of an updated slate of contests for the Superteam Competition, it looked much the same as 1986. Superteam contests for 1987 included tug-of-war, a blindfolded football kick, a wheelbarrow



College Archives

The Housing Department again sponsored Spring Fling in 1994, and it closely mirrored the previous year's pattern.

In 1995, the DC3 Student Senate voted to transition to a Student Government Association (SGA) over the course of the next two years. Thus, SGA became responsible for the planning of Spring Fling in 1998.

Due to a week of rainy weather, many of the scheduled outdoor events for 1998 had to be cancelled. However, at least two new events were presented, which were dodgeball and a PlayStation contest.

The 2000s

For the next few years, limited records were kept in the college archives regarding Spring Fling. However, the April 25, 2001, Conquistador newspaper records that Spring Fling activities that year included powderpuff football and a Hawaiian luau.

The 2008 Spring Fling, which SGA planned for Monday, April 28, through Friday, May 2, was given the theme of "Spring into Summer." Amongst the week's activities were: (Monday) a trash cleanup on U.S. Hwy. 50; (Tuesday) the showing of the movie "I am Legend" in Sites-Franklin Hall; (Wednesday) a performance by hypnotist, Daniel James, in the Student Union Ballroom; (Thursday) a pool tournament in the Conq Corral snack bar; and (Friday or "Water Day") a water slide and dunk tank behind Shelden Hall.

According to college Facebook posts, the 2010 Spring Fling was dubbed "2K10." That year's events included a showing of the "Blind Side" movie on April 27 and a dunk tank on April 28, amongst other activities.

And the last mention of Spring Fling in the college archives was from 2011. That year, the Spring Fling T-shirts featured a

Scooby-Doo/Mystery Machine theme, and activities were planned for Monday, April 4, through Friday, April 8.

According to college Facebook posts, 2011 contests included the Money Tree Game Show, three-on-three basketball, flag football, ultimate Frisbee, volleyball, bingo, Bongo Ball Mania (paintball without the paint) and make-your-own T-shirts.

So, after 39 years of crazy hijinks, Spring Fling quietly disappeared from the student calendar after 2011. Although listed in the Jan. 23, 2012, SGA meeting minutes—as an upcoming event scheduled for Monday, April 23, through Friday, April 27—there is no further mention of the event in the Feb. 27, 2012, minutes.

Due to organizational changes within SGA at the time, it is entirely possible that the 2012 Fling never materialized. And according to the recollections of campus faculty and staff, there were no weeklong spring bashes of any kind after 2011.

However, there were a few small "Spring Fling" days and afternoons scheduled during that period, and an End-of-the-Year Carnival behind Jackson Hall was organized by DC3 Residence Life in 2017 and 2018.

So, regardless of whether the last weeklong Spring Fling was in 2011 or 2012, the next one is scheduled for Spring 2022, which will be its 50th anniversary. Like its predecessors, the 2022 Spring Fling will undoubtedly include some of the tried-and-true activities of the past—but it will also add some new things that will make it unique, memorable and relevant for today's DC3 students.

Editor's Note: If any of our former students, faculty or staff have memories of past Spring Fling celebrations, we would love to hear from you. Please email your stories to lziesch@dc3.edu. ♥



College Archives





BEYOND THE CLASSROOM



RSVP and DC3 Baseball Partner for Annual Clean-Up Day

On Nov. 15, 2020, the Ford County Retired and Senior Volunteer Program (RSVP) and the Dodge City Community College (DC3) baseball team once again partnered for Fall Clean-Up Day, which is an annual service project that provides Dodge City area senior citizens with help around the house.

Each year on Fall Clean-Up Day, volunteers assist area senior citizens with small projects, which include minor repair jobs, winterizing homes, exterior caulking, cleaning gutters, draining outside faucets, yardwork, trimming bushes, or even simple things like replacing light bulbs. This year, there were 18 households on the list.

Originally known as Make a Difference Day, Fall Clean-Up Day began in 2005 during Phil Stephenson's first semester as DC3 head baseball coach.

"This all started my first fall here," Stephenson said. "I wanted to start something with the community to show that the baseball program was going to be involved."

Stephenson said he wanted to find a way for the team to give back to the community, and he soon discovered that working with Ford County RSVP was a good way to do it.

The clean-up day brings a lot of joy to the seniors, he said. The baseball team is able to do jobs in a short amount of time that seniors would have needed days or weeks to accomplish on their own, if they were in fact able to do them at all.

"Our players benefit in seeing how much they can get done in a short amount of time working together," he said. "This is their small way of giving back to the community while they are attending school here and playing baseball."

Charlotte Neuschafer, Director of Ford County RSVP and the Child and Adult Care Food Program, said she thinks this year's Fall Clean-Up Day was well attended and ran smoothly—and she would like to give Coach Stephenson "a great big thank you" for sharing his years of Fall Clean-Up Day experience with her.

"We had 33 baseball players, plus Coach Stephenson and Assistant Coach Egger," she said. "So, we broke into four teams this year. Each team was given trash bags, masks, and work gloves."

In addition to members of the DC3 baseball team, RSVP Administrative Assistant Ann Taylor (and husband Chuck), and Neuschafer (and husband Larry) also helped out with the event.

Looking forward to next year's Fall Clean-Up Day, Neuschafer said donations are always welcome.

"Donated funds can help cover the cost of trash bags and other supplies. And donated yard tools, new or used, can help us put tools in the hands of every volunteer," she said.

"In many situations, the seniors would have to pay out of pocket for completing these projects, if it wasn't for our baseball players and coaches," she said. "In a world that is so divided in so many areas, it warms the heart and soul to see young men volunteer themselves to our seniors."

For more information about Fall Clean-Up Day or the Ford County RSVP program, people may contact Neuschafer at (620) 227-7077 or visit the RSVP office, which is located at 236 San Jose Drive, in room 127 of Hennessey Hall. ♥



DC3 Tech Hosts Reverse Career Fair

More than 50 Dodge City Community College (DC3) technical education students attended the first-ever DC3 Tech Reverse Career Fair on March 24 in the DC3 diesel and welding buildings.

“A reverse career fair differs from a traditional career fair in that instead of employers setting up displays of their organizations at booths for students to approach, the students are at the tables marketing themselves to recruiters,” Theresa Tate, former DC3 Title V Program Manager, said. “The recruiters circulate amongst students to introduce themselves and their companies and to learn about the students’ skillsets that meets their hiring needs.”

Prior to the career fair, Tate—along with Jorge Estrella, DC3 Director of the Student Achievement and Resources Center; and Lucas Richards, DC3 Academic Coach/Learning Specialist—facilitated a résumé workshop for the diesel and welding students.

“We then followed up with creating business cards for each student,” Tate said.

“On the day of the career fair, students were prepared with résumés and business cards to share with the employers. I believe this is an important step in helping our students grow and be better prepared for their future.”

Hayden Wallis, a Dodge City freshman in the welding program, said he thought the career fair was a great experience.

“We were able to meet with a whole bunch of employers and figure out our opportunities once we graduate from welding,” he said.

Of the various welding employers, Wallis said he was most impressed with the opportunities available at Roto-Mix in Dodge City.

“They have a whole lot of opportunities here with repairing broken down equipment and building new equipment for farm use,” he said. “I like more of the tackling the challenging side of trying to fix equipment the right way.”

Growing up on a farm—and first learning to weld at age 8—Wallis said he has a

knack for repairing broken equipment.

“If a piece is broken, I can figure out a certain way I can rebuild it and make it the same way that it was before it was broken. And make sure it was stronger than it was before,” he said. “I’m ready to get my life together and get to welding.”

On the welding side of the career fair—in addition to Roto-Mix—representatives were on hand from Airgas, Cargill, Koch Industries and National Beef Packing Company LLC. On the diesel side, representatives were on hand from AGCO Corporation, American Implement, Dodge City International, Foley Equipment, KanEquip Inc., Kansas Department of Transportation, Lewis Automotive Group, Midlands Carrier Transcold and Truck Center Companies.

The Reverse Career Fair, which ran from 8-11 a.m., concluded with a boxed lunch for all participants that was courtesy of Wal-Mart. Because the event was so well received by both students and employers, DC3 Tech plans to make it an annual spring event. ♥



Businesses Donate Materials, Labor for DC3 Rodeo Team

In March, during the Dodge City Community College (DC3) Spring Break, two new L-shaped roping boxes were installed at the north end of the DC3 Rodeo Practice Arena, due to the generosity of three local businesses.

“We had heading and heeling boxes put in,” Erica Edmondson, DC3 Assistant Rodeo Coach, said.

In rodeo, traditionally, on the left-side of the chute is the head box, and on the right-side is the heel box. Therefore, steer wrestlers and headers use the head side; and calf ropers, breakaway ropers, hazers and heelers use the heel side.

The new L-shaped roping boxes at DC3, which are mirror images of each other, are made out of steel pipe and are set in concrete—with the head box on the left (east) side of the chute and the heel box on the right (west).

“They are for the students to back their horses into a corner,” she said. “Before it was just a panel, so it was kind of shaky. Roping horses really need something sturdy to back into.”

Because Edmondson had safety concerns about the shaky, makeshift setup the team had been using for roping boxes, she decided to call her friend, Ellen (Blattner) Henry, at Blattner Feedlot Construction & Livestock Equipment, in Cimarron, to see if they had any leftover pipe the college could “scrape together” for roping boxes.

Instead of just scraping the project together, the owners, Rick and Rhonda Blattner, said they would donate whatever the college needed to do the project right. And after designing a set of boxes for DC3, they delivered metal pipe to the practice arena on March 10.

“They designed our boxes similar to the roping boxes at the Cimarron fairgrounds, which they also put in,” Edmondson said. “So then, we were kind of scrambling, wondering who was going to weld them.”

So Edmondson decided to call up another of her friends, Shawn Downey, who owns Cowboys ‘N’ Carpenters LLC, of Dodge City. She asked him what he would charge to weld the boxes.

Downey, himself a DC3 rodeo team alumnus, told her he was excited about the project, and like the Blattners, he also wanted to donate his company’s services.

“He said he would be out here the next day, and he came out and looked at it,” she said. “And he had someone out two days later, and they had it done that morning, which was March 12.”

In order to complete the project, the roping box posts needed to be set in concrete, she said. So, Downey approached Mead Lumber, of Dodge City, about helping with the project, and Mead donated enough Quikrete concrete mix to set the posts.

Edmondson said she is incredibly grateful for the amazing generosity of the three businesses, and she looks forward to more community partnerships in the future.

“We plan to hang up their banners on the fences. So when people pull in, they recognize them as donors to our school,” she said. “It looks good now when we have recruits come in. And if we have a good-looking facility, that helps bring kids in.” ♦

College Completes Little Theatre Seating Project

Although delayed for a couple of months due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the new seating project is now complete in the Dodge City Community College (DC3) Little Theatre.

“The project kept being delayed because of unforeseen circumstances, which were related to COVID-19,” Russ McBee, DC3 Director of Facilities and Operations, said. “But, when the workers finally got here, it was amazing to me to see how quickly things came out and went back in. Most days, they were only working with a two-man or three-man crew.”



These crews, which were contracted by Davis Furniture Company, of Black River Falls, Wis., began working on the project on Nov. 9, 2020, with the removal of the existing seats and brackets, McBee said. And by Nov. 14, the new seats were installed, and the project was complete.

Although the theatre has totally new seating, the layout and number of chairs remains unchanged, which means there are still a total of 315 seats—with the same areas as before designated for handicapped patrons. However, unlike the original seats, which were bolted to the fronts of the theatre’s risers, the new chairs are bolted to the floor underneath, he said.

“In addition to having the work crews from Davis, some of the DC3 baseball team members also were hired to

help unbox the new seats and carry them into the theatre,” McBee said.

“DC3 maintenance workers also added new handrails along the theatre’s east and west walls during the installation,” he said. “For some odd reason, we had never had handrails along the stairs, which was a safety concern.”

The new seating and handrails directly support the college’s efforts to improve engagement with the community by creating a more “pleasant and comfortable experience” while listening to and watching events in the college theatre, Dr. Glendon Forgey, former DC3 Vice President for Administration and Finance, said.

“The new seats are higher off the floor and will result in more comfortable seating and a more pleasurable experience for people watching performances in the theatre,” he said.

In addition to being more comfortable, the new seats are also easier to clean, Forgey said.

“The new material is an oil-based material called polyolefins,” he said. “Even though the material is oil-based, it is still comfortable. In fact, one would probably not know the material wasn’t some cloth-based fabric, if not told.”

The color of the new upholstery is called “Sherpa Grape” and is similar in shade and texture to that of the old seats. Sherpa Grape was selected because it closely matches the color of the theatre curtains, Forgey said.

Because the new seats will be easier to clean, they also will help reduce the spread of germs, Forgey said. Therefore, the college was able to request some of Ford County’s Strengthening People and Revitalizing Kansas (SPARK) funds, which are state-allocated relief funds for Kansas counties through the Coronavirus Aid, Relief and Economic Security (CARES) Act, to help pay for the upgrade.

Davis, who submitted a winning bid of \$55,903.25, was awarded the theatre seating contract at a special DC3 Board of Trustees meeting on June 30, 2020. ●



IN THE CLASSROOM

New Nurse Education Center Dedicated

More than 100 people attended the ribbon cutting and dedication of the new Dodge City Community College (DC3) Nurse Education Center at 308 W. Frontview St. on Jan. 21.

Officially dedicated as the Floris Jean Hampton Nurse Education Center, the building is named after local legend Floris Jean (Snyder) Hampton, who spent nearly 30 years representing the college on its Board of Trustees.

“I’m overwhelmed. I can’t believe it,” Hampton said. “I’m so grateful that the Trustees considered me for this honor.”

DC3 Foundation and Community Relations Director, Christina Haselhorst, said Floris Jean has been an “integral part” of Dodge City, Ford County, DC3, and so many other organizations for many, many years.

“Being able to recognize her and her accomplishments with the naming of the DC3 Nurse Education Center was a proud moment for all of us at DC3,” Haselhorst said. “We feel it is a fitting honor for such a wonderful person.”

A lifelong resident of Ford County, Hampton is a fourth generation member of her father’s pioneering family who homesteaded northwest of Dodge City in 1882. And today, at age 92, she still lives on the property, in the house her parents built in 1934.

“Floris Jean has always loved participating in activities that benefit the community,” Haselhorst said. “She is one

of those people you can count on to get things done—the one who can successfully juggle a dozen projects at once.”

Haselhorst said Hampton has served as a volunteer and leader in countless church, civic, and community service organizations throughout her life. Some of these include the American Association of University Women (AAUW), the Business and Professional Women’s Foundation (BPW), the Depot Theater, Ford County Extension, the Philanthropic Educational Organization (PEO), Soroptimist International, the United Methodist Church, and the Dodge City Women’s Chamber of Commerce, where she served as president in 1980.

“So, where does the DC3 nursing center fit into this story?” Haselhorst asked, in her remarks at the dedication. “Well, Floris Jean and [her late husband] Marvin were both registered nurses, having taken the very unusual step of starting nursing school together in their early 30s—while simultaneously raising a young family of five and managing their family farm,” she said.

After the Hamptons completed their training in 1963, they both worked in local hospitals as private duty nurses, she said. And Hampton also served as an elementary school nurse for USD 443 from 1963 to 1968.

“Marvin’s time became increasingly more devoted to managing the growing family farm business, with less time available for hospital duty, while Floris Jean continued hospital nursing for a few more years,” she said.



Hampton, who took DC3 classes from 1944-45, during her senior year at Dodge City High School, has remained an ardent and vocal supporter of the college, the community college system and education in general. In addition, she served two stints on the DC3 Board of Trustees, the first from 1983 to 1999, and the second from 2007 to 2020.

Hampton's sons, Van Hampton—who spoke at the event—and Wade Hampton, were on hand for the dedication. Although, her daughters, Lee Battite, Gayle Windle and Rebecca Cohen, were unable to attend.

Also speaking at the dedication were Dr. Harold Nolte, DC3 President; Dr. Mechele Hailey, DC3 Dean of Nursing & Allied Health; Carma Harman, a second-semester nursing student and Vice President of the DC3 Student Nurse Association; and Gary Harshberger, DC3 Board of Trustees Chairman.

Hailey said that Hampton has always been a “huge advocate and supporter” of the DC3 nursing program, and having her name on the building is a proud reflection of her legacy.

“She has been one of our biggest cheerleaders during the celebrations and challenges we’ve had over the years,” Hailey said. “It is our hope that we will continue to make her proud. We want to honor her legacy by graduating nurses who give the highest quality care with the greatest compassion possible.”

Hailey said that with the DC3 nursing program’s first-time National Council Licensure Examination (NCLEX) Registered Nurse (RN) exam pass rates for 2020 at 93.3%, which is up from 92.31% in 2019, Hampton’s nursing legacy is in good hands.

According to the 2020 Mountain Measurement Inc. report, which tracks student performance on the NCLEX-RN exams, DC3 is ranked fifth out of the 37 nursing schools in the state of Kansas for first-time pass rates, she said.

“DC3 nursing students are aggressively recruited by health care facilities across the state of Kansas,” Hailey said. “And 99-100% of our nursing graduates have a contingent job offer before graduation. I’m proud that they will all carry on the legacy of Floris Jean Hampton.” ♦



Donors Make Student Lounge a Reality

Because the nursing department wanted a comfortable space for their students to study, to relax, to socialize, and to wait for classes to start, they approached the DC3 Foundation for help in locating donors to make it happen. Thanks to the DC3 Foundation, Dr. Kelly Henrichs, and Floris Jean Hampton—a couch, loveseat, two chairs, and a coffee and end table set were purchased in October 2020. These items, which were delivered and installed by Ashley Furniture, reside in the front foyer of the Floris Jean Hampton Nurse Education Center.

DC3 Revives Livestock Judging Program

After a 15-year hiatus, the livestock judging program is back at Dodge City Community College (DC3).

Brianna Stefan, who grew up in Minneola, Kan., became the new DC3 livestock judging coach in January. Stefan said she thinks the return of the program is an “absolute asset” to both the college and the community, and it offers an opportunity to “regenerate the focus of proper livestock evaluation.”

“The livestock industry is constantly changing and evolving,” she said. “And we need to continue to educate young minds on how to align livestock species with industry standards.”

Dr. Clayton Tatro, DC3 Vice President of Workforce Development, said the program is also a natural fit for DC3 and southwest Kansas.

“Dodge City is located in the heart of Ag country, and it’s a huge part of who we are and what we do,” Tatro said. “I think it’s vitally important for us at DC3 to have programs, such as livestock judging, that reflect our current economy and help us better connect to our industry.”

Stefan said a livestock judging program is rare for most community colleges, and she is excited that DC3 is providing this type of opportunity for its students. The benefits of being involved in livestock judging are endless and continue to grow once a student’s competitive years are over, she said.

“Professional development, multitasking abilities, teamwork, focus improvement, public speaking, critical thinking, and confidence are all benefits of being a part of a livestock judging team,” she said. “Not to mention, your teammates will be your friends for life.”

For those who are unfamiliar with the world of livestock judging, Stefan said the sport involves carefully evaluating a class of animals—such as cattle, sheep, goats, and swine—and then rating them against commonly accepted standards for breeding and market animals.

“If you have ever been to a county fair, watched the kids show their animals, and listened to the judge talk about why he picked the grand and reserve champions,

you have witnessed livestock judging on a grand scale,” she said.

During a typical contest day, Stefan said students will evaluate 12 different classes of livestock—and then give eight sets of memorized, oral reasons regarding his or her placement of the animals within the class.

“Reasons are memorized based on notes taken during each evaluation and then are given to a judge,” she said. “Placings are given on each class of livestock in order of best to worst quality of animal.”

Competitors can earn up to 50 points for giving the correct placing and up to 50 points per set of reasons, which allows a possible earnings of 1,000 points per contest, she said.

“If you walk down the hall and see kids talking to themselves or to a wall, don’t be alarmed,” she said. “They’re just memorizing their sets of reasons.”

Because Stefan is rebuilding the program from scratch, she said her short-term goal for the first year is to find the right students, even if that means initially having a smaller team.

“I am hoping to have seven or eight kids who want to give livestock judging a shot or have the goal of being competitive for their full two years of eligibility here at DC3,” she said. “Ultimately, my goal is to have as many livestock judges as I can get—but also align with the [high] qualities that I am looking for in my team members.”

As the team’s coach, Stefan said her No. 1 priority is to be a mentor and an educator who always puts her students’ best interests first.

“My former livestock judging coach is still my mentor to this day, and I hope to create an environment that provides structure and education, just like he did,” she said.

“I can honestly say that livestock judging at the collegiate level was the best thing that I did in my years of college, and I have always loved the idea of being able to provide the same unique experience for other people,” she said.

In addition, she said a livestock judging team will add value to the existing DC3 Ag program and will help grow opportunities



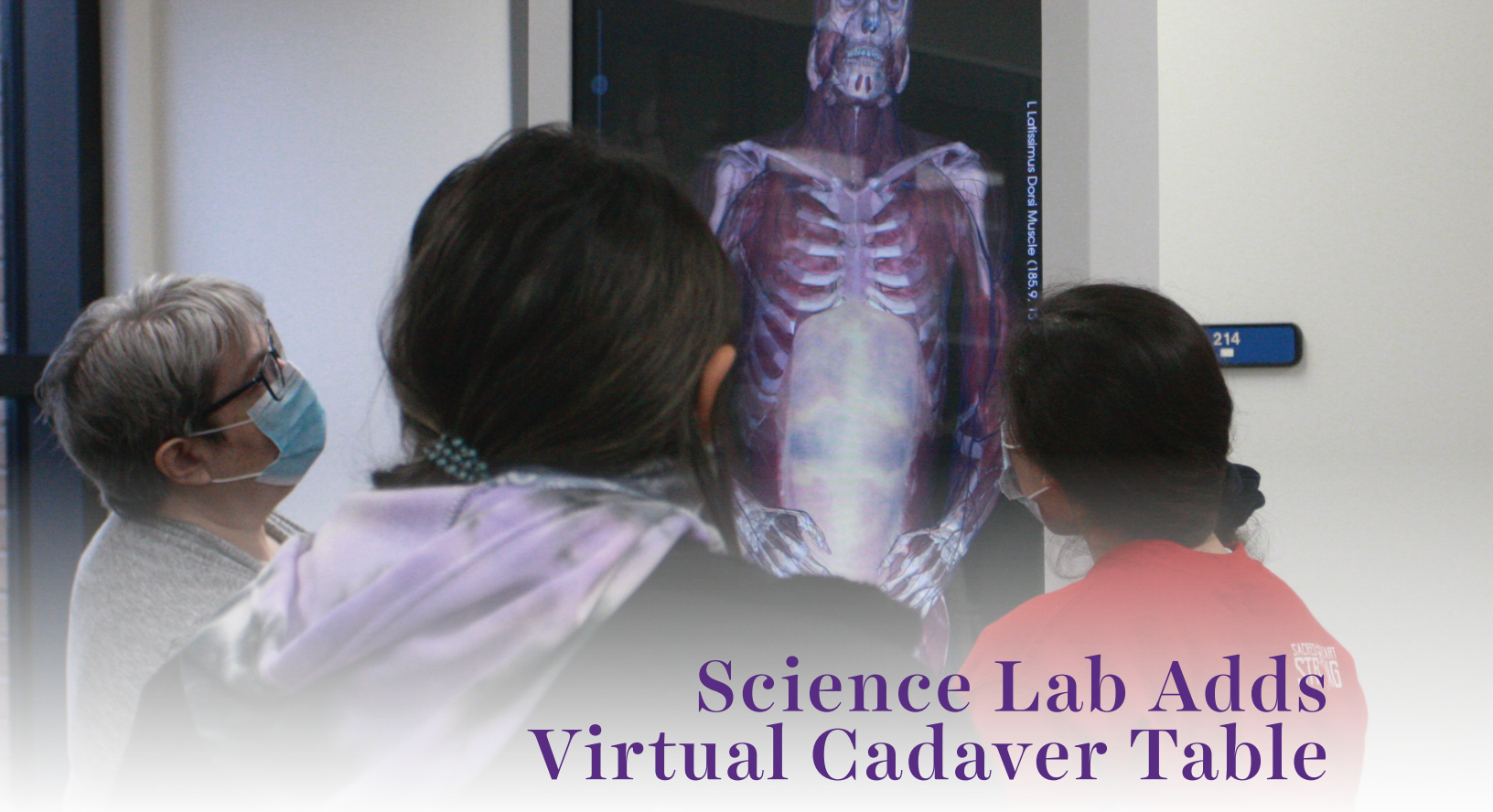
that the college can provide for both current and future students.

“Long term, I want to have a strong, established program that produces individuals who are extremely marketable candidates to four-year college livestock judging teams and top companies within the industry,” she said.

Stefan said the DC3 livestock judging team will compete at all of the major livestock shows in the spring and fall—such as the National Western in Denver, the Fort Worth Stock Show, the Dixie National in Jackson, Miss., the Houston Livestock Show, the American Royal in Kansas City, Mo., and the North American International Livestock Exposition in Louisville, Ky.—as well as attend some of the other smaller livestock judging contests.

Also in the fall, Stefan said she would like to host a small on-campus event in conjunction with the DC3 rodeo showcase, which would allow community members and college employees an opportunity to get to know the livestock judging team and to also get more familiar with the sport of livestock judging. This event would be a livestock judging practice, or in the sport’s unique vernacular, a workout, she said.

“Eventually, I also want to host workouts for 4-H and FFA teams during their judging seasons, host a summer judging camp, and use my team members to help coach local livestock judging teams,” she said. ●



Science Lab Adds Virtual Cadaver Table

Students in anatomy and physiology classes at Dodge City Community College (DC3) now have the ability to study the human body on a new virtual cadaver table.

“The benefit to the college is that for less than the cost of building, furnishing, and maintaining a cadaver lab, we now have access to human cadavers,” Mary Scott, DC3 Professor of Biology, said.

Basically, the virtual cadaver table is a “giant computer” that allows students to view special computed tomography (CT) scans of the human body at various levels, she said.

“It allows you to virtually dissect from the skin to the bones,” she said. “It also allows you the ability to view four different cadavers.”

Scott said the new table helps her students—even her beginning students—to more easily explore the human cadaver. And after she first demonstrates the use of the table, students are then able to study anatomy independently during their labs.

“At the community college level, cadaver labs are limited and require an instructor to do the dissecting and leading,” she said. “Once students learn to interact with the touchscreen, they can explore the cadaver on their own.”

In addition, instructors are able to copy pictures from the table that they can incorporate into their lectures or PowerPoint presentations. And as Scott gets more familiar with the table, she said she also will be requiring students to use it for quizzes.

Thus far, Scott said her students have been impressed with the virtual cadaver table, and they have likened it to a “giant Visible Body app.”

A Visible Body app is the internet-based teaching and learning platform application required for DC3’s anatomy and physiology classes. Scott said several of her students quickly realized how easily their individual apps correlated with the new table.

“They were pleased with how using one helps with using the other,” she said.

Currently, the college owns one virtual cadaver table, and it is being used for the Anatomy and Physiology I and II labs, she said.

To prolong the life of the table, Scott said it is only plugged in during use, and strict startup and shutdown instructions are followed. Like other computers, the table’s software also can be updated periodically.

“As long as the table lasts, we should be able to use it,” she said. “The company started in 2004, and those first tables are still in use. Thus, I hope that our table will last just as long.”

The virtual cadaver table, which was installed on Nov. 20, 2020, was purchased from Anatomage Inc. of Santa Clara, Calif., at a cost of nearly \$85,000. It was paid for with Strengthening People and Revitalizing Kansas (SPARK) funds, which are state-allocated relief funds for Kansas counties through the Coronavirus Aid, Relief and Economic Security (CARES) Act.

“The Anatomage table adds additional quality and current technologies to our anatomy and physiology classes,” Dr. Jane Holwerda, DC3 Vice President of Academic Affairs, said. “As one of a very few colleges in our region to have one, DC3 is unique in providing a great interactive and accessible way to learn about the structures and functions of the human body in a virtual platform.” ♥

CHAD Presents Scholarships to DC3 Students

The Community Housing Association of Dodge City (CHAD) presented seven scholarships to Dodge City Community College (DC3) students on Jan. 14.

Presented to students in the Building Construction Technology class, these scholarships were awarded at 1601 Mulberry Circle, which is the location of this year's CHAD building site.

DC3 students receiving CHAD scholarships include: Angel Miguel Guzman Rodriguez, Diego Lorenzo, Domanic Andres Enriquez, Joel Negrete-Chavez, Maximo Avalos, Roberto Millan-Lopez, and Ty Robert Bacon.

Through this hands-on partnership, DC3 students build houses from the ground up, learning all facets of building construction.

"The program gives the students a chance to complete an entire structure, from framing all the way to a finished building," said Patrick Shiew, DC3 Construction Technology Instructor.

Students are exposed to framing, siding, roofing, insulating, painting, drywall installation and finishing, door and cabinet installation, and also interior trim work, Shiew said.

In addition, students also get to work with and learn from local businesses who provide the necessary licensed contractors for the HVAC, electrical and plumbing aspects, said Mollea Wainscott, Assistant Director of Economic Development for the Dodge City/Ford County Development Corporation.

"We are lucky to have such great contractors in Dodge City who are willing to teach the students their trades while providing their services," Wainscott said. "It's beneficial to the students to learn the licensed trades along with the general construction."

This is the fourth year that CHAD has presented scholarships and the fifth year that CHAD and DC3 have partnered to build new housing for the community, she said.

Wainscott said the partnership allows CHAD to accomplish three things: to build additional moderate-income housing units, to train future workforce and to clean up blighted neighborhoods.

This year's build is a single-family home, and it will contain three bedrooms, two bathrooms and a one-car garage. The project, which began in October 2020, is expected to be completed in May 2021. ♥



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 **DODGE CITY**
COMMUNITY COLLEGE

COVID-19 Brings New Challenges for DC3 Athletics

by Joe Penno

Student-athletes from the Dodge City Community College (DC3) residence halls left campus on March 13, 2020, for spring break—thinking that classes and college life would resume as scheduled on March 23. While some students did return, most did not. What we now know as the COVID-19 pandemic was beginning to catch on like wildfire across the country.

The National Basketball Association (NBA) shut down its season on March 11. The National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA) Basketball Tournament was canceled the following day, March 12. Attempting to hold out hope, the National Junior College Athletic Association (NJCAA) canceled their spring national championships shortly thereafter.

Schools around the country began sending their students home. Some international students were allowed to stay until they were able to return to their home countries, but most college campuses turned into ghost towns, including DC3.

Academics moved almost entirely to an online platform, as both teachers and students quickly adjusted to what had to become an evolution of education. Classes moved mostly online as the information technology (IT) department on Dodge City's campus worked tirelessly to ensure that students and their educators could connect with the click of a button.

For coaches of all sports, making sure their student-athletes stayed on track to reach their goals at a four-year institution took on an evolution in itself.

"We encouraged coaches to do Zoom meetings with their teams during the spring," Jake Ripple, DC3 Athletic Director, said. "For example, football had at least three meetings every week with their student-athletes. They had a full team meeting, a position meeting, and an individual academic meeting with each student-athlete every week."

The results of the efforts the Conquistador coaches put into their student-athletes and the effort those student-athletes gave in return was nothing short of astonishing.

In May 2020, when grades were released, more than 50 student-athletes registered a Grade Point Average (GPA) of 3.6 or higher. For the first time in as long as anyone can remember, the Conquistador Athletic Department as a whole reached a cumulative GPA of 3.07, with five separate athletic programs registering a 3.5 GPA or higher.

When the NJCAA released their academic awards in June 2020, 10 Conquistador programs were recognized as NJCAA Academic Teams of the Year in their respective sports. Five of those programs finished in the Top 10 of their sport.

"Our coaches did a remarkable job keeping our students on track after they left campus, as did Abbi Worden, our athletic academic advisor," Ripple said. "Our faculty and IT department worked to transform our learning processes overnight. However, above all, it was our student-athletes who made a decision to not use their athletic world falling apart as a crutch. These honors don't come to our student-athletes without them putting in the effort."

REINVENTING THE WHEEL

With students gone from campus earlier than expected, offseason training for athletic programs took on a whole new transformation, just as academia did. Online Zoom meetings became the norm for all of the Conquistador athletic programs.

Following a March ruling from the NJCAA that granted student-athletes participating in spring sports an extra year of eligibility, student-athletes were able to have a clearer vision of what the rest of their college careers would look like, at least for the foreseeable future.

Once again, however, a lot of the onus was placed on the student-athletes to do the things they were supposed to do in order to be ready for Spring 2020. Student-athletes weren't just putting videos of themselves training onto social media anymore, they had to begin making those videos to prove to their coaches they were putting in the necessary work.

For coaches and recruiting, the ruling simultaneously eased their minds and increased their blood pressure all at once.

"Being such a young team, we were in as fortunate of a spot as you could be in regards to what our baseball team would look like come the Fall of 2020," DC3 Head Baseball Coach, Phil Stephenson, said. "We had a lot of freshmen who were talented, so we knew that we would like them to come back, and we knew they would be eligible to come back. Coming out the other side of that is where this becomes one of the more interesting recruiting cycles we'll ever see. Come the Spring of 2021, we'll have a lot of guys that we'll be trying to find homes for, while also trying to keep them in the program. So it'll be an interesting recruiting period for us."

Jake Williams, who was appointed DC3 head men's basketball coach in April, didn't quite have the same luxury of having freshmen to return. Williams returned one lone student-athlete from a team that went 11-20 in the 2019-2020 season.

"It was an interesting summer recruiting-wise for my assistant coaches and I," Williams said. "One day I was getting ready for the NJCAA Tournament, and what felt like the next day, I was driving across the country to Dodge City trying to secure



Photo by Thomie Griffin



Photo by Thomie Griffin



Photo by Thomie Griffin

commitments from some of the top junior college players in the country. Without the ability to go out and evaluate talent at showcases and tournaments, we essentially had to fill all of our scholarships with high-level players all through the use of our 5-inch phone screens. It was certainly unlike anything my staff or I had ever had to do, but the ability to adapt is crucial in the junior college world, especially during a worldwide pandemic.”

As far as administration goes, Ripple tried to make it abundantly clear to his staff that the DC3 Athletic Department was as open for business as it could be.

“We were constantly having Zoom meetings as a staff,” Ripple said. “We tried to meet as a staff at least every other week. Athletic administration was meeting two to three times a week, and as the athletic director, I was meeting with the KJCCC [Kansas Jayhawk Community College Conference] COVID Committee weekly to discuss how we were going to move forward. I also tried to make myself available daily by Zoom to our coaching staff.”

When employees were allowed back to work in June, DC3’s COVID-19 committee assisted in laying out protocols for students and student-athletes to follow when they came back.

In light of the trauma intercollegiate athletics and the rest of the world was facing, it was important to Ripple and other athletic directors from around the country that the collaboration turn into fraternizing from time to time.

“Honestly, one of the most enjoyable things that came from

junior colleges shutting down was many of the NJCAA athletic directors from across the country started social Zoom calls on Friday evenings,” Ripple said. “Since we all missed the NJCAA national meetings and national championships where we normally interact, it was a chance for many from across the country to get together and discuss what was happening on our own campuses in a relaxed atmosphere.”

Be it formal or informal, everything was geared toward a safe return for student-athletes in the fall and the hope of an impending return to normalcy of some capacity.

ONE BUSY SEMESTER

In July of 2020, the NJCAA announced a plan of action that moved a majority of fall and winter sports into the Spring 2021 semester.

For DC3, this meant 13 of the 15 NJCAA Division I affiliated programs were moved to a spring start date, with men’s and women’s cross country being the only exception.

Fall 2020 was spent doing the best the athletic department could do for keeping the student-athletes engaged in their sport as well as school. Academics was relatively simplified with a hybrid-flexible (HyFlex) model of learning that allowed students and teachers alike to decide what they wanted their classes to look like, be it in-person or online.

Athletically, however, once again it was on the student-athletes to adjust to a different schedule than what they have been used to their entire athletic careers.

“It was tough with the fall sports athletes feeling very out of place because their fall seasons had been taken away from them,” Ripple said. “They were trying to process the idea of playing in the spring, and that was tough for them to wrap their head around mentally. We even had some student-athletes leave school before the first semester even began or didn’t come to school in the first place. We had a football season that normally starts in August starting on March 27 and a soccer season starting in April. It was a very difficult transition for a lot of kids.”

Athletic programs competing in the spring were given a 60-day window to open practices for their student-athletes. After a juggling of weight room, field, and gym times, the programs made it through to Christmas break and into a spring that would become unlike anything that anyone had ever seen before.

“The Spring of 2021 has turned into the busiest time I can remember in junior college athletics,” Ripple said. “During the last two weeks of March, we actually have every sport in-season except for cross country and indoor track and field. Football and soccer will end up competing after the spring academic semester is completed.”

Getting the games scheduled was one thing, jumping through the hoops of playing the games has been another.

Gamedays have changed drastically in this modified Spring 2021 athletic season. A gameday begins with a temperature check seven hours prior to game time. If that means it has to be 7 a.m., then that means it has to be 7 a.m.

Opposing teams traveling to Dodge City must be temperature checked upon arrival at any DC3 facility as well. After checking off those symptom-free boxes, teams at the Student Activity Center are escorted into locker rooms that have been sanitized just minutes before their use, sometimes seconds.

After getting ready for their game, both the Conquistadors and their visitors come out to benches that have also been sanitized just minutes before their use. From the moment they stepped foot off of the court or field and into the bench area, masks are required for both players and coaches. In the event of a basketball doubleheader, the court is cleared and benches are sanitized in between the women’s and men’s games.

All of these procedures were in effect even before fans were allowed to come watch their favorite teams play.

On Feb. 1, the KJCCC voted to allow spectators at KJCCC athletic events. While the excitement to have fans in the stands was palpable, for athletic administration this meant reinventing the wheel. All Conquistador facilities saw “MASKS REQUIRED” signs plastered across their walls. Seating was roped off in order to properly separate fans into three categories: home fans, students, and visitors.

A normal gameday program turned into a QR code for fans to scan, serving as a “program” for that game. And concessions, of course, were discontinued.

The way the Conquistador administration has handled the changes has been nothing sort of spectacular. Short of one hiccup in the fall with cross country, Conquistador athletics has yet to cancel any games due to COVID-related issues. Even the cross-country cancellation had a caveat.

The men’s cross-country team missed the NJCAA national meet due to a positive test. It was only one positive test, but at that

point in time, the KJCCC had put in a regulation saying if one person tested positive, then the entire team had to be shut down for two weeks.

“None of this hasn’t been without bumps in the road, but I’m proud of the way we’ve handled everything,” Ripple said. “We had to shut down athletics for a 10-day period during the fall semester. We also had different teams shut down for periods of time during the fall semester. I think going through some of those things during the fall made our student-athletes realize how important following our guidelines are. I think it is part of the reason we’ve been able to have full seasons this spring.”

Of course, it’s worth noting to Ripple that the support from DC3 administration has been what’s made most of this spring possible.

“The support of our administration and Board of Trustees to move athletics forward has also been a key to this,” Ripple said. “They have made it clear that they think the athletic competition piece is important to the student-athletes at DC3, and that is why we were allowed to have scrimmages in the fall. Those scrimmages allowed us to put in some of the protocols that we have used with all of our sports moving forward to the spring semester. They have also made sure we have the supplies to keep our student-athletes safe through this whole process.”

MOVING FORWARD

The effects of the COVID-19 pandemic in regards to its effect on not just junior college athletics—but collegiate athletics as a whole—remains to be seen at this point.

In August 2020, the NJCAA provided a blanket waiver to athletes of all sports saying that the upcoming athletic season wouldn’t count as a year of eligibility. As long as there are enough classes for a student-athlete to take, entire teams are eligible to come back together.

Recruiting becomes a whole new beast within this COVID-19 recruiting cycle. The NCAA provided a waiver for athletes in the 2020-2021 athletic seasons as well. The junior college athletes who would normally graduate and leave with only two years of eligibility, now would have three years making them all the more appealing. However, with the NCAA able to bring back their student-athletes, will there be roster spots open? To that same point, NJCAA coaches have to toe the line on deciding between bringing athletes back, trying to move them on to four-year schools, and recruiting high school seniors and other four-year transfers.

The greatest unknown revolves around what the future holds. As the COVID-19 vaccination becomes more readily available, it is sure to ease some restraints as far as travel and gameday restrictions go. Conquistador athletics was as proactive as they could be in their handling of the pandemic, but proactivity doesn’t mean much when the enemy is mysterious.

“I’m not sure how proactive anyone could be with their handling of COVID, but I know we’re doing the best we can. We’re in a situation the likes that nobody has ever dealt with before,” Ripple said. “Each decision we made was on a situation-by-situation basis. I think we did well on the decisions that were made. Looking to the future, we hope for more stability, but our staff, this school, and the NJCAA as a whole is always ready for anything that’s thrown our way.” ●



DC3 Cheer Wins National Title in Year One

by Joe Penno

In just his first year as the head coach of the Conquistador Spirit Squad, Michael Brewster delivered on his promise to bring Dodge City Community College (DC3) a national championship after his squad won the Advanced Small Coed Junior College Division at the National Cheerleaders Association (NCA) National Championship in Daytona Beach, Fla., April 8-9.

“In cheer, you will see and hear teams talk about ‘hitting zero,’ which means they perform a routine with zero deductions from mistakes,” Brewster said. “In our final performance, our team hit ZERO ensuring that we would be crowned national champions. As soon as our performance ended, I knew, our kids knew, and our fans knew that we had just won a national championship.”

The Conquistadors finished with the highest advanced core score of all five of the small coed divisions. And their score of 96.3708 was the fifth highest advanced score of the entire competition, which featured competitive cheer programs from every division of collegiate athletics.

Despite such rapid success, Brewster didn’t inherit a well-oiled machine when he chose to bring his family to Dodge City, Kan., to take over as head coach for the DC3 spirit squad in December 2019.

Brewster immediately sought to change the near-defunct program from a sideline spirit squad that mainly did cheers and sideline dances to a nationally competitive cheer program that combines game-day crowd leading and elite acrobatics and tumbling.

“When I arrived on campus in December of 2019, there were five cheerleaders in our program,” Brewster said.

“We currently will have as many as 23 cheerleaders on campus at one time during the 2020-2021 season, and we aim to have 30-plus cheerleaders in the program for the 2021-2022 season.”

Student-athletes have been recruited from all over the United States, and internationally, to build the current team. This roster currently features student-athletes from seven different states ranging from Alaska to Maryland, as well as three student-athletes from Australia.

Brewster recruits like any other college athletic program, contacting high school athletes as early as their sophomore or junior seasons, while pushing hard for senior and transfer commitments. As soon as he had finished his inaugural class, he had already begun working on classes for years to come.

What people don’t realize is these student-athletes are held to a high standard both academically and athletically each semester, because their “season” ranges the entirety of a school year. Therefore, the cheer team can be found on the sidelines for football, volleyball, men’s and women’s basketball, and campus and community events—all in addition to their own competitions throughout a season.

Brewster’s outstanding reputation precedes him, so it should come as no surprise that he has a few tricks up his sleeve to get a group to work harder for longer.

Brewster came to Dodge City, not only with his wife and newborn child, but with a history of repeated success on the cheerleading mat. He currently holds the record for the most consecutive championships in any small coed



division with the NCA. Brewster also won six consecutive NCA Collegiate National Championships from 2014-2019 during his tenure as head coach of the Blinn College cheerleading squad in Brenham, Texas.

Winning is seemingly a part of Brewster's DNA. As a young athlete in Tampa, Fla., he grew up as a national championship roller speed skater and roller hockey player in high school. He was also quite the football player as well, garnering himself a Division I-FCS scholarship to play football at Charleston Southern University.

"Cheer wasn't something I began doing until my junior year of high school, and it was done in the off-season of football," Brewster said.

However, he picked it up just fine.

Having transferred out to Hawaii Pacific University (HPU) in Honolulu, Brewster would end up finishing his college career with three-consecutive NCA National Championships as a member of the Large Coed squad at Hawaii Pacific. Upon graduating from HPU, Brewster went on to start his own cheerleading company that specialized in routine choreography, camp instruction, and custom competition music mixes. It was after the creation of this company where Brewster was given his chance to begin a coaching career at Blinn College in 2011-2012, and the rest is history.

While Brewster's career at Blinn might be history, his career as a Conquistador is just getting started.

Since Brewster's time on campus has begun, he's had his squad at all of the Conquistador home events in addition to several events around campus and the community as a whole. The events have ranged from performing at DC3's 85th anniversary event on Oct. 18, 2020, to contributing to an event put on by local cheerleading gym Diamonds Athletics.

"Our showcase with Diamonds was the community's first look at the competitive side of the program as we

performed sections of a typical college competition routine. This gave members of the community an opportunity to gain an understanding of what this new program was doing and the skills that are possible moving forward," said Brewster of the opportunity to collaborate with the local all-star program.

"The 85th anniversary was so fun to be a part of and a great way for us to make our 'debut' for the college," Brewster said. "Although we were a bit limited because of the surroundings onstage, I believe we were able to showcase the new program with some skills that this community wasn't used to seeing."

In addition to competing and winning a national title for the first time in school history, the Conquistador Spirit Squad also competed for the first time in the Region VI championships in Hutchinson on March 7. At that competition, the Conquistador Spirit Squad took home three Region VI titles.

"These athletes are working extremely hard to perfect both new and previous skillsets that will be showcased in a 2-minute and 15-second jam-packed routine," Brewster said. "In both of these routines they will perform several types of gymnastics tumbling, acrobatic stunts, flipping with twisting, stacking two and three athletes up, and more."

As far as the future of the program, Brewster said he eventually would like to have two competition squads.

"Increasing the numbers is priority one, and that will help in not only building the competitive side of the program, but the game-day and campus/community involvement side as well," Brewster said. "With the support we have from the upper administration, the Board of Trustees, and the athletic department, now that we've brought home one national championship, the true future of this program is to bring home multiple national championships to Dodge City." ●

From the Foundation Director's Desk

The month of March 2020 will forever remain with me as the “Month We Stopped.” We stopped moving. We stopped visiting. We stopped going to our jobs, our classrooms, our family get-togethers, and our favorite restaurants. In reality, however, we didn't stop. YOU didn't stop. The generosity in this community didn't stop.



Since 1997, the Dodge City Community College (DC3) Foundation has raised much-needed funds to help a wide range of students—local and international, first-generation, veterans, career changers, and distance learners—achieve their educational and career goals.

In 2017, we began planning, and we reimaged the annual auction fundraiser. We increased donations and funds raised by the event in 2018 over 2015 by 37%! Over three years, we have raised more than \$205,000 through this important annual event. The 2020 10th annual Foundation Golf Tournament doubled the funds raised over the past years, even during a COVID-19 pandemic.

The Foundation also created a more streamlined and efficient scholarship process and program with endowed scholarship funds. The Foundation underwent a rebranding; updating its logo. We also launched our own newsletter (partnering

with the DC3 Marketing Department last year for this magazine), updated and maintained DC3 website pages, created a social media presence across many platforms, and began engaging in email campaigns.

These are just a few of the things that we have worked on over the last four years. This past year showed us the resilience of many while working to maintain. Donors, like all of you from across the nation, reached out to help us in little and big ways during the pandemic. We were able to purchase band instruments, art supplies, winter weather clothing, assist with student emergency expenses, purchase a basketball shooting machine, and send scholarship funds to the college without interruption. There is reason to celebrate and to move forward into the future with a new vision and an increased sense of confidence toward fulfilling the mission to support DC3.

For all of these reasons to celebrate, I thank you all. Our work is not even close to being complete, nor will it ever be. But thank you for coming through for our DC3 students during a time of uncertainty and unprecedented challenges. We look forward to many more years of working with each and every one of you in order to provide a fulfilling and rewarding college experience for our students for many years to come. **#TogetherWeConquer**

CHRISTINA HASELHORST
Director of Foundation & Community Relations



DC3 Receives Funds for Band Instruments

by Lance Ziesch

The Dodge City Community College (DC3) music department, due to a generous anonymous donation through the DC3 Foundation, purchased \$17,765.49 in new band instruments during the month of February.

“I am very proud of our donors for recognizing the needs across campus,” Christina Haselhorst, DC3 Foundation and Community Relations Director, said. “It can sometimes be difficult to find the funding needed for different departments, and generous donors—like this fine arts donor—are an integral part of the Foundation’s efforts to contribute to the mission of DC3.”

Kerry Kuplic, DC3 Associate Professor of Vocal Music and Fine Arts Division Chair, said the new instruments will not only be an investment in the college’s future, but they also will allow the instrumental ensembles to vastly expand their repertoires and play a wider variety of musical styles.

“The donation itself was an incredibly generous contribution that has allowed the department to make a substantial investment in instruments at no cost to the college,” Kuplic said. “With proper maintenance, these instruments will last for a very long time and will be able to be used by generations of musicians.”

Nancy Sapp, DC3 Visiting Director of Instrumental Music, said that when she was hired in August, she was asked to review the current inventory of instruments, to purchase new instruments, to develop a system for keeping better track of the instrumental inventory, and to begin rebuilding the instrumental program.

Although the band is still quite small, Sapp said she has seen an increase in band numbers this semester. In addition, she said there are also now more students taking private lessons. Last semester, there were two. This semester, there are nine.

“Last semester I had six students and one community member in band,” Sapp said. “This semester, I have nine students and one community member. And I am very

pleased that one of the new students this semester is a high school student who is taking band for dual credit.”

Sapp said she would like to see this growth—as well as the growth of the entire fine arts program—continue in the coming semesters. And she also hopes that more area high school junior and senior instrumentalists would consider enrolling in the band for dual credit.

“At one point, we had a jazz ensemble, as well as a symphony made up of students and community members,” she said. “I would love to see both of those programs active again.”

After Sapp completed the department’s instrument inventory, she found that the college had a variety of 64 instruments, which included strings, woodwinds and brass.

“With the new instruments, we will have 78—not counting all the percussion equipment,” she said. “While this seems like a lot, ideally we need to replace several more instruments. But with limited funds from the college budget, it is not possible at this time. Instruments are expensive and a huge investment.”

The new instruments, which Sapp purchased from Senseney Music Inc. of Wichita, Kan., include two flutes, one piccolo, two clarinets, one baritone saxophone, one trumpet, one C trumpet, one French horn, three violins, one viola and one double bass.

Kuplic said he is eager to hear the new instruments at upcoming DC3 concerts and recitals.

“In the past, student access to quality instruments had been a concern,” he said. “Now our students and community members will be able to continue making great music on beautiful new instruments. I hope stories like this will inspire other community members to see just how they might be able to make a lasting contribution to DC3 and to our community.” ♦



DC3 Foundation Provides Clothing During ‘Arctic Blast’

As many are aware, February 2021 brought the coldest cold snap in recent memory to much of the United States. Millions of Americans dealt with power outages, lack of water, severe tornadic weather, and unprecedented cold. On Feb. 15, Dodge City residents woke up to -15 degrees with a -35 degree wind chill.

Dodge City Community College (DC3) has students from all over the world and there are many different economic backgrounds on campus. The 2021 Arctic Blast made many of the students vulnerable to the elements in ways they could not adequately prepare for due to where they came from or from economic challenges.

Because of the kindness and generosity of a few anonymous donors, the DC3 Foundation, prior to the storm's arrival, was able to purchase coats, hats, gloves, and blankets for any student on campus who was in need. These were delivered to a very grateful Residence Life office on campus.

Working together during hard times—both with colleagues, donors, and the community—DC3 can provide a safe and successful environment for students to continue to succeed. And showing our students generosity and kindness not only helps to instill those qualities in their lives, but it can also inspire them to do the same for others they encounter in the years to come. ●

2020 DODGE CITY COMMUNITY COLLEGE Foundation Gala & Auction

www.charityauction.bid/DC3Auction

Due to COVID-19 challenges in 2020, the Dodge City Community College (DC3) Foundation had its first hybrid auction event on Nov. 14, 2020. What is a hybrid event you ask? It is an auction event where the event is conducted both online and in-person. And it was a complete success! Auction bidding began on Nov. 8 and was open the entire week. The bidding concluded at the end of the evening of Nov. 14.

With 60 people in attendance on a very windy evening and many, many more participating from their homes, this year's event was more successful than anticipated. At the conclusion of the event, the Foundation was able to raise more than \$55,000. These funds help to fund projects within the Foundation as well as for scholarships for DC3 students. In addition to the auction event, the Foundation conducted a 50/50 raffle, and the winner was Dave Geist of Dodge City.

Many thanks to all auction participants, volunteers, and the following sponsors of the event: Sutherlands, Chaffin Inc., Bunkall Orthodontics, Victory Electric, Conant Construction, United Capital Management, Steven & Pamela Preston, Dodge City Brewing Company, Farm Bureau Wealth, Building Solutions, David & Paula Ripple, Edward Jones – Wes Owens, National Beef, Dr. Glendon Forgey, Coldwell Banker Hancocks of Dodge City, Max Jantz Excavating, United Wireless Communications, Landmark National Bank, Lewis Automotive Group, Georgia Burke, Floris Jean Hampton, John & Lori Oldham, Truck Center Companies of Dodge City, Kerbs Law Office, Greg & Linda Goff, Diamond Roofing, and many other cash sponsors.

Upcoming events for the Foundation include Books, Bottles & Brie on May 1, 2021, in the DC3 Library, the 11th annual DC3 Foundation Golf Tournament on Aug. 20, 2021, and the next Foundation auction in November 2021. ●

Building a Legacy, Strengthening a Community

These generous donors gave to the Dodge City Community College (DC3) Foundation from Oct. 1, 2020, to April 1, 2021. Totaling more than \$144,200 over that time period, donations include the annual auction as well as for the DC3 Foundation, 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 Foundation and Community Relations Director, to set up an appointment (foundation@dc3.edu).

We are working to continue to strengthen the scholarship programs of the DC3 Foundation and of Dodge City Community College. With the continued decreases in state and federal funding, as well as pandemic challenges, 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	Dodge City Brewing Co.	Barney Korbelik	Wyatt Rostetter
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Karina Garcia

DC3 CLASS OF 2017

“My name is Karina Garcia. I am the third of five children born and raised in Dodge City. My parents are immigrants, and I am incredibly happy and proud to say that I am the first child in my family’s generation to graduate with a degree from college. I started my college career at Dodge City Community College (DC3) in 2013, majoring in Early Childhood Education. I graduated in 2017 with my Early Childhood Educator Certificate and with my Associate of Applied Science.

Education has been extremely important to me since I was a little girl. I always dreamed of being a teacher. I would always play pretend school with all my neighborhood friends. My parents always encouraged me to educate myself and to get a good education for a better future, and now being a parent myself, I totally understand the importance of education.

I am currently working as an assistant teacher at an elementary school working with first graders, and I enjoy every bit of it. They keep me very busy, and having to work in a classroom is giving me the experience that I will need when I became a teacher. I am also continuing my education through Wichita State University to receive my Bachelor of Arts in Education.”

