

The Conquistador

Spring 2022

THE MAGAZINE OF DODGE CITY COMMUNITY COLLEGE

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DC3 BY THE NUMBERS

TOTAL ENROLLMENT

1,560

AVERAGE CLASS SIZE

20

STUDENT-TO-FACULTY RATIO

11:1

STUDENTS FROM

39 STATES

28 COUNTRIES

ATHLETIC PROGRAMS

18

STUDENT GENDER

53% FEMALE

47% MALE

Purple Pride



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

This past semester, we have experienced a wonderful spirit of purple pride and excitement on this campus. And nowhere has this been more evident than when our campus rallied around our basketball and cheer teams as they advanced to regional and national competitions! Not only did we take a large crew of students and employees with us to some of those contests, but we also had fun watch party gatherings in the campus cafeteria for students and employees who could not attend those events in person.

Our on-campus student activities also are growing and thriving, and a good example of this was our recent Spring Fling, which you can read about in this issue! After not having the event for 10 years or more, our Student Activities Department revived this week-long tradition in time for its 50th anniversary. And there's already plans in the works for next year!

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

Sincerely,

Harold Nolte

Harold Nolte, ed.D.

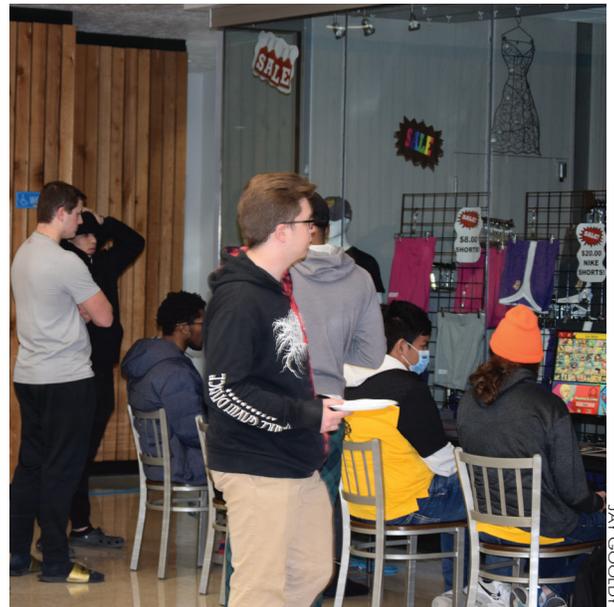
President

Cong Corral

Conqs on campus and around our community.



LOGAN GLEASON



JAY GOLDBY

The DC3 eSports Club hosted the Smash City Valentine's Open on Feb. 12, in the Student Union Ballroom/Cafeteria. Gamers from across the region visited campus to compete for a cash prize and an opportunity to win a general scholarship from the DC3 Foundation. Tournament winners included: first place, Captain Squiggles (\$100); second place, Tairnerar (\$60); and third place, Ron Wees (\$40). The DC3 Foundation also awarded a \$250 general scholarship to DC3 eSports attendee Cyrus Dickerson, who is a DC3 sophomore from Dodge City.

The Dodge City Church of the Nazarene hosted the 2022 Night to Shine Parade on Feb. 12. DC3 students lined 14th Avenue cheering the prom attendees on as they drove past the college. Pictured (from left) are, Alannah Lozoya, freshman, Las Cruces, N.M.; Jaiden Monger, freshman, Calhan, Colo.; Ozge Tan, freshman, Ankara, Turkey; J'Carra Mitchell, freshman, Detroit, Mich.; and Ryenne Cunningham (front), freshman, Clafflin, Kan.



LUKE FAY

Six DC3 students were selected to perform at an intercollegiate band concert at the Kansas Music Educators Association (KMEA) In-Service Workshop on Feb. 25, in Wichita, Kan. Pictured, from left to right, are Trevor Albert (percussion), sophomore, Minneola, Kan.; Isaac Fuentes (horn), freshman, Rockdale, Texas; DC3 Band Director, Joel Vinson; Annia Llamas (alto saxophone), sophomore, Dodge City; Esmeralda Gomez Garcia (flute), sophomore, Dodge City; and Allison Haselhorst (flute), freshman, Dodge City. Not pictured is Parker Holuska (trumpet), sophomore, Dodge City.



LUKE FAY

The DC3 Music Department hosted the Broadway Live Concert on March 10, in the Little Theatre. The concert featured soloists and ensembles performing pieces from hit movie musicals and Broadway productions. The selections included songs from “The Princess and the Frog,” “Beauty and the Beast,” “Wonderful Town,” and “Jesus Christ Superstar” to name a few.



HOLLY MERCER

Several DC3 students, faculty and staff participated in Read Across America at Dodge City’s Linn Elementary and Ross Elementary schools on March 4. This all-day event, which is an opportunity for volunteers to read to children in elementary schools, included DC3 athletes from the basketball, football and rodeo teams. Pictured above (left to right) are DC3 football student-athletes Stone Watson, freshman, Simpsonville, S.C.; Mason Williams, freshman, Bixby, Okla.; and Ben Schmidt, freshman, Newton, Kan.



LANCE ZIESCH

The Dodge City Area Chamber of Commerce hosted a coffee at the Ford County Retired and Senior Volunteer Program (RSVP) office on March 8. At the event, Doug Hart was recognized for his 17 years of service as an RSVP bus driver. Pictured (left to right) are Annalynn Kirkhart, Ford County RSVP Director; Doug Hart, RSVP Bus Driver; and Bill Carr, Ford County Sheriff, who was the winner of the DC3 gift basket.

Conq Corral

Conqs on campus and around our community.



LUKE FAY

The DC3 Music Department hosted its Spring Concert on April 22 in the Little Theatre. Directed by Nancy Sapp, Visiting Director of Instrumental Music, and Joel Vinson (left), Band Director, the concert featured renditions of “The Avenger March,” “Bohemian Rhapsody,” and other selections by the DC3 Symphonic Band and Jazz Ensemble.



CESAR GARCIA

The Kappa Psi Chapter of Phi Theta Kappa (PTK) Honor Society named Damian Garcia, sophomore, Dodge City, to the All-Kansas Academic Team for 2022. Garcia was honored April 1 during a luncheon ceremony at the Geary County Convention Center, in Junction City.



LUKE FAY

The Kappa Psi Chapter of Phi Theta Kappa (PTK) Honor Society at DC3 inducted 14 new members and installed four new officers at its spring induction ceremony on April 19. Pictured right to left (front row) are Olivia Ramos, PTK President, freshman, Dodge City; Jennifer Katz, sophomore, Springfield, Neb.; Hailey Ellis, sophomore, Meade, Kan.; Damian Garcia, sophomore, Dodge City; Juan Camilo Susa Cortes, freshman, Bogotá, Colombia; Alan Cervantes, sophomore, Cimarron, Kan.; Steven Brown, sophomore, Dodge City; Litzzy Rosales, freshman, Atlanta, Ga.; Olivia Ortiz, sophomore, Dodge City; Yesenia Lopez, sophomore, Dodge City; Perla Acuna, freshman, Norcross, Ga.; (back row) Reese Unruh, freshman, Greensburg, Kan.; Addison Spencer, freshman, Vernon, Texas; Brisa Ontiveros, freshman, Dodge City; and Janik Buch, freshman, Süderbrarup, Germany.



Five DC3 speech and psychology students presented course project posters on March 9 at the Posters on the Plains regional undergraduate showcase that was hosted by Fort Hays State University. The DC3 poster projects, which were based on concepts and theories from the students' courses in Interpersonal Communication (SP 206) and General Psychology (PSY 101), accounted for five of the 19 posters that were presented at the showcase.

Students who gave presentations include: 1) Aubrey Dewell (SP 106), freshman, Dodge City, who represented two students from SP 206 who were unable to attend, Abigail Billingsley, sophomore, Colorado Springs, Colo., and Josie Davidson, freshman, Weatherford, Texas, with a poster titled "Conflict Resolution in Communication." 2) Jaden Driver (SP 206), freshman, Aurora, Colo., with a poster titled "Managing Racial Stereotypes and Self Identity." 3) Rylan Hays (SP 206), freshman, Phillipsburg, Kan., with a poster titled "Rodeo in the Community." 4) Guadalupe Hipolito-Medina (PSY 101, SP 206), sophomore, Dodge City, with a poster titled "Social Media for Social Beings." And 5) Bethany Palmer (PSY 101), a high school student from Offerle, Kan., with a poster titled "Religious Beliefs and Violence in White Supremacist Groups."

From left to right is Dr. Lana McDonnell, DC3 Professor of Speech/Communications; Bethany Palmer; Rylan Hays; Aubrey Dewell; Guadalupe Hipolito-Medina; Joshua Smith, DC3 Psychology Instructor; and Jaden Driver.



DC3 President, Dr. Harold Nolte (right), welcomes Kansas Supreme Court Justices, Melissa Standridge (left) and Daniel Biles (second from left) to the DC3 campus on April 7. At a question-and-answer session in the Little Theatre, the justices discussed topics relating to the state's highest court. Also pictured is discussion moderator Daniel Love.



CHRISTINA HALL

No Cutting Corners

Cosmetology Student Preston Stebens Shares His Story

by Luke Fay and Lance Ziesch

At the age of 33, Preston Stebens decided it was either now or never in regards to following his dream of cutting hair full time. So, after discussing the idea with his family—and leaving his current job—he enrolled in the Dodge City Community College (DC3) cosmetology program in early 2021.

However, the journey that brought him to DC3 actually started at another Kansas community college back in 2005.

“I ended up going to Hutchinson Community College in 2005 and went for a year up there. I played golf and went to college and just burned myself out,” Stebens said. “That’s when I decided that I wanted to get in the workforce.”

Stebens then decided to follow in his father’s footsteps and begin a career in the gas industry. So, for the next year and a

half, he worked with British Petroleum, until he was laid off.

“I ended up moving to Wichita and went to work for Hawker Beechcraft, which was an air company,” Stebens said. “They provide airline parts now for Cessna Aviation.”

Although he said Hawker Beechcraft was a “really good job,” he got laid off there as well.

Because of these two work experiences, Stebens said his next step was to enlist in the U.S. Army to seek a job with more stability.

“Both of my grandpas were in the military. My mom’s dad was Navy, and my dad’s father was Army,” Stebens said. “As long as I can remember, they still rolled their underwear, socks, T-shirts, and folded the corners of the bed.”

However, Stebens’ time in the Army was short-lived. After breaking his foot twice within a one-year period, he was honorably discharged with a medical injury.

After the Army, Stebens got a job in the juvenile justice program for two years, before moving on to Koch Industries, in Dodge City, where his job was to make anhydrous ammonia fertilizer.

So, although his professions changed through the years, there was always one constant: He had a dream of cutting hair full time. And beginning in 2001, he began practicing on his friends and family.

In 2018, he married his wife Janae. Because they both had a child from a previous relationship, they were immediately a family of four. And two years later, that number would be five, when they welcomed their first child together.

“When we had little Owen, I was working out at the plant,” Stebens said. “I worked with really good guys, but if you’ve ever been around anhydrous ammonia, it is very scary stuff, and it can kill you.”

Because he was concerned with the safety of his current job, and he wasn’t “getting any younger,” Stebens decided it was finally time to pull the trigger on his dream of cutting hair.

“After Owen was born, I just at that time, really wanted to do hair,” Stebens said. “I knew that at 33 years old it was time to either continue doing what I was doing, or I needed to make a change, and I needed to go back to school and finish it.”

So, on Dec. 15, 2020, Stebens resigned from his position at Koch Industries.

“Two days after I resigned, I came and talked to Miss Julie Taylor-Birney [DC3 Professor of Cosmetology] over at the college,” Stebens said. “I was enrolled the 10th of January and started classes on the 13th.”

Stebens said he found the college atmosphere a refreshing change of pace, compared to the volatile and often dangerous work environments he had experienced in the past.

“It’s a breath of fresh air for me. I don’t have to worry about if I am second guessing what I’m doing or tell myself you know, ‘Is this really for me?’ It’s nice

knowing that the years of hard work and saving has led me here,” Stebens said. “I’ve studied hair for the last 10 years on YouTube learning how to do different things, just having folks let me cut them free of charge as a hobby and practicing my skills has helped me to hit the floor running.”

Those who are not involved with the hair industry might not be aware of how much more there is to cutting hair and being a cosmetologist, he said. There is a surprising amount of science that is factored into learning the curriculum.

“We cover everything from some aspects of human anatomy to physics with chemical reactions, mixing chemicals, mixing colors, and then just general science and general education. The thing is you’re never not learning.”

Stebens credits the support from his wife for allowing him to manage his time and complete his cosmetology certification.

“My wife’s job has given me the opportunity to come back to school and finish this, and it was a joint decision between the both of us,” Stebens said. “We both knew what we were chewing off when we decided to do it. My wife, she’s working 60 plus hours a week just to help make sure that I have all the equipment that I need.”

Although the road to cosmetology certification has been challenging for

the (now) 35-year-old father of three, he said the process has taught him how to manage a newborn child, complete school assignments, and be a husband all at once.

“The biggest thing is you have to study this stuff,” Stebens said. “I get my kids picked up. I get home at 4:30 p.m. I would play with them from 5 to 6:30 p.m., then we would make dinner, give baths until 8, and then get them tucked into bed by 8:30. After that, I would get a shower and then spend time with my wife when she gets home, plus do my homework and study.”

In addition to the wonderful support of his wife, Stebens said the DC3 cosmetology faculty and staff also have gone the extra mile to help him succeed.

“The staff over there have worked with me so well that it’s been extremely easy in a very difficult time,” Stebens said. “Dealing with sick babies and not knowing what’s wrong with them is tough. All you can do is stay home with them. So having a staff that understands that and is willing to work with you is exceptional.”

Julie Taylor-Birney, or as her students affectionately call her, Miss Julie, has worked at DC3 for the last 15 years as a professor of cosmetology. And she has taught and graduated more than 500 students in her time at DC3.

“Miss Julie has a mama goose feel, I mean, she doesn’t really act like an instructor or a boss,” Stebens said. “She acts like, ‘You guys are all under my wing, and it is my responsibility to train you and teach you, and I’m not going to let you leave until you’re ready.’”

Although she has taught hundreds of students through the years, she said Stebens stands out from the crowd.

“Well, he’s a good student. He’s a go-getter,” Taylor-Birney said. “He’s always willing to do anything for anybody, and he’s got a wonderful drive for the industry, too.”

And switching career paths as an adult is not something many parents envy doing, she said.

“Preston put his career on hold, and he’s still helping out with his children,” Taylor-Birney said. “He has really come in and given it his all to be able to learn the industry and give back to the industry as well. I hope that he would be an example for other male stylists who want to come in.”

As a nontraditional student, Stebens is about 15 years older than most of his classmates. And of course, he’s also married with three children.

“They’re always so chipper and happy.

- CONTINUED



Preston Stebens enjoys a laugh with Olivia Fadenrecht, age 5, while blow drying her hair on Feb. 9.

CHRISTINA HALL

NO CUTTING CONTINUED -

They don't have a care or worry in the world," Stebens said, referring to his younger classmates. "Several people over there call me Uncle Preston. I'm ok with that because it not only makes me feel a little bit more comfortable, but it just keeps it funny and relaxed."

Although Stebens acknowledges there is a slight stigma in cosmetology for males—due to it being a female-dominated field—he said this factor has not slowed him down.

"History would tell you that it is primarily a female industry, as far as the cosmetology program goes. But, if you look at the numbers, you are seeing a lot more women getting into barbering, and you're seeing a lot more men getting into cosmetology," Stebens said. "It's a \$2- to \$3-billion a year business, and that's what it comes down to for me."

Taylor-Birney echoes that same sentiment. She said there is a lot of money to be made in hair, and Stebens is just one of many Americans who are now taking the chance to follow their dreams.

"Our industry is booming. I really think that when people were home because of COVID-19, they did a lot of soul searching and decided it was time to do something different," she said.

So, what is next for Stebens? After passing his state boards for cosmetology in December 2021 "with flying colors," and then completing his mandatory 1,500 hours of work in mid-February to earn his certificate from DC3, his next move is to open a shop in his hometown of Ashland, Kan.

In Ashland, he plans to help the family "replenish some of those funds that we've had to expire over the last year, and give my wife Janae a much-needed break." And down the road, he plans to open shops in Dodge City, Garden City, and possibly Wichita.

"I want to come up with my own brand, my own product, especially for men. I want to improve the men's line of pomade, facial hair, beard-oil products, and things like that," he said.

"That's one thing that I'm going to offer once we do get our own establishment up and going is having a full line of men's products," he said. "I think that's something that's really lacking in a lot of these places where the main focus is women's hair."

When he opens his own shop, Stebens said he will offer a discount to all first responders, active military, and veterans.



Preston Stebens puts the finishing touches on a haircut for Jance Fadenrecht, age 3, on Feb. 9.

He also will be offering free haircuts once a month for those who cannot afford them.

"I've always told my family and my wife that once I do get my certifications done, I'm going to commit one weekend a month, Saturday or Sunday, to giving out free haircuts to the homeless, or the less fortunate folks that maybe can't afford a haircut. I am hoping I can get other people in the business to come out and give a little back, too."

So although Stebens' time at DC3 has come to an end, he said he has these words

for anyone who might be considering cosmetology as a future career:

"My recommendation to anybody would be if you're going to go to cosmetology school—and you're within a reasonable distance to Dodge City Community College—you need to choose DC3, because you're going to leave with a world-class certification," Stebens said. "The staff here do such a great job covering different topics, and they give you every resource you can imagine. There's zero reason for you to fail at DC3." ●

Phi Theta Kappa (PTK) students, Kaden Stapleton (left), sophomore, Jetmore, Kan., and Janik Buch (right), freshman, Süderbrarup, Germany, work with Kerry Kuplic, Associate Professor of Vocal Music, to stock the Conq Care Cabinet in the Humanities building.



Conq Care Cabinets Serve Students

by Luke Fay

Dodge City Community College (DC3) has expanded its student outreach with the newly established Conq Care Cabinets. The cabinets are designed to hold various nonperishable foods, hygiene items, and school supplies for DC3 students in need.

The cabinets were first suggested by Jay Gooldy, DC3 Instructor of English. Gooldy was teaching a preparatory composition class in the summer of 2021 when he decided to replace a dated essay assignment with a service-learning project.

“The students were looking for a way to be good stewards and make an impact on campus. This idea became the Conq Care Cabinets, which is our own take on the blessing box,” he said.

“The idea is we fill the cabinet up, and then students, faculty and staff members take what they need. Then later, they leave what they can to fill it up again,” he said.

“I first brought in Gayla Rodenbur from the counseling office to talk to our class about making a difference, and she brought up how a food pantry can benefit the community,” Gooldy said. “Then, Chris Haselhorst in the DC3 Foundation talked to us about getting a sponsor to help obtain the cabinets.”

From there, Gooldy and his students decided to approach local businesses to see

if they were interested in lending support to the project.

“We were either going to have to raise some money to get the cabinets or find a partner to donate them,” Gooldy said. “So, we went out and talked to CEO Scott Bogner at Kitchens Inc., in Dodge City, and he liked our pitch and provided the cabinets to us free of charge.”

Kerry Kuplic, Associate Professor of Vocal Music and Fine Arts Division Chair, is the faculty advisor for Kappa Psi, DC3’s chapter of Phi Theta Kappa (PTK).

And he proposed that PTK could collaborate with Gooldy and his students on stocking the cabinets and then coordinate a way for PTK students to continue to resupply the cabinets for semesters to come.

“I immediately thought that PTK needed to get involved,” Kuplic said. “One of our hallmarks is service, and I knew this would be a powerful and effective way to live out our mission.”

Kuplic hosted a Broadway Live Concert, in the Little Theatre on March 10, and coordinated with PTK members on securing donations for the cabinets from concert guests.

“We received a substantial number of food and hygiene items, in addition to some generous monetary donations, from

individuals and businesses,” Kuplic said. “The money will be used to purchase items to replenish the stock in the cabinets.”

The Conq Care Cabinets will be located in two locations on campus, which will help maximize exposure for any students in need.

“One cabinet is located in the Humanities building on the top floor, because it gets decent traffic, plus it’s directly across from my classroom, and I can maintain it,” Gooldy said. “Then, the other location is in the Student Union.”

The location outside of the Student Union was chosen for two reasons. The first was because of the high student foot traffic, and the second was due to its close proximity to Student Services and to the counseling offices.

“So, if Bennie Wiley-Bethea, DC3 Campus Counselor, has students who are in need, she can easily walk them over to the cabinet and help them,” Gooldy said.

Kitchens Inc. installed the cabinets in early March, and they are now fully stocked with food, hygiene items, and school supplies.

For more information on how to donate to the Conq Care Cabinets, please contact Jay Gooldy at jgooldy@dc3.edu or PTK at ptk@dc3.edu.



DC3 Assistant Vice President of Information Technology/ CIO, Mike Webster, gave a presentation on cryptocurrency at the inaugural Science Café, on Nov. 11, 2021.

Science Café Promotes Learning Outside the Classroom

by Luke Fay

Dodge City Community College (DC3) has established a new monthly event series called the Science Café, which provides attendees with engaging scientific conversation in a casual setting.

Although each school or organization can have a different take on how they run their Science Café, what remains the same is the goal of engaging the public in interesting scientific conversation.

Dylan Faullin, DC3 Professor of Math, was the driving force behind the creation of the Science Café series at the college. The idea began with a conversation he had with Kansas State University Physics Professor Bharat Ratra. Faullin, who has a bachelor's degree in astronomy, was initially presenting a cosmological concept to Ratra when the two began emailing back and forth.

Ratra suggested to Faullin that he should consider creating a Science Café series as a way for like-minded professionals to explain topics they're passionate about

to students and to the public. The idea snowballed from there, causing Faullin to form a small committee to create the very first Science Café event at DC3 in November 2021.

"So we decided to test pilot one in November. It took a couple months to put that together, so we had Mike Webster, DC3 Assistant Vice President of Information Technology/CIO, present at the first one," Faullin said. "I suggested the topic of cryptocurrency because it's a pretty hot topic. I thought that might draw some people in, and it did."

Following the success of the first Science Café, Faullin created a full committee of faculty and staff members, which consisted of himself, Julia Proctor, Holly Mercer, Stephanie Gruver, and Sherry Curtis Rogers.

"We decided on the topics for this semester based partially on our survey results from the first Science Café and the faculty's knowledge of what their students tend to be interested in," Faullin said.

The committee chose Dr. Monica Cook, DC3 Associate Professor of Biology, as their presenter for the Science Café that took place March 10. The topic was marine science, an area of science that can be foreign to students who have not traveled out of the state of Kansas.

"My particular Science Café was important for students because it highlighted a topic that doesn't get much coverage in a landlocked state like Kansas," Cook said. "Marine science may not be on the radar for most students, but a student does not have to live on the coast in order to pursue marine science. I hope my discussion motivated anyone who may have thought about the ocean to pursue their dreams."

Cook said she found it refreshing to be able to teach in a setting outside of the classroom.

"The Science Café takes place in a relaxed environment that allows the discussion to be much more enjoyable,"

Cook said. “In a traditional lecture, there tends to be a bit more pressure on the student to capture everything the instructor is discussing in order to be prepared for upcoming exams.”

Julia Proctor, DC3 Instruction and Collection Librarian, serves as the unofficial emcee for the Science Café. Her duties include helping set up the refreshments and snacks as well as introducing the presenter. Proctor said she can see the effect the Science Café has on students firsthand.

“Well, I think one big thing for the students is exposing them to different ideas and maybe different paths that they might want to pursue outside the classroom, or maybe in the classroom,” Proctor said. “Students may decide to pursue taking different classes and things like that in the future because of this.”

At the February Science Café, DC3 students were able to see someone who had stood in their own shoes, when DC3 alumnus, and Dodge City native, Dr. Larry Rodriguez chatted with students and the public about his career in biochemistry and his work with the Scripps Research Institute.

“Dr. Larry Rodriguez spoke a lot about his path. You know, he’s an alumnus,” Proctor said. “So, he spoke about how he started here at DC3 and how he’s now doing really excellent work. I saw a lot of interest from students there. I hope that these Science Café events can help inspire students and show them some of the things they can achieve.”

Faullin said the Science Café has been a “resounding success” on campus. However, he said there is always room for more student and community involvement.

“We’ve been doing trivia and other interactive activities to keep the audience engaged. I’ve been surprised at everyone’s enthusiasm for the event,” Faullin said. “The students do receive extra credit, but I actually think that even if there wasn’t extra credit they still would go because they really enjoy the atmosphere of it.”

The Science Café takes place monthly in the DC3 Learning Resource Center/Library and is made possible through the Kansas Louis Stokes Alliance for Minority Participation (KS-LSAMP) grant via Kansas State University. And refreshments and snacks are provided through a grant from the Robert Noyce Scholarship Program via Fort Hays State University. For a schedule of upcoming topics, please visit dc3.edu/events/calendar/. ●

DC3 Professor Selected as Astronomy Ambassador

by Lance Ziesch

Dodge City Community College (DC3) Professor of Physical Science, Sherry Curtis Rogers, was selected recently by the SETI Institute as one of the 2022 National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) Airborne Astronomy Ambassadors (AAA).

Founded in 1984, the SETI Institute is a non-profit, multi-disciplinary research and education organization whose mission is to understand the origins and prevalence of life and intelligence in the universe and to share that knowledge with the world. And AAA is a professional development program for middle school, high school, and community college teachers that seeks to improve science teaching, enhance student learning, and increase engagement in Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM).

“I am participating in the NASA Community College Network (NCCN) program,” Rogers said. “It was started last year. I applied in March and was accepted into the pilot program in May.”

Rogers said that it was through NCCN that she found out about the AAA program.

“This is the 10th cycle for the AAA program,” she said. “But it is the first year that community college instructors could apply.”

Selected as one of 24 teachers, from 13 states, Rogers will receive training in astrophysics and planetary science, and she will attend a week-long STEM immersion experience this fall at a NASA astronomy research facility such as the Stratospheric Observatory for Infrared Astronomy (SOFIA) based in Palmdale, Calif., or the Infrared Telescope Facility (IRTF) on Mauna Kea, in Hawaii.

“We started trainings in February. We have six more virtual trainings before the summer,” she said. “Over the summer, we have an in-person professional development to attend. We also have to take an asynchronous astronomy course focused on astrophysics, planetary science, and infrared astronomy.”

After she completes the spring and summer components of her training—and the week-long STEM immersion



LANCE ZIESCH

experience this fall—Rogers said she will teach a module on the electromagnetic spectrum and infrared astronomy in her DC3 astronomy and physical science classes. In addition, she said she also plans to reach out to the Dodge City High School science department to share her NASA resources with them.

“Through the NCCN program I already have access to resources other community college teachers do not have,” she said. “For example, a couple of weeks ago a NASA engineer who designed and built some of the instruments on the James Webb Space Telescope (JWST) gave a virtual presentation on the JWST for my astronomy class. Not all community college students get that opportunity. With the addition of the AAA program, I will get more professional development, resources, and equipment to share with my students.”

Curtis said that being named as an astronomy ambassador—a cherished title that she gets to keep for the remainder of her career—is a big honor for her both personally and professionally.

“I love astronomy almost as much as I love my students,” she said. “It is my favorite subject to share with my students. For someone born and raised in rural western Kansas, it is a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity.” ●

50th Anniversary

Spring Fling

DODGE CITY COMMUNITY COLLEGE



1972 - 2022

Spring Fling Returns!

Monday, April 18

8:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m.—Free Spring Fling T-shirts
 11:30 a.m.—Sandwich Cookie Challenge
 7-10 p.m.—Open Mic Night

Tuesday, April 19

8 a.m.-12 p.m.—Free Cinnamon Rolls and Cookies
 11:30 a.m.—Cupcake Food Challenge
 7 p.m.-10 p.m.—Family Feud Game Show Night

Wednesday, April 20

11:30 a.m.—Hot Dog Food Challenge
 12-2 p.m.—Field Day
 8-11 p.m.—eSports and Wii Game Night

Thursday, April 21

11:30 a.m.—Raw Hot Pepper Food Challenge
 12-2 p.m.—Carnival Day
 8-11 p.m.—Movie Night

Friday, April 22

8-11 a.m.—Free Donuts
 11:30 a.m.—Chubby Bunny Food Challenge
 8-11 p.m.—Block Party (Cancelled Due to Severe Weather)

Spring Fling Awards Presentation

Tuesday, April 26, 12:30 p.m.

The Week's Winners



Laura Gomez, sophomore, Bogotá, Colombia, won the first grand prize, which was Apple AirPods and an Apple Watch.



Ines Xiloj, freshman, Dodge City, won second prize, which was a 43-inch Roku TV.



Hayden Dwyer, freshman, Whitby, Canada, received third prize, which was a DC3 gift basket, gift certificate and a mini fridge.

Monday, April 18



To kick off Spring Fling week, Student Activities gave out free T-shirts to students and employees. And students also received bingo cards to complete as they participated in the various Spring Fling activities—with an opportunity to win first, second and third grand prizes at the end of the week.



Hayden Dwyer, freshman, Whitby, Canada, represents during the sandwich cookie challenge on April 18.



On'Hay Phillips, freshman, Tulsa, Okla., slides a sandwich cookie down her forehead during the food challenge on April 18.

Tuesday, April 19



Alex Stecklein, Admissions Representative, serves cinnamon rolls and cookies to students and employees on April 19 in the Student Union.



Rylan Hays, freshman, Phillipsburg, Kan., goes all in for the cupcake challenge in the Student Union Ballroom/Cafeteria on April 19.



Jenna Rose Mafua, sophomore, Wellington, New Zealand; Jada Burton, sophomore, Spartanburg, S.C.; and Krystina Hagood, sophomore, Colorado Springs, Colo.; compete in the cupcake challenge.

Spring Fling Returns!

Wednesday, April 20



LANCE ZIESCH

Tai Lologo, sophomore, Huntsville, Ala., competes, on April 20, in the hot dog-eating contest.



LANCE ZIESCH

Anthony Torres (left), freshman, Lubbock, Texas; and Hayden Dwyer (right), freshman, Whitby, Canada; anchor one side of a tug-of-war contest during Field Day on April 20.



LANCE ZIESCH

Cosmetology students and staff challenged each other to a friendly game of tug-of-war during Field Day on April 20.



LANCE ZIESCH

Zebastian Mata, freshman, Dodge City, participates in the egg toss during Spring Fling Field Day on April 20.



CHRISTINA HALL

Aujanae Latimer (front), sophomore, Colorado Springs, Colo.; Blanche Mampuya (left), freshman, Stockholm, Sweden; and Alexis Dixon (right), Aurora, Colo.; compete in the tire race during Field Day.



LANCE ZIESCH

Cosmetology students, Veronica Hampton (left) and Claudia Torres, compete in the three-legged race during Field Day on April 20.



LUKE FAY

Tishere Dockery (left), freshman, Annandale, Va.; Ethan Burns, freshman, Hanston, Kan.; Devery Smith, freshman, Daphne, Ala.; and Reginald Jones, freshman, Mobile, Ala.; compete during the eSports Night in the Union Ballroom/Cafeteria on April 20.

Spring Fling Returns!

Thursday, April 21



Logan Gleason, Student Activities Coordinator, takes her turn in the dunk tank!



Anathan Gibson, Assistant Football Defensive Line Coordinator, throws a ball toward the target on the dunk tank.



Aujanae Latimer, sophomore, Colorado Springs, Colo.; Krystina Hagood, sophomore, Colorado Springs, Colo.; Jenna Rose Mafua, sophomore, Wellington, New Zealand; and Jada Burton, sophomore, Spartanburg, S.C.; hangout and enjoy snow cones on the quad.



Above, students challenge each other to a game of cornhole during Carnival Day.



One of the most popular activities during Carnival Day, which was on April 21, was the dunk tank.



On'Hay Phillips, freshman, Tulsa, Okla.; and Laura Gomez, sophomore, Bogotá, Colombia; face off in the hot pepper food challenge in the Student Union Ballroom/Cafeteria on April 21.

Cheer Team Is Runner-Up at National Championship

by Mike Smith

The Dodge City cheer squad hit the road to Daytona Beach, Fla., for the second year in a row to compete in the National Cheerleaders Association (NCA) Cheer National Championship, on April 7-8. And like last year, the team competed in the Advanced Small Coed Junior College competition.

Under the guidance of Head Coach, Michael Brewster, and Assistant Coach, Brett Rojas, the Conquistadors put together a strong showing in Daytona competing against five other junior colleges in the Advanced Small Coed Junior College division.

Day One of the competition saw the Conqs post a score of 86.10 in the prelims, and they followed that performance up with an 86.77 in the finals on Day Two of the competition. The Conqs would finish with an overall event score of 95.9722 to finish as national runner-up. The top score was just 0.426 above the Conqs' overall team score.

The Conqs finished with the fourth-best overall event score in all divisions of the Advanced Small Coed competition. ♥



CHRISTINA HALL

Xzavion Martin, freshman, Newton, Kan., gives the ring toss a try during Carnival Day on April 21.



LOGAN GLEASON

Devon White, freshman, Athens, Ala.; Daniel Baker, freshman, Marienthal, Kan.; Zebastian Mata, freshman, Dodge City; Adama Faye, freshman, Wichita, Kan.; Kintoris Barber, freshman, Arlington, Texas; and Ryenne Cunningham, freshman, Claflin, Kan.; enjoy prizes at Movie Night, on April 21, in the Student Union Ballroom/Cafeteria.

Friday, April 22



CHRISTINA HALL

Alexis Dixon, sophomore, Aurora, Colo.; Krystina Hagood, Colorado Springs, Colo.; and Ines Xiloj, freshman, Dodge City; compete in the final food challenge of the week, which was the "Chubby Bunny" marshmallow contest.



BRETT ROJAS

Pictured (lying down) Ami Carrasquillo, freshman, Medford, Mass.; (front row, left to right) Madison Miller, freshman, Woodward, Okla.; Amaya Socha, sophomore, Vancouver, Wash.; Alli Sullivan, sophomore, Centennial, Colo.; Makayla Brown, sophomore, Lafayette, Colo.; Miah Fuller, sophomore, Denver, Colo.; Ryleigh Bates, sophomore, Frisco, Texas; Cassy Brooks, sophomore, Fairbanks, Alaska; Alexyss Mendoza, freshman, Dodge City; (second row); Jessica Facio, freshman, Plainfield, Ill.; Natalie Ortiz, freshman, Pasadena, Texas; Alexa Ortiz, sophomore, Castle Rock, Colo.; Sophia Lord, freshman, Aurora Colo.; Kylie Sterling, sophomore, Castle Rock, Colo.; Ashleigh Musulin, sophomore, Brisbane, Australia; Kaitlyn Leffley, freshman, Perth, Australia; Alieyah Pauly, sophomore, Leander, Texas; Laci Dorelus, freshman, Humble, Texas; Josie Davidson, freshman, Azle, Texas; (back row) Zebastian Mata, freshman, Dodge City; Noah Newell, sophomore, Houston, Texas; Connor Monroe, freshman, Camas, Wash.; Keegan Jones, sophomore, Melbourne, Australia; Jacob Mendoza, freshman, Dodge City; Denicea Lewis, sophomore, Cherokee County, Texas; Austin Mee, sophomore, Colorado Springs, Colo.; Colby Redford, freshman, Ponca City, Okla.; and Abigail Billingsley, sophomore, Colorado Springs, Colo.



Pictured, (front row, left to right) are Jordan Love, sophomore, Durham, N.C.; BJ Freeman, freshman, Raleigh, N.C.; Kalen Williams, sophomore, Hephzibah, Ga.; Jake Williams, Head Coach; Themus Fulks, freshman, Winston-Salem, N.C.; Oumar Koureissi, freshman, New York, N.Y.; Keandre Bowles, sophomore, Pittsburgh, Pa.; (back row, left to right) JT Kohout, Assistant Coach; Desmond Hazzard, Assistant Coach; Jordan Mitchell, freshman, Columbus, Ohio; Nick Pringle, freshman, Seabrook, S.C.; Jacques Shuler, freshman, Denmark, S.C.; Kerwin Prince, freshman, Waterbury, Conn.; Jonathan Breeland, sophomore, Columbia, S.C.; and TJ Cox, Assistant Coach.

Men's Basketball Sets School Record for Wins

by Mike Smith

One's always striving to be successful and put together something memorable, and the Dodge City men's basketball team did just that during the 2021-22 season.

The Conquistadors capped a historic season with a 30-5 record making the Elite Eight of the National Junior College Athletic Association (NJCAA) Division I (DI) men's basketball national tournament after capturing their first Kansas Jayhawk Community College Conference (KJCCC) title since 2007 and first Region VI title since 1982. The Conqs also would set a school record for wins in a single season, as it was their first trip to Hutchinson for the national tournament since 1974.

The Conqs opened the season 5-1 in non-conference play and opened conference play with seven straight wins. After dropping a few conference games, the Conqs finished the regular season on a nine-game winning streak to claim the

KJCCC title finishing 21-3 in Jayhawk Conference action, marking the most conference wins in a single season in school history. The Conqs then went on to beat Colby, Garden City, and Hutchinson in the Region VI tournament to earn an automatic bid to the national tournament. After a first-round bye, the Conqs topped Snow College 82-65 in the Sweet 16 on March 15 and then faced the eventual national champions, Northwest Florida State in the Elite Eight and dropped a tough 92-74 contest on March 17.

Several Conqs earned postseason honors after the team's stellar season. And Head Coach Jake Williams, in just his second season at the helm of the Conqs, was named KJCCC DI "Coach of the Year." Williams in two seasons at Dodge City has 44 wins and has surpassed 100 career wins in his head coaching career.

Point guard Themus Fulks tallied up

plenty of recognition as he became the first Conq men's basketball player to earn All-American honors since 2017, earning second-team honors from the NJCAA. And he is the first Conq to earn second-team honors or better since 1984 in school history. Fulks also grabbed KJCCC "Newcomer of the Year" honors, along with first-team All-KJCCC, Region VI Tournament MVP, and NJCAA DI National Tournament All-Tournament team.

Center Nick Pringle was selected as KJCCC "Co-Defensive Player of the Year" along with being named to the KJCCC All-Defensive team and first-team All-KJCCC honors. While Kalen Williams was named third-team All-KJCCC and selected to the Region VI All-Tournament team.

With multiple titles and a run to the national tournament, the 2021-22 men's basketball team has definitely etched their names into Dodge City athletic history. ♥



KAREN MARQUEZ

Student-Athlete Invited to Join North Macedonia Basketball Team

by Mike Smith

The Dodge City women's basketball team this past year featured players from five countries outside of the United States, and one of those countries was Macedonia.

Teona Pop Stojanova who hails from Skopje, Macedonia, played a strong role off the bench for the Conquistadors this past season. She has been invited by the Basketball Federation of North Macedonia to be a part of the women's national basketball team of North Macedonia.

Stojanova will compete on the Under 20 national team of North Macedonia in the adequate youth European Championship this coming summer.

The Macedonia native helped the Conqs to a 19-13 record this past season giving the program the most wins since the 2005-06 season. Stojanova played in 26 of the team's 32 games this season averaging 3.6 points and 3.5 rebounds per game. She had her best game against Hutchinson with 12 points and grabbed six rebounds and had a 10-rebound game against Independence. ♥



COURTESY OF UNITED STATES FOOTBALL LEAGUE

Two Former Conq Football Players Drafted in USFL

by Mike Smith

The United States Football League is set to return in the coming months, and two of the eight teams in the league will feature former Conquistador football players.

Josh Dunlop, an offensive tackle, and Mark Thompson, a running back, were both recently drafted in the USFL.

The eight-team league will feature two divisions of four with teams playing a 10-game schedule. The top two teams from each division will make the semifinals for playoffs, and then the winners of the semifinals will play each other for the championship.

The league will consist of the following eight teams: Birmingham Stallions, Houston Gamblers, Michigan Panthers, New Jersey Generals, New Orleans Breakers, Philadelphia Stars, Pittsburgh Maulers, and Tampa Bay Bandits.

Dunlop, who played at Dodge City under former Coach Gary Thomas in 2016, was drafted by the Michigan Panthers in the seventh round with the fifth pick of the USFL draft.

While at Dodge City he helped anchor the offensive line helping the Conqs average 28.4 points per game, 120.2 rushing yards per game, and 168.3 passing yards per game.

After his season at Dodge City, he played three years at the University of Texas-San Antonio, where he played in 35 games with 31 starts at tackle and helped the Roadrunners' offense amass

4,000 yards of total offense two years. He also earned honorable mention All-Conference USA his senior year in 2019. He had a brief stint in the NFL as he signed as an undrafted free agent with the LA Chargers.

Thompson played for Dodge City in the 2014 and 2015 seasons, and he was drafted in the 28th round of the USFL draft with the third pick by the Houston Gamblers.

In his sophomore campaign at Dodge City, he earned second-team NJCAA All-American honors after rushing for 1,298 yards on 268 carries with 18 touchdowns, ranking fourth and third in the nation in yards and touchdowns.

His 26 career rushing touchdowns rank first in school history, while he ranks second in rushing touchdowns in a season with 18, third in rushing yards in a career with 1,758 yards, and fourth in rushing yards in a single season 1,298 yards.

After his time at Dodge City, he transferred to Florida, where he played two seasons rushing for 596 yards on 23 games with five touchdowns and a receiving touchdown.

He signed with the Baltimore Ravens as an undrafted free agent in 2018 and was on the practice squad with the Ravens, Lions, and Raiders.

All games for the 2022 USFL season will be played in Birmingham, Ala., at Protective Stadium and Legion Field. ♥



everything is difficult in

the beginning.

tout est di



Laura Graves
at the ALC on
Dec. 15, 2021.

Employee Retires After 33 Years

Laura Graves reflects on three decades at the DC3 Adult Learning Center

by Lance Ziesch

After 33 years, Laura Graves, an employee at the Dodge City Community College (DC3) Adult Learning Center (ALC), has decided to retire.

Graves, whose last day on the job was Dec. 16, 2021, began working at the ALC in December 1988, which was only a month after she and her family had relocated to Dodge City from Grand Island, Neb.

"I began as a part-time GED tutor, with students coming to an open study hall throughout the day," Graves said. "After my first year, the number of English as a Second Language (ESL) students had increased, and I was asked to teach ESL."

The ALC was organized in 1974 and was first located in an old house at 1001 N. Second Ave. This structure, which had formerly served as the home of DC3's Music Department, had been vacated when the college moved to its new campus in March 1970.

By 1981, however, the ALC was looking for a new home. The properties on the

west side of the 1000 block of North Second Avenue were being cleared for the construction of the new Dodge City Public Library.

So, in March 1981, the ALC moved to its second home, which was 1201 First Ave. And it was at this location that Graves began her ALC career in 1988.

"The center on First Avenue became a very crowded place," Graves said, of the two-story red brick house that served as the ALC from 1981-1995. "We only had room for two ESL classes, one in the basement and one upstairs. But we crammed as many students as possible into those two spaces."

At the time, Graves taught classes in the tiny ALC basement with two eight-foot tables running down the middle of the room and extra chairs lining the walls. In this arrangement, students were "elbow to elbow and knee to knee," she said.

"By 1993, we had moved ESL classes to two vacant spaces in the Village Square Mall," she said. "We conducted two classes in one room and one next door. I have very

fond memories of teaching class with only a curtain dividing my class from another one."

In 1995, after spending 14 years at First Avenue, the ALC began a two-phase moving process to its third and current home at 700 Avenue G, which was the site of the former Dodge City Recreation Center.

"The upstairs was actually useable before the downstairs," she said. "So, in September of 1995, we began our first ESL classes at the new location. All the instructors were so thrilled to have four walls and a door for their classrooms!"

Graves said that while the downstairs remodeling was being completed at Avenue G, the GED classes continued at First Avenue. Eventually, all ALC classes moved to the new facility, and the college later sold the property in 1998.

Of her many years at the ALC, Graves said her favorite memories are of her GED and ESL students. Through these teacher-student relationships, she had the opportunity to interact with people from

just about every language group, culture, and religion.

“It was a privilege to share in the joy of GED students who just learned that they had passed their last exam and would receive their diplomas,” she said. “And it was a delight when math students had an ‘ah-ha’ moment and grasped a math concept they had never understood before.”

Another favorite memory for Graves was when one of her students from Somalia referred to her as “sister” during one of the ALC celebratory parties.

“I gave him something, and he said, ‘Thank you, sister.’ I know that that was a high compliment,” she said. “For him to call me sister meant so much to me.”

Through the years, Graves has worked with seven ALC directors and nine DC3 presidents. In addition to teaching ESL, she has served as a GED tutor, an ESL coordinator, a GED examiner, a pre-GED and GED instructor for math and language arts, and as a data-entry specialist.

“The main change over the years has been the use of technology in the classroom,” she said. “I remember coming home from work covered in chalk dust and being grateful for an overhead projector! Eventually we had multimedia stations, and I no longer had to hold up a textbook in front of 30 students and try to point to something on the page.”

Although she transitioned from being an ALC teacher to a data-entry specialist in January 2017, Graves maintained her connection with current students by greeting them each morning as they came to class. These daily interactions are something she said she will greatly miss, as well as the close relationships she has forged with her coworkers.

“The staff here are all friends,” she said. “We’re like family. So, I will I have to stick my nose in the door every once in a while to see what’s going on!”

Graves said she doesn’t have any big retirement plans at this point, except spending more time with family and friends.

“My husband retired a year ago,” she said. “We pastored what used to be First Assembly of God, which is now Cross Connection Church, for 32 years. And that’s what brought us to Dodge City originally. Dodge City is home, and our daughter is here. So, we’re going to stay right here.” ●

LARRY YOST/STUDIO DE LARI / COLLEGE ARCHIVES



1001 N. SECOND AVE. IN 1970. Home of the ALC from 1974-1981.

COLLEGE ARCHIVES



1201 FIRST AVE. IN 1994. Home of the ALC from 1981-1995.

LANCE ZIESCH



300 AVENUE G IN 2022. Home of the ALC since 1995.

From the Director's Desk



“The Power of Purple.” I wrote about this concept last semester. It is such a simple phrase that conveys exactly the support of our alumni, students, faculty, staff, administration, and donors.

The calm stability of blue and the fierce energy of red combine to create the color **purple**. It is associated with royalty, ambition, wealth, creativity, wisdom, dignity, grandeur, devotion, peace, pride, mystery, independence, and magic. Now we begin our biannual campaign for the **power of purple**.

The **power of purple** is evident everywhere as we reflect on this academic year and near finals for the spring semester. Here are just a few of this semester's highlights:

- We had record-breaking enrollment at Dodge City Community College (DC3) this year! Administration, staff, coaches, and faculty changed the process of recruitment and brought excitement to DC3.
- We had a record-breaking year for men's basketball, winning the Region VI tournament for the first time since 1982! And women's basketball hosted the first round of Region VI tournament play for the first time in years and exploded on the court this year.
- Our DC3 cheer team competed at nationals again in Daytona and came home as the National Runner-Up... AMAZING!
- The administration has authorized much-needed updates on campus from new sidewalks and balconies to new sound systems in various buildings.
- New HVAC and Electrical Technology programs were launched this year and have been successful.
- Our Professor of Physical Science, Sherry Curtis Rogers, was selected to be a 2022 NASA Airborne Astronomy Ambassador this spring.
- The pep band is back and is growing by leaps and bounds.
- And Spring Fling returned to campus this April for the first time in years!

These accomplishments showcase the **power of purple** in our college community. Our alumni and friends of the Foundation are also called to show off the **power of purple**.

The **Power of Purple** is in all of us. It is in all of our dreams. This spring's biannual campaign showcases the need for that **power of purple** to continue. I look forward to seeing how our donors can help make this **Power of Purple** Biannual Campaign successful!

When we come together as a community, we can create incredible opportunities for our students. That's the **Power of Purple**!

We are not just a community college. We are a college community.

Christina Haselhorst
Director of Foundation & Community Relations



Power of Purple

DC3 Foundation Biannual Campaign

by Christina Haselhorst

The spring of 2022 brings continued renewal and excitement for the future of Dodge City Community College (DC3). The **Power of Purple** Biannual Campaign kicks off this May!

In the past six years, DC3 and the DC3 Foundation, and its donors, have been in renewal, making major changes to programs, scholarship opportunities, and the updating of much-needed projects on campus, such as sidewalks, mezzanines, sound systems, new Athletic Hall of Fame and Donor Wall of Fame areas in the Student Activity Center, seating in the Little Theatre, new horse shelters and fencing for rodeo, and the creation of the Gibson's Pharmacy Wellness Track in the Student Activity Center (open to the community).

We also have made numerous renovations to critical structures across campus. We have established a Heart of

Gold fund benefitting students, faculty, and staff who may need assistance in emergency situations. DC3 has created two new workforce programs (HVAC and Electrical Technology) as well as increased enrollment in Construction Technology and the CDL program.

We are currently working to make much-needed repairs to the Athletics building and to continue the work of repairing sidewalks and 50-year-old mezzanines across campus.

Now we are setting new goals. One that will benefit our student-athletes and our fine arts community. And we want YOU to join us as we work toward those goals. The time is now to act. What are these new goals? New athletic weights for our weight room as well as a new lighting system, carpet, and safety lighting, for the Little Theatre on campus. Our goal is to raise more than \$300,000 for these projects.

The Need Is Great and the Time Is Right

When complete, the weight room will be transformed into an up-to-date space for all athletic teams. Currently, the existing equipment is old and outdated. This does not allow our teams to train with the most currently accepted equipment that is available at other community colleges. The equipment does not even match the caliber of some area high school equipment.

Without successfully obtaining these long-overdue improvements, DC3 will continue to lack the adequate/available equipment to expand our offerings to provide numerous outlets for fitness, exercise, and healthy living activities to improve the wellbeing of DC3 student-athletes. While our Conquistador teams are committed and enthusiastic about

- CONTINUED

POWER OF PURPLE CONTINUED –

representing Dodge City Community College, our athletic spaces, furnishings, equipment, and amenities need to be replaced or upgraded.

The Little Theatre provides a welcome meeting space for students, faculty, and staff. It is also the home of our Music Department and their many concerts. Additionally, many community groups have utilized it for their events.

The college was able to install entirely new theater seating—a much-needed improvement—as well as a new sound system. And the Foundation made some renovations to the gallery space for the Fine Arts classes. However, the theatre still lacks adequate lighting, including safety lighting for the steps, and the old carpet is loose and needs to be replaced.

Successfully completing this project will allow for more attendance at concerts and events in the Little Theatre. It also will allow the college to focus on additional deferred maintenance for the building and the surrounding sidewalks and beautification areas around the theatre.

With our band program on the rise and increased community requests for the Little Theatre's use, a new lighting system, safety lighting, new carpeting, and other changes are needed.

The College Community

The dedication of the staff, administration, and faculty of DC3 showcase the vision and commitment of Dodge City Community College to support and advance the City of Dodge City, Ford County, and Southwest Kansas. The entire community will benefit from our **Power of Purple** Biannual Campaign. These projects will elevate the visibility of DC3's programs. And they will keep the college in a much better position to provide the programs and activities expected of an academic institution of our size.

When the **Power of Purple** campaign succeeds, everybody wins—students, college, and community. From community events on campus to award-winning academics to regional and national athletic champions, the **power of purple** is in all of us.

College athletic programs have immediate and lasting effects. Student-athletes benefit from enhanced physical fitness and the emotional support of teammates, coaches, and mentors outside of the classroom. They learn accountability, self-discipline, and leadership as they, in turn, instill a sense of pride in the greater community and serve as a rallying point for school spirit.

See You at the Conq Corral!



Share Your Memories With Us!

The Conq Corral snack bar has been a part of Dodge City Community College (DC3) for decades. So, for our summer issue of the *Conquistador*, we are going to feature stories from the Conq Corral! No matter which location or iteration of the Conq Corral you experienced, we would like to hear from you! Please send your memories to alumni@dc3.edu by July 1, 2022.

College fine arts programs provide learners with non-academic benefits such as promoting self-esteem, motivation, aesthetic awareness, cultural exposure, creativity, improved emotional expression, as well as social harmony and appreciation of diversity. The arts reach students not normally reached, in ways and methods not normally used, providing improved connectivity between students and their peers. And art degrees can open doors for many career or job opportunities, which help to connect to other people. Performances by students and student art shows integrate the student body into the local community at large.

The Time Is Now

Our goal through the **Power of Purple** Biannual Campaign is to bring the current physical education facility and the Little Theatre up to the standard of other Kansas community college facilities. While the college and the foundation have made numerous improvements within academics and student life across campus, it is now time to improve two major areas of campus and to enhance the quality of life for our college community.

Currently, while our Student Activity Center provides topnotch spaces for some

of our student-athletes and is an impressive structure in the prestigious Jayhawk Conference, the training spaces in the Athletics building does not equal that of other community colleges, and there is no weight training facility within the Student Activity Center. The Little Theatre does not currently provide the adequate features of a state-of-the-art theatre as compared to other community colleges within the state of Kansas.

These projects are long overdue, and when the projects are complete, the new upgrades will help DC3 to recruit, to retain, and to graduate top students. In addition, the improvements will provide numerous outlets for creativity, fitness, exercise, self-discipline, healthy activities, confidence, community opportunities, and general wellbeing for DC3 students.

Be a part of the movement. Share your **Purple Power** with us. To contribute to the **Power of Purple** Biannual Campaign, contact the DC3 Foundation office at foundation@dc3.edu or by sending your donations to www.aplos.com/aws/give/DodgeCityCommunityCollegeFoundation/ general and select Power of Purple Campaign. Please note whether your donation is for athletics or fine arts. ♥

Building a Legacy, Strengthening a Community

by Christina Haselhorst

These generous donors gave to the DC3 Foundation from Nov. 16, 2021, to April 27, 2022. Totaling more than \$121,000 over that time period, donations include Foundation donations, Heart of Gold fund donations, auction, scholarships, projects, and memorials. Thank you ALL for being a part of the Conquistador Legacy!

You, too, can make a difference and be a partner for student success with the DC3 Foundation. Contact Christina Haselhorst, DC3 Director of Foundation and Community Relations, to set up an appointment (foundation@dc3.edu). We are working to continue to strengthen the programs of the Foundation and of Dodge City Community College. With increased enrollment, the need for more funding is very evident. Higher learning institutions are relying more and more on the philanthropic endeavors of their donors just like you.

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

Several Anonymous Donors	Rowena Cromwell Blue Cross Blue Shield Foundation	Garden City Community College eSports	Van & Mary Lett Gabrielle Loredó	Ginger Rupp Dr. Jodi Rust
AmazonSmile donors	Sherry Curtis-Rogers	Gibson's Pharmacy	Brent & Joey Manwarren	Dr. Mary Scott
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Employee Match Through Charities Aid Foundation	Randy Flowers	David & Kathy Kadavy	Louis Riederer	Sunflower Bank
Community Foundation of SWKS	Lorna Ford	Annalynn King Kirkhart	Gayla Rodenbur	Dr. Clayton Tatro
Monica Cook	Harley & Mary Ellen Foulks	Dr. Jay Kinzer	Brittany Rohr	Bill & Sheril Turley
Larry & Sheri Cook	Amber Fuller	Barney & Mia Korbek	Kay Rose	Victory Electric
		Arno & Barbara Krebs	Duane Ross	Marc & Glenda Wentworth
		Larry Leonard	Wes & Nona Rowton	Richmond Zapp

Class Notes



Merlin Wheeler CLASS OF 1972



In November 2021, Chief Judge Merlin Wheeler was reappointed in the 5th Judicial District, which is composed of Lyon and Chase counties. He has served as a district judge since 1990 and as chief judge since 1998.

Wheeler received undergraduate degrees from Dodge City Community College (DC3) and Emporia State University, and he received a law degree from Washburn University School of Law. He served as city attorney for the City of Emporia from 1977 to 1980, and then he joined the firm of Perkins and Hollebeak, Chtd. In addition, he was owner of Merlin G. Wheeler, Chtd., from 1988 to 1990. ♦

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



MEMBERS OF THE CLASS OF 1976 visited campus on April 22. Pictured (left to right) are Mark Akagi, of Grantville, Kan.; David White, of South Haven, Kan.; Peggy Sue (Burke) Burdick, of Dodge City; Roger Burdick, of Dodge City; and Don "Stretch" Reed, of Emporium, Pa.



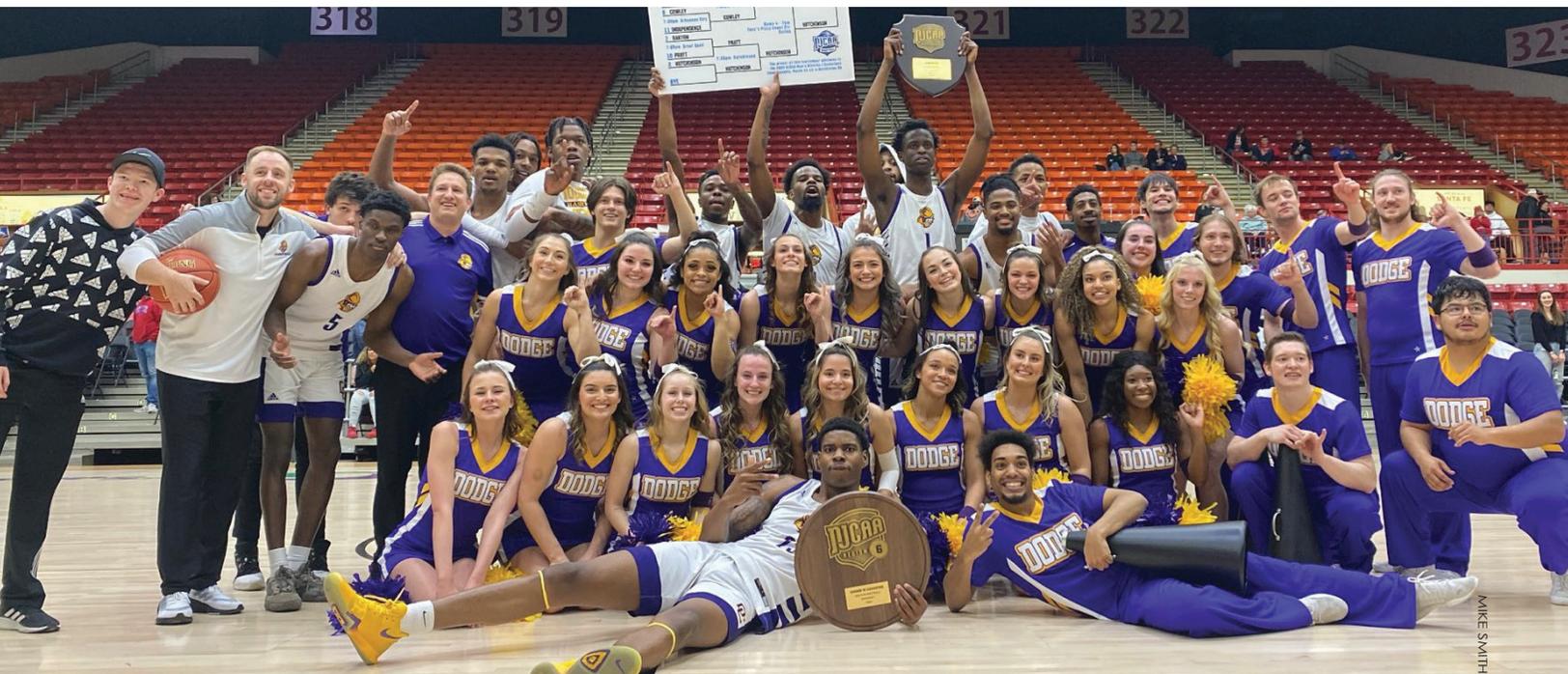
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MIKE SMITH

Region VI Tournament

Student-athletes and coaches from the men's basketball and cheer teams gather for a photo on March 5, after the Conqs' 98-96 victory over Hutchinson Community College.