

The Conquistador

Fall 2022

THE MAGAZINE OF DODGE CITY COMMUNITY COLLEGE

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DC3 Campus Receives Major Upgrades

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DC3 Celebrates Its 86th Graduating Class

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DC3 Completes Floor Restoration in Old Gym



DODGE CITY
COMMUNITY COLLEGE

STUDENT UNION



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DC3 BY THE NUMBERS

TOTAL ENROLLMENT

1,700

AVERAGE CLASS SIZE

20

STUDENT-TO-FACULTY RATIO

11:1

STUDENTS FROM

37 STATES

28 COUNTRIES

ATHLETIC PROGRAMS

18

STUDENT GENDER

51% FEMALE

49% MALE

Purple Pride



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

This past semester, we have continued to experience a wonderful spirit of purple pride and synergy on this campus. The hard work of our students, faculty and staff is paying off, and it is showing in various ways. One of the most noticeable, perhaps, is the many campus improvements that have been made since the end of the spring semester.

We have continued to solve long-delayed maintenance issues on our campus by renovating and remodeling buildings. In addition, we have worked on the landscape of the campus itself, replacing sidewalks and adding badly needed directional signage. There are so many great things happening on this campus, and thankfully, you can read about them beginning on Page 10 of this issue.

In addition, our on-campus student activities continue to grow and expand. This semester, we hosted successful student events such as Welcome Week, Homecoming Week, and many other activities. In fact, we even threw a 65th birthday party for our campus snack bar, the Conq Corral!

As I said earlier, we continue to experience a wonderful spirit of purple pride at DC3, and it is my pleasure to share just some of the wonderful things happening here in Conq Nation! So, read on! Together we conquer!

Sincerely,

Harold Nolte

Harold Nolte, ed.D.

President

Conq Corral

Conqs on campus and around our community.



LUKE FAY

The DC3 Music Department hosted its Spring Concert May 1, at the Immaculate Heart of Mary Church, in Windthorst. The concert was conducted by Kerry J. Kuplic, Associate Professor of Vocal Music; Nancy Sapp, Visiting Director of Instrumental Music; and Joel Vinson, Band Director. The event featured performances by the Jazz Ensemble, Concert Choir, Choral Union, and Symphonic Band with pieces such as: “Mercy, Mercy, Mercy,” “O Danny Boy,” “The Avenger March,” and “Hark, I Hear the Harps Eternal.”



LUKE FAY

After putting the event on hold last year due to the COVID-19 pandemic, DC3 hosted its Employee Recognition Banquet on May 3, in the Mariah Gallery at Boot Hill Museum. Ranging from 10 to 30 years of service, as of 2021, the employees recognized include (front row, left to right) Tyson Culver, 15 years; Richard Lucas, 25 years; Shirley Stanton, 25 years; Marsha Ewy, 15 years; Lynette Kessen, 15 years; Julie Taylor-Birney, 15 years; Jennifer Nolan, 15 years; Russel Rickers, 10 years; (back row, left to right) Cole Ballard, 15 years; Howie Smith, 30 years; Russ McBee, 15 years; Lisa Carpenter, 10 years; Lora Culver, 10 years; Devlin Goldworm, 15 years; Rodney Clayton, 10 years; Jeffrey Cole, 15 years; Kent Craghead, 20 years; Van Kenton, 15 years; Dylan Faullin, 15 years; and Chris Robinson, 10 years. Not pictured are Patricia “Patty” O’Neal, 10 years; Patrick Shiew, 10 years; David Shultz, 10 years; and Lorna Ford, 20 years.



JEFFREY COLE

Five DC3 diesel tech students competed in the SkillsUSA Diesel Technology Contest on April 28, in Hutchinson, Kan. From left is Isaac Melendez, sophomore, Spearville; Zach McLachlan, a dual-credit high school student from Fowler; Leo Lozano, freshman, Dodge City; Sergio Saenz, freshman, Cimarron; and Johnny Renova, freshman, Dodge City. In the college division, Lozano placed second and Melendez placed sixth. In the high school division, McLachlan placed fourth.



COURTESY OF DC3 ART CLUB

The DC3 Art Club, which is sponsored by Jennifer Nolan, Professor of Art, and Devlin Goldworm, Professor of Art, provided two painting parties for Arrowhead West clients on May 6. DC3 students assisted the clients with choosing a design to paint, keeping art supplies stocked, and providing companionship while they painted. Pictured, left to right, are Julissa Orpinel Solorzano, sophomore, Dodge City; Morgan Wenzl, sophomore, Dodge City; Gabrielle Johns, sophomore, Dodge City; Arizbeth Valdivia, freshman, Dodge City; and Estephani De La Cruz Martinez, freshman, Dodge City.



LANCE ZIESCH

DC3 and the Community Housing Association of Dodge City (CHAD) hosted an open house and hamburger feed on May 17, at the site of the newest CHAD house, which is located at 811 First Ave. Pictured (front row, left to right) are Juan Castro, dual credit high school student, Dodge City; Jesus Gamon, freshman, Dodge City; Jorge Ambriz, sophomore, Dodge City; Eddie Hernandez, sophomore, Dodge City; Ben Schultz, freshman, Dodge City; (back row) Angie Gonzalez, Dodge City/Ford County Development Corporation Housing and Special Projects Coordinator; Mollea Wainscott, Dodge City/Ford County Development Corporation Assistant Director; Patrick Shiew, DC3 Professor of Building/Construction Technology; Loren Coval, DC3 Building/Construction Technology Assistant; Hunter Carson, District Representative for U.S. Senator Jerry Moran; Dr. Harold Nolte, DC3 President; and Leonardo Lira, sophomore, Dodge City.

Conq Corral

Conqs on campus and around our community.



LANCE ZIESCH

More than 200 DC3 students, faculty and staff participated in the 2022 Dodge City Days Western Parade on July 30. In addition to several college vehicles—including floats from the nursing department and the Adult Learning Center (ALC)—student-athletes and coaches representing the football, track and field, volleyball, and cheer teams also took part in the festivities. Pictured (from left to right) are track student-athletes Christian Erives, freshman, Dodge City; Mahmoud Alhaj Tia, freshman, Dodge City; Mario Chacon, freshman, Dodge City; and Tyler Cox, freshman, Dodge City.



COURTESY OF EWY FAMILY

On July 1, the college hosted a retirement reception in the Student Union Ballroom/Cafeteria for Marsha Ewy, DC3 Professor of Paraprofessional Nursing, who retired after 16 years of service.



LANCE ZIESCH

After 25 years at DC3, Senior IT Specialist, Schuyler Callahan, officially retired on Aug. 31. At a luncheon reception in the Student Union Board Room, Assistant Vice President of Information Technology, Mike Webster (left), presented Callahan with a years of service plaque and a custom-made bobblehead of his likeness.



HOLLY MERCER

Several DC3 administrators, faculty, staff and students volunteered at the 2022 Dodge City International Festival on Sept. 10, in downtown Dodge City. Among the volunteers were men's golf student-athletes Supakit Seelanagae, sophomore, Thailand; Cole Streck, sophomore, Great Bend, Kan.; Brent Reintjes, sophomore, Wichita, Kan.; Arthit Kruaprayong, sophomore, Thailand; and Thanaphon Suwannapratheep, freshman, Thailand.



LANCE ZIESCH

After 11 years at DC3, Patty O'Neal, Mailroom/Copy Center Clerk, officially retired on June 10. On that day, the college honored her with a come-and-go reception in the Student Union Ford County Room.



LANCE ZIESCH

As part of a new workforce development partnership, Kindsvater Trucking, of Dodge City, donated a semi-trailer to the DC3 commercial driver's license (CDL) program on Sept. 21. Through this ongoing partnership, DC3 and Kindsvater will work together to address the area's truck driver shortage. From left to right are Kindsvater Co-owner, Justine Carlson; Kindsvater Safety/Driver Coordinator, Ed Rarden; Kindsvater Co-owner, Ben Kennedy; Vice President for Workforce Development, Dr. Clayton Tatro; CDL Coordinator/Instructor, Brian Johnson; and Kindsvater Co-owner, Brad Haskell.



LAKIN SCHECK

U.S. Rep. Tracey Mann (R-Kan.) visited the DC3 campus at noon on Aug. 29, to speak with administrators and trustees about various topics relating to Kansas community colleges. A few of the items discussed were DC3's 2022-2023 enrollment, student financial aid, transferability, and current workforce education programs. Pictured (left to right) are Christina Haselhorst, Director of Foundation and Community Relations; Kathy Ramsour, Board of Trustees Vice Chair; Rep. Tracey Mann; Jeff Cermin, Vice President of Administration and Finance; Dr. Jay Kinzer, Vice President of Student Services and Risk Management; and Lance Ziesch, Assistant Director of Marketing and Community Relations.



LAKIN SCHECK

"Constitution Madness" took place on Sept. 16 in the DC3 Library. Several students, administrators, faculty, staff and community members participated in various Constitution-related games, which were moderated by Daniel Love (right).



LAKIN SCHECK

More than 100 students participated in the Fall Transfer Fair in the DC3 Library on Sept. 20. The fair, which is designed to help students explore their options after DC3, featured representatives from 18 four-year colleges and universities from around the state of Kansas.

Conq Corral

Conqs on campus and around our community.



Kansas State University (K-State) President, Dr. Richard Linton (right), was welcomed to DC3 on Sept. 27, as part of the university's Regional Community Visits tour. Accompanied by several K-State representatives, Linton conversed with members from the community about local workforce needs. At the conclusion of the event, DC3 President, Dr. Harold Nolte, presented Linton with a Conquistador bobblehead.



DC3 hosted its 22nd annual Halloween celebration on Oct. 30, in the Fine Arts parking lot, with several students, faculty and staff volunteering their time for the cause. Like last year, it was a drive-through Trunk-or-Treat event, and the cost of admission was one nonperishable canned food item per child. This year, 465 children, in 214 cars, participated, and all food collected was donated to the Kansas Soldiers' Home at Fort Dodge. Above, Assistant Baseball Coach, Esteban Cordoza-Oquendo; and baseball student-athletes, Rhett Pospichal, sophomore, Russell, Kan.; and Justice Revil, sophomore, Bloomington Grove, Texas, hand out bags of candy to area youngsters.



DC3 Trustee Mia Schraeder-Korbelik announced her resignation at the regular Board of Trustees monthly meeting on Sept. 27. Schraeder-Korbelik, who has served as a college trustee since 2018, has relocated to Lawrence, Kan., with her husband Barney. Pictured (left to right) are President Dr. Harold Nolte; Trustee Bill Turley, Trustee Jammie Phillips, Trustee Mia Schraeder-Korbelik; Board of Trustees Vice-Chair Kathy Ramsour; Trustee Kelly Henrichs; and Board of Trustees Chairman Gary Harshberger. Not pictured is Trustee Jim Lewis.



CHRISTINA HASELHORST

The DC3 Music Department presented its first concert of the school year on Oct. 6, in the DC3 Little Theatre. The Fall Choral Concert was conducted by Kerry J. Kuplic, Associate Professor of Vocal Music, and included selections by the DC3 Concert Choir and Choral Union. It also featured Gloria Morford, Part-Time Accompanist.



LARIN SCHECK

The DC3 Symphonic Band and the Dodge City Symphony Orchestra performed their fall concert on Oct. 18. Directed by Joel Vinson, Band Director, the groups played the sounds of Michael Sweeney, Johnny Vinson, Vernon Leidig, and others.

Graduate Takes Job at Tesla

by Lance Ziesch

Hector Antonio Peña, a nontraditional automotive tech student from Dodge City, graduated from Dodge City Community College (DC3) in 2017 with an Associate of Applied Science in automotive technology. And after graduating, from Pittsburg State University (PSU) in May 2021 with a Bachelor's of Science in automotive technology, he started a full-time job at Tesla in June 2021.

"There's a lot of variables that allowed me to get to where I'm at today," Peña said. "I used to work as a waiter at Prime on the Nine. And this wonderful couple, Ralph and Dixie, knew someone in the education system who encouraged me to apply for a Pell Grant."

So, Peña enrolled at DC3 in fall 2014. And he soon developed close relationships with his automotive tech professors.

Jeff Cole, now a DC3 Professor of Diesel Technology, said Peña came into his automotive technology program not knowing anything about automobiles or automobile repair. But because he worked hard, he quickly "picked it up," he said.

"It just makes you think, don't ever give

up on kids," Cole said. "If that's what they want to do, then you work with them and help them. It really makes me proud of him because he worked hard and had the ambition to do what he wanted to do, and he got it done. I am just glad I was able to help him along that journey."

Because both Cole and Stan Sanko—another DC3 Professor of Automotive Technology at the time—were alumni of PSU, the two instructors encouraged him to consider transferring there after his time at DC3. After a campus visit, he was hooked.

At Pitt State, Peña became involved with the Tesla START Program, which gives students an understanding of how Tesla cars work and operate.

"It's like learning a new language," he said. "Because I went from conventional internal combustion engines to EVs [electric vehicles]. And even though they share similar components, such as suspension and brakes, that's where the cutoff is, so we don't have an engine."

In addition to not having engines, Tesla cars also don't have transmissions, he said.

"We have other things. And there's a lot of things that I cannot say," he said. "But what I can say is that it's pretty cool how it works."

Currently, Peña works as a technician at a Tesla service center in Tyson's Corner, Va. In the Tesla vernacular, a service center is the company's version of a car dealership.

"I work on the cars from Models X, S, 3 and Y," Peña said. "They are very fascinating cars and surprisingly fast. They have instant torque. Kind of ridiculous how fast they can go. I haven't been on the fastest model yet, but the ones that I got to test out are pretty quick."

Besides the chance to work on cutting-edge, innovative cars, Peña said he also enjoys the Tesla work environment.

"I'll say one of the things that gave me a good insight of why I wanted to be there is the atmosphere," he said. "A lot of Tesla people are pretty team oriented. There's a lot of positive influences out there. You kind of have mentors for certain subjects, or different backgrounds, that you can take and pull ideas from. And in short, they're there to help you."

Hector Peña (second from right), a 2017 DC3 Tech graduate, started a full-time job at Tesla in June. On Oct. 4, he returned to campus to speak with current diesel tech students. Also pictured is Jeff Cole (right), Professor of Diesel Technology.



Although he has only been with Tesla since June, Peña said he is excited about his future with the company.

“I look forward to whatever is next, whether it’s being a better technician, or probably moving on to a different department, wherever that might be,” he said. “I like development, internal development, where you get better than where you were prior. I think that’s like one of the main motivators that I have for myself is self-improvement.”

Peña said he sometimes likes to stop and reflect on how he got to where he is today, working for “this amazing company.”

“Even though it didn’t happen at once, there were many factors that led to me being here today,” he said. “And that happened because one, I took that initiative. I wanted to do better. But secondly, I want to stress that I had good social support. That really helped a lot.”

And he is quick to say that this social support started with his parents who encouraged him to enroll at DC3, although they did not know much about the whole college process.

They said, “We know that college will help you somehow. So let’s put you there. And if you don’t know how to do something, or where to go, ask somebody. They know. And that was one of the main things that helped me was taking my pride out of the way and asking for help,” he said.

Peña said DC3 gave him a “good foundation” with an environment that allowed him to be curious, ask questions and grow. And it also helped him begin networking in his future career.

“As a fellow alumni, I’m grateful that I have had these opportunities,” he said. “I’m forever grateful for being here in this program, because look at where I’m at today. I’m thankful that I’m there. But I’m also thankful that people helped me get there.”

In addition, he said being a nontraditional student at both DC3 and PSU gave him a valuable added perspective about higher education.

“I paid most of it out of pocket, and it took me a while to understand how that helped me,” he said. “And I say that because there are a lot of students that had everything that they needed to have to succeed. They have tuition paid, housing paid, and everything that you can think of. And sometimes they still fail. And they fail hard. For me, it was the opposite. I had to earn everything. But that actually gave me an appreciation for what I wanted, because I earned it rather than having everything given to me.” ■

Dual-Credit Student Begins Job After Graduation

by Luke Fay and Lance Ziesch

Dodge City Community College (DC3) Tech has made high school students a priority the past two years. Because of this focus, Bucklin High School (BHS) dual-credit student Colton Stein was able to graduate on May 14 with a Manufacturing Technology – Welding B Certificate and begin a full-time job at Koch Industries on May 17.

Stein first heard about the college’s welding program at one of the many talks Dr. Clayton Tatro, DC3 Vice President for Workforce Development, made at schools across southwest Kansas.

“If Dr. Tatro had not come, I don’t think I would have ever thought that Dodge City had this type of program,” Stein said. “The fact that he goes around and talks to all the schools in the area is awesome, because a lot of high school students don’t know exactly what they want to do.”

Stein’s first experience in the field of welding was his freshman year of high school. BHS had a welding machine where students could practice and learn the basics of how to weld, Stein said.

This initial exposure early on, coupled with Tatro’s visit, gave Stein direction on what career path he wanted to take.

“I thought it’d be smart to better my education,” Stein said. “The fact that I could graduate with a Certificate B in welding and almost my associate degree was a big deal for me, because I’d have to spend less time when I’m older if I decide to go back to school.”

Juggling high school classes and college welding courses worked well for Stein, who studied welding at DC3 Monday-Friday, 8-11:10 a.m., and then returned to BHS for the rest of his day.

“I thought I was going to be one of the only high schoolers, but once I actually got here, almost the whole entire shop was surprisingly full of high schoolers,” he said. “There were not as many college-level students as I thought.”

Stein excelled once he arrived on campus, Kimberley Cummings, DC3 Instructor of Welding, said.

“Colton stood out in the way he immediately found his favorite welding process, TIG welding,” Cummings said. “He told me that at first he thought he would give up on TIG welding, because it’s the hardest process to master, but he stuck with it.”



Although Stein was still in high school, she said he was mature beyond his years.

“He was here every day. His classroom grades were very high,” Cummings said. “His shop grades were all A’s in every process. Anytime I asked him to help me with something, he always obliged. He really was the ideal student to teach.”

This hard work has led to an offer of full-time employment for Stein at Koch Industries in Dodge City.

“My professor Lester Green [DC3 Professor of Welding, at the time] got in contact with eight or nine different businesses on behalf of his students, and Koch was one of them,” Stein said. “I knew that name, and for what I wanted to do, TIG welding, Koch was big.”

However, the process of securing the job with Koch was not that simple. Stein had to go through a series of phone interviews and meetings before the company made an offer to the 18-year-old high schooler.

“I’m just taking it step by step,” Stein said. “I’ll start off shadowing my coworker, and he’ll show me exactly what I’m going to be doing. I’ll probably be welding and rebuilding pumps for them.”

Tatro said students like Colton are the reason he spends so much time traveling throughout the state recruiting.

“In tech ed, employment is the end product,” Tatro said. “We want high school students in our programs. If they come in as juniors and seniors, and are planning on going straight to work, good jobs are out there with good money. Employment is readily available for hands-on learners, and Colton is the perfect example.” ■



DODGE CITY
COMMUNITY COLLEGE

- ↑ Student Union
- ← Child Development Center
- ← Cosmetology
- ← Bus Parking
- ← DC3 Technical Programs
- ← Residence Halls
- ← Disc Golf Course
- ← Lake Charles

One of the tall, lighted directional signs that was installed on the north side of the main campus drive, on Nov. 9.

LAKIN SCHECK

Signage and Sidewalks

DC3 Campus Receives Major Upgrades

by Lance Ziesch

When students returned to Dodge City Community College (DC3) for the fall semester, they were in for a big surprise regarding campus beautification efforts, which had begun shortly after the May 14 graduation ceremony. Amongst the many changes were new campus directional and building signage, new sidewalks, and upgrades to campus landscaping.

Jeff Cermin, DC3 Vice President of Administration and Finance/CFO, said that although the college has been putting off its deferred maintenance for years, things are quickly changing. Back in 2011, he said a DC3 strategic capital improvement plan identified \$10-15 million of needed improvements, which ultimately were not implemented due to a lack of funds.

“My job is to find the money and find ways to get everything done without getting us into further debt and making

it harder for the taxpayers to write that check,” he said. “We can find a way to do it. We can be smart, but it takes a little bit of effort.”

Signage

“Signage is the first thing prospective students see when stepping foot on campus for a college tour,” Christina Haselhorst, DC3 Director of Foundation and Community Relations, said. “And new directional signage helps new students, staff, and campus visitors find the exact buildings they need. It is a critical feature on most college campuses that DC3 was lacking.”

Haselhorst, who spearheaded the current signage efforts, said she thinks outdated and inadequate signage can cause prospective students who are touring a college campus to question the quality of the education and college experience that

is provided there. It can also be a potential safety issue.

“As the college moved forward through the years with updated, unified branding, the physical campus did not follow,” she said. “Old campus signage was confusing, outdated, incomplete, or nonexistent, which made the campus hard to navigate for first-time visitors.”

In addition to the new colorful directional signage around campus, the building signage is also getting an upgrade. The classic raised white, all-caps sans serif-style lettering, which was mounted on the I-beams of the original 1970 campus buildings, is being retained. And this design element also has been repeated on many of the ones built later on that were never labeled in this manner.

“This project allows for us to give a nod to the past with new lettering that matches the old aesthetic on the buildings,

while also providing up-to-date, easy-to-read directional signage,” Haselhorst said. “Our goal is to provide a campus that provides signs that are informational and welcoming, well-lit at night, and that enhance the identity of Dodge City Community College.”

Throughout the course of the project, Haselhorst said four of the campus buildings were also officially renamed. Those buildings are Allied Health, the Learning Resource Center (LRC), Physical Education (PE), and Sciences. The new names are the Communications Center, Library, Athletics, and Science & Math, respectively.

“A fifth building, the Little Theatre, did not actually change names,” she said. “However, previously it had been labeled as only ‘Theatre.’ The lettering now reads ‘Little Theatre.’”

Regarding the design of the new directional signage, Haselhorst said it was actually chosen by DC3 students.

“After receiving many quality bids for this project, three companies stood out,” Haselhorst said. “At the recommendation of the DC3 Board of Trustees, a random survey was conducted with the current students during the spring 2022 semester. All enrolled students received an email, and other students were chosen about campus as well as they walked to classes.”

Nearly 100 students participated in the survey, and they overwhelmingly—and some rather enthusiastically—chose the designs of Miracle Signs, of Wichita, Kan. She said student feedback ranged from: ‘Solid!’ to ‘This is so cool!’ to ‘I can’t wait to see them finished!’

The winning design by Miracle Signs features white lettering, gold directional arrows and the college’s academic logo. In addition to the bright, vibrant designs, most of them also will be illuminated with LED lights at night.

All in all, the signage project cost \$169,315, which was paid for with Higher Education Emergency Relief Fund (HEERF) and DC3 Marketing Department funds. This amount includes all directional signs and building lettering, Haselhorst said. And in order to light a majority of the signs, an additional \$52,900 of HEERF aide also was utilized for the necessary electrical work, which was coordinated through the college’s Maintenance Department.

Jared Stevens, DC3 Director of Facilities and Operations, said he is proud of his Maintenance crew and how each one of them have helped in the various stages of the campus beautification projects.

- CONTINUED



A worker from Miracle Signs installs new lettering on the east end of the Science & Math Annex on Sept. 27.



Joshua Pankratz, DC3 Maintenance Foreman, repaints original lettering, from the east side of the Student Union, on Aug. 31.



Workers from Brak-Hard Concrete smooth freshly poured cement near the southeast corner of the Science & Math building on Aug. 24.

SIGNAGE CONTINUED -

"I could not have done any of this without my Assistant Director Hunter Edwards, Maintenance Foreman Josh Pankratz, and the rest of my team," he said.

Regarding the sign project specifically, Stevens said his department's main role was coordinating with outside contractors, such as Davis Electric, to get the electrical needs figured out for each of the lighted signs.

"Some of those tasks included boring under sidewalks and campus streets to run conduit, running wire, and tying the new lines into our current electrical grid," he said. "Of course, we also removed the old signs and restored some of the original white lettering on some of the buildings."

The signage installation, which started on Aug. 4, should be fully complete by the end of the year, Haselhorst said.

Sidewalks

In addition to new signage, another major upgrade to the DC3 campus is the completion of the second phase of the college's ongoing sidewalk project.

Like the first phase completed last year, Brak-Hard Concrete Construction Company LLC was again in charge of sidewalk restoration and expansion efforts.

Beginning with replacing sidewalks in front of the Student Union and Library, Brak-Hard also installed a brand new sidewalk that connects the Library and the Administration building. After that, they replaced and upgraded the sidewalks in front of the Communications Center and in front of the main campus staircase, adding new wheelchair ramps.

"The new sidewalk north of Library is something I have wanted for a very long time," Stevens said. "The students tend to create a 'cattle trail' every year in that area, as they take a shortcut through the grass, headed toward the Humanities building. The unique design of the sidewalk really created itself, as I had to design the sidewalk around some existing unmovable objects."

A fun added feature with the new sidewalk is an outdoor seating area, Stevens said.

"The idea just popped into my head one day as Brak-Hard was cutting out the topsoil where the new sidewalk was to be located," Stevens said. "I thought it might be a neat idea."

In addition to the new sidewalk, Brak-Hard also installed a stamped concrete area in front of the Administration building.

"It'll be another seating area that will eventually have new picnic tables, once they arrive on campus," he said. "Near that same area, Brak-Hard also replaced all of the concrete in front of the Fine Arts building."

The sidewalk project, which started on July 1, finished up on Oct. 7 at a total cost of \$99,500, Stevens said.

Landscaping

Regarding the improvements to campus landscaping, Stevens said the Maintenance Department is in the first phase of a campus-wide turf renovation project. This year, the focus is the west section of the main campus drive that includes the campus flagpole area.

"The two other large areas of grass in between the main entrance and exit of campus will be renovated next year," he said. "The middle section will be renovated in the spring, and the large section next to 14th Avenue will be done in the fall. Of course, we are also going to do some more areas of the quad next summer."

Another noticeable change in the main campus drive area are the two new London Plane sycamore trees the Maintenance Department planted in front of the Communications Center, which replaced two old, diseased Bradford pears.

With a background in golf turf management, Stevens said it is safe to say he is "fairly obsessed" with grass and campus beautification. And he said he takes "great pride" in how the campus looks.

"The state of the campus grounds and facilities is the first thing everyone sees when they arrive on campus, and I want to make it a great first impression," he said. "I do use the phrase 'golf course look' a lot when describing my objective for the grounds, and I know I can't make it look exactly like a golf course, or as pristine as a golf course, but I'll do everything in my power to get it as close as possible!"

Haselhorst said the past eight months at DC3 have been incredibly exciting and historic due to the many improvements and the collaborative synergy moving throughout campus.

"So many departments are working diligently to make long-awaited improvements to the campus grounds," she said. "It has been wonderful to watch the simultaneous repair, installation, and updating happening all at once. Working together, we are providing our students and our community with a campus that we all can be proud of." ■

As part of the campus upgrades, a new stretch of sidewalk was added between the Library and Administration building.



LANCIE ZIESCH



LANCE ZIESCH

Members of Dodge City Community College's 86th graduating class wait to receive their diplomas on May 14, in the DC3 Student Activity Center.

DC3 Celebrates Its 86th Graduating Class

by Lance Ziesch

The Dodge City Community College (DC3) graduation weekend began with a welcome-back-to-campus reception for the 2022 Distinguished Alumnus, **Dr. Larry Rodriguez**, on Friday, May 13, in the DC3 Library.

That evening, the college hosted its second-annual Honors Banquet at the Boot Hill Casino and Resort Conference Center, which featured remarks from Rodriguez and a special recognition ceremony for the college's High Honors and Honors graduates.

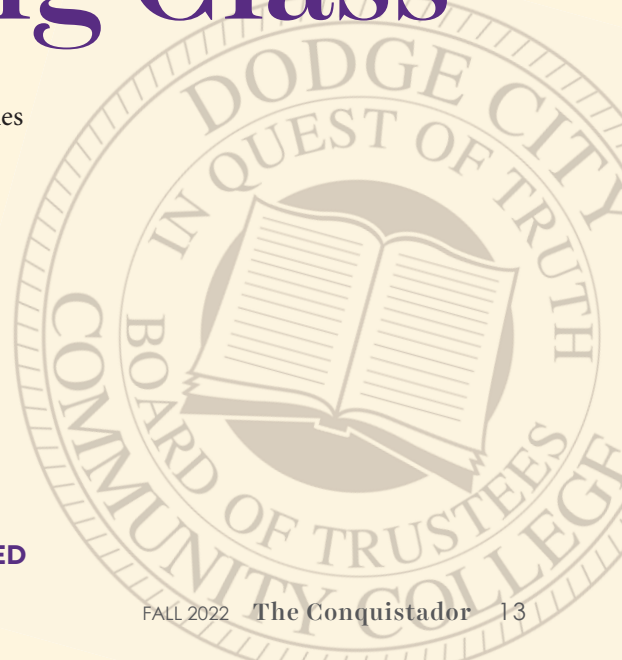
On Saturday, May 14, the college

hosted its annual graduation ceremonies at the DC3 Student Activity Center. Up first was the Nursing Pinning Ceremony, which was followed by Commencement.

At Commencement, Rodriguez gave a second address as Distinguished Alumnus, and a member of the Class of 2022, **Kaden Stapleton**, of Jetmore, gave the invocation and student leader remarks.

For more information about the 2022 Distinguished Alumnus, see Page 15. ■

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GRADUATION CONTINUED -



LANCE ZIESCH

Members of the 86th graduating class wait in the DC3 Student Activity Center hallway before joining the Commencement procession on May 14.



Above, Kaden Stapleton, a sophomore from Jetmore, gives the invocation at the 2022 graduation ceremony. Stapleton also later gave the student leader remarks.



LANCE ZIESCH

Nursing students stand before the recessional lineup at the 2022 Nursing Pinning ceremony.



LANCE ZIESCH

Band Director, Joel Vinson (front right), leads the DC3 Band, while Lizette Moreno (back right), a freshman from Dodge City, sings "The Star-Spangled Banner" at the 2022 Commencement. Moreno later performed the college alma mater, "Hail the Purple and Gold."



LANCE ZIESCH

Above, members of the Air Force Junior Reserve Officers' Training Corps (Air Force JROTC) Color Guard at Dodge City High School present the flag at the 2022 graduation ceremony.



LANCE ZIESCH

DC3 students smile for the camera in the hallway of the Student Activity Center prior to the graduation ceremony on May 14.



LANCE ZIESCH

Dr. Larry Rodriguez, a 2012 graduate of DC3, addresses the graduating class on May 14 as the 2022 Distinguished Alumnus. Rodriguez is the 61st alumnus to be recognized by the program since it began in 1963.

Rodriguez Named 2022 Distinguished Alumnus

by Lance Ziesch

Dr. Larry Rodriguez, a postdoctoral research fellow at the Scripps Research Institute, of San Diego, Calif., received his Associate of Science in Biological Sciences, from Dodge City Community College (DC3) in 2012.

Born in Los Angeles, Calif., Rodriguez and his family moved to Dodge City in 1994. And he began his educational journey in USD 443's Headstart program, in Dodge City, when he was 4 years old.

While still at Dodge City High School (DCHS), Rodriguez began his higher education journey by taking College Algebra and Psychology classes through DC3. After graduating from DCHS in 2010, he officially enrolled at DC3 on a President's scholarship.

During his time at DC3, Rodriguez was a Bridges to the Future student.

Following his DC3 graduation, he transferred to Kansas State University (K-State), where he became part of the Developing Scholars Program. As an undergrad, he double majored in Chemistry and Biochemistry and joined Sigma Lambda Beta International Fraternity Inc.

Also while at K-State, he earned an Ecological Genomics fellowship from the National Science Foundation in 2013 and a fellowship from the American Chemical Society's Scholars program in 2014. And in 2015, he graduated from K-State with a Bachelor's of Science in Biochemistry and Chemistry.

In 2015, he started graduate school at the University of Southern California (USC) School of Pharmacy. During that time, he earned three predoctoral fellowships from the American Foundation for Pharmaceutical Education (AFPE): one in 2017, one in 2018, and one in 2019. And he was also an associate member of the Society for Neuroscience's Neuroscience Scholars Program and a recipient of the Inspire Award from the USC School of Pharmacy.

In the summer of 2020, Rodriguez earned his doctorate in Pharmacology and a Master's of Regulatory Science in the Management of Drug Development, with multiple honors. Since completing his doctoral degree in 2020, he has done postdoctoral research at the Scripps Research Institute in San Diego, Calif., in the Molecular Medicine and Neuroscience departments, working to understand the molecular mechanisms underlying alcohol use disorder. ■



An artist's rendition of the proposed new DC3 student-athlete weight room.

Purple with Purpose

A 2022-2023 Fundraising Campaign

by Christina Haselhorst

The fall of 2022 brings excitement for the future of Dodge City Community College (DC3). **The Purple with Purpose** campaign kicked off in July 2022 and continues through the 2022-2023 academic year.

Recently, DC3 has made numerous renovations to critical structures across campus such as new sidewalks, mezzanines, sound systems, directional signage, interior building renovations, and landscaping.

Now we are setting a new goal. One that will benefit our student-athletes, who are a large portion of our on-campus population. We want YOU to join us as we work toward this goal. The time is now to act.

What are these new goals? A renovated space within the Athletics building to house a larger weight room for all athletes as well as the reimagining of the smaller, current weight room into a training facility.

When complete, the weight room will be relocated and transformed into an up-to-date space for all athletic teams. The existing equipment is old and outdated and the current space is very small. This does not allow our teams to train with the most cutting-edge equipment that is available at other community colleges.

The Need Is Great and the Time Is Right

The new weight room area will feature a larger renovated space within the existing Athletics building with new windows, flooring, ceiling, walls, and equipment. Our goal is to raise more than \$900,000 for this project.

The current equipment and space do not even match the caliber of some area high schools. Without successfully obtaining these long-overdue improvements, DC3 will continue to lack the equipment to expand our offerings to provide numerous outlets for fitness, exercise, and healthy living activities to improve the well-being of DC3 student-athletes.

While our Conquistador teams are committed and enthusiastic about representing DC3, our athletic spaces, furnishings, equipment, and amenities need to be replaced or upgraded.

The College Community

The dedication of the college staff, administration, and faculty showcase the vision and commitment of DC3 to support and advance the City of Dodge City, Ford County, and Southwest Kansas. The entire community will benefit from the **Purple with Purpose** campaign.

This project will elevate the visibility of DC3's athletic programs. And it will keep us in a much better position to provide the programs and activities expected of an academic institution of our size.

When the **Purple with Purpose** campaign succeeds, everybody wins... students, college, and community. From community events attended by DC3 athletes and their families 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.

The Time Is Now

Our goal through the **Purple with Purpose** campaign is to bring the current physical education facility up to the standard of other Kansas community college facilities and beyond. While the college and the Foundation have made numerous improvements within academics

and student life across campus, it is now time to improve this major area of campus and to enhance the quality of life for our college athletics community.

While our Student Activity Center provides topnotch spaces for some of our student-athletes and is an impressive structure in the prestigious Jayhawk Conference, it does not include a weight training facility. And the existing training spaces in the Athletics building do not equal that of other community colleges.

Currently, the state of Kansas is offering Kansas residents a 60% tax credit through House Bill 2239 to taxpayers who contribute to community college campaigns (40% of the donation can then be deducted as a charitable contribution on federal taxes; please discuss this option with your tax professional).

For example: a \$100,000 contribution to DC3 will result in a \$60,000 state tax credit on a donor's state tax bill. The maximum tax credit per taxpayer per year is \$250,000 (about a \$416,000 total donation). Information about this important opportunity can be found at <https://dc3.edu/foundation-alumni/campaigns/purple-with-purpose-campaign/>. The tax credit option is available on a first-come, first-served basis. Of course, contributions also can be made as a federally tax-deductible donation to the DC3 Foundation, an IRS recognized 501c3 charitable organization.

This project is long overdue, and when the project is complete, the new upgrades will help DC3 to recruit, to retain, and to graduate top student-athletes. In addition, the improvements will provide numerous outlets for creativity, fitness, exercise, self-discipline, healthy activities, confidence, community opportunities, and general well-being for DC3 students.

Be a part of the movement. Share your **Purple Purpose** with us. To make a tax-deductible Foundation contribution to the Purple with Purpose campaign, contact the DC3 Foundation office at foundation@dc3.edu or by sending your donations to 2501 N. 14th Ave., Dodge City, KS 67801, using the enclosed postage-paid envelope in this magazine. To make a contribution utilizing the 60% state of Kansas tax credit option, please see <https://dc3.edu/foundation-alumni/campaigns/purple-with-purpose-campaign/> for the required documentation that the state requires for contribution allocation. Contact Christina Haselhorst, Foundation Director, at (620) 225-9542 or at foundation@dc3.edu for questions about this opportunity. ■

Conq Football Players Find Coaching Success in NFL

by Mike Smith

From small town Kansas to junior college football to the National Football League (NFL), a pair of former Conquistador football players are finding success coaching at the highest level of football in the NFL.

Former Conquistadors, Darrin Simmons and Nate Kaczor are Special Teams Coordinators in the NFL for the Cincinnati Bengals and Washington Commanders, respectively.

An Elkhart native, Simmons played for Dodge City from 1991-92, as he punted and played some quarterback, and he finished his collegiate career at the University of Kansas as a punter. Simmons led all of junior college in punting average with 43.5 yards per punt in 1992, amassed 2,611 punting yards on 60 punts, and earned All-American honors. He owns the career record for punt yards in a career at Dodge City with 4,229 yards.

Kaczor, a Scott City native, played center for the Conqs and was part of the Conqs' second-ever bowl game appearance in 1985, when the team played in the Roaring Ranger Bowl. The team went 6-5 during the 1985 season. He went on to finish his college career at Utah State.

Simmons helped the Bengals to the franchise's third Super Bowl appearance last year, as the team won the American Football Conference – North (AFC North) title for the first time since 2015 and first playoff win since 1990. He's been coaching in the NFL for 20-plus years now, with this being his 20th season with the Bengals. He previously coached with the Carolina Panthers and Baltimore Ravens.

Kaczor has been in the NFL since 2008, working primarily with special teams. He is in his fourth season with the Washington Commanders, and he has previously worked with the Tampa Bay Buccaneers, Tennessee Titans, and Jacksonville Jaguars. Before making it to the NFL, Kaczor coached 17 years



Nate Kaczor

COURTESY OF COMMANDERS.COM



Darrin Simmons

COURTESY OF BENGALS.COM

at the college level with stops at Utah State University, University of Nebraska-Kearney, University of Idaho, and the University of Louisiana Monroe.

Both Simmons and Kaczor have coached multiple All-Pro/Pro Bowl players during their tenures in the NFL, and they have had their special teams' units rank in the Top 10 of several categories multiple years.

These small-town Kansas guys capitalized on an opportunity to play junior college football, and their career at Dodge City helped propel them to the NFL as coaches. ■



Workers from 4-State Maintenance Supply, of Coffeyville, Kan., remove damaged hardwood from the floor of the old Dodge City Community College (DC3) gym on Sept. 28.

DC3 Completes Floor Restoration in Old Gym

by Lance Ziesch

The old gym at Dodge City Community College (DC3) is getting a facelift.

The structure, which was built in 1970, had been closed for several years prior to its reopening in 2021. During this closure, an undetected water leak wreaked havoc on the west side of the court.

“When you have chains on the doors, and nobody goes into a room at all for basically three to four years, you’ve got a situation where it’s just not monitored,” Jacob Ripple, DC3 Athletic Director, said. “So, this water on the floor, whether it came from AC ducting, or if there was a leak or whatever, it doesn’t really matter. When water settles into a wooden floor, it just ruins it. And we had all kinds of warping.”

After much discussion, the college decided to try and save the 52-year-old hard maple floor, instead of replacing it.

“The floor being as old as it was, it presented quite a challenge,” Jared Stevens, DC3 Director of Facilities and Operations, said. “They just don’t make gym floors that thick anymore. It’s almost three-quarters of an inch to be exact. We were able to locate one lumber mill in the country that had enough wood milled out of maple, to that exact thickness, to get the job done.”

Because DC3 has been working with 4-State Maintenance Supply, of Coffeyville, Kan., for many years, and has a great relationship with that company, 4-State was chosen for the project, Stevens said.

“They are one of the most respected and trusted companies that do this type of work in the state,” he said. “So, it was a no-brainer.”

After first replacing a large section of water-damaged maple flooring on the gym’s southwest corner, 4-State then sanded and refinished the entire floor, Stevens said.

“Working with Mammoth Sports Construction to get the structural engineer in here to clear the building was the big first step,” Ripple said. “And then, everybody who has worked on it since has done a great job. From 4-State, to our own maintenance crew, it looks amazing. Honestly, I’m amazed at how it looks.”

Although there is a slight color

difference between the original floor and the replacement pieces, Ripple said that variance won't change the functionality of the gym.

"You have a floor that's been down for 50 years, and no matter how much it's sanded, you're going to have some of the coloring from that old oil-based finish that has seeped into it," he said. "So, you can see the difference in the old and new flooring in the gym. But with an auxiliary gym, it's more about the usage of it. I don't think you'd want that for a game gym, but it functions just like a normal gym floor."

The floor repair project, which ran from Sept. 27 to Oct. 7, cost a total of \$48,130.55 and was paid for with funds from the college's Higher Education Emergency Relief Fund (HEERF).

Now that the hardwood is repaired, Stevens said the college's Maintenance Department will finish the remainder of the gym renovation.

"We are currently putting some new coats of paint on the walls, doors, and anywhere else that needs it," Stevens said. "A classy purple-and-gold-style carpet also will be installed on the east and west ends of the gym in the coming weeks."

In addition, he said the sheet metal that had been removed from the gym's walls, when the college was checking the soundness of the structure, will be going back up.

"I'm also in the beginning stages of getting a gym divider curtain installed, which will allow us to have multiple sports practices at the same time when the curtain is lowered," he said.

"This will be the permanent practice area for the cheer squad, along with being used as an auxiliary practice gym for basketball and volleyball," Stevens said. "And eventually, it also will be used for open gym nights and intramural sports for the entire student body."

Ripple said he is excited about the opportunity of having a secondary gym, which he said will be used every day by student-athletes and the student body as a whole. And he said he also has a couple of ideas for additional improvements down the road.

"I just can't thank our administration enough for believing in this project to get it done," Ripple said. "It's going to be a great resource for our athletics as well as our student body. I laughed the other day when somebody asked me, 'When's the last time you've had two functional gyms on campus?' My answer was, 'We never have.' So, it's a whole new world for us at this point." ■



LANCE ZIESCH

Although the overall renovation continues, the flooring project is now complete in the DC3 old gym.



LAKIN SCHECK

After the damaged hardwood was replaced, the entire gym floor was sanded and refinished. Above, a 4-State employee pauses during the sanding process on Oct. 4



Conquistador Fall Homecoming in Pictures



With a theme of “Go Gold or Go Home,” the DC3 Homecoming Week was filled with activities, such as an Oct. 13 cookout on the quad, with hamburgers and hot dogs grilled by Black Hills Energy.



Football student-athletes, Chad Parker, sophomore, Victor N.Y.; Aukanaii-Pila Goo Sun, freshman, Honolulu, Hawaii; and Javon Campbell, freshman, King George, Va., enjoy the hamburger feed on the college quad on Oct. 13.



This year, the homecoming bonfire took place in the rodeo practice arena, on the west side of campus, on the evening of Oct. 14.



As in past years, the pep rally at the bonfire site was led by the DC3 cheerleaders.



In addition to the bonfire and pep rally on Oct. 14, students also enjoyed playing games, such as corn hole and cup pong.



The fall Homecoming Week culminated with the football game versus Ellsworth Community College on Saturday, Oct. 15, at Memorial Stadium, with a 21-14 win over the Ellsworth Panthers. The 2022 King and Queen, who were crowned at halftime, are Chad Parker, sophomore, Victor, N.Y.; and Fernanda Olivas, sophomore, Chihuahua, Mexico.



The 2022 Homecoming Court included (front row, left to right) Landon Stein; Quinton Stein; Lynlie Steele; Locklyn Steele; (back row) Abigail Billingsley, sophomore, Colorado Springs, Colo.; Austin Mee, sophomore, Colorado Springs, Colo.; Nathan Szymanski, sophomore, Bolingbrook, Ill.; Kaitlyn Leffley, sophomore, Perth, Australia; President, Dr. Harold Nolte; Homecoming Queen, Fernanda Olivas, sophomore, Chihuahua, Mexico; Homecoming King, Chad Parker, sophomore, Victor, N.Y.; Nur Yaren Türkmenoglu, sophomore, Istanbul, Turkey; and Zebastian Mata, sophomore, Dodge City.



CONQ Madness Returns!

by Mike Smith

After a spectacular event last year, CONQ Madness made its return on Oct. 25, at 7 p.m., in the DC3 Student Activity Center. That night the Dodge City community and college had the opportunity to meet the Conquistador basketball teams before they tipped off their seasons.

CONQ Madness featured an action-packed night with both the women's and men's teams being introduced, and then each team played an intra-squad scrimmage.

The night also featured a women's and men's three-point shooting contest, which was won by **Kianna Lemons** and **Avnoor Bhullar**, respectively. And then Lemons won the dual between the two winners to be the overall three-point shooting contest winner.

The night was also highlighted by a dunk contest for the men, which was won by **Shawn Warrior** and a skills contest for the women, won by **Paris Santacaterina**.

The Conquistador spirit squad opened the night, and the evening featured several fun contests and giveaways for the students and fans.

The Conquistador basketball seasons are underway and schedules along with more information on the teams can be found at GoConqs.com. ■

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The college celebrated the Conq Corral's 65th birthday on Oct. 31 with free cake and ice cream.

Conq Corral Celebrates 65 Years

A look back at the history of the campus snack bar

by Lance Ziesch

Arguably, one of the most recognizable features of the Dodge City Community College (DC3) campus is the Conq Corral snack bar, which is located on the first floor of the Student Union. This venerable establishment, which dates back to 1957, turns 65 this year.

According to a two-paragraph story in the Oct. 11, 1957, issue of the Conquistador student newspaper, “Remodeling plans for the new student lounge have been disclosed by Dean Guy C. Davis. The lounge will be known in the future as the ‘Conq Corral.’ A paint committee has been appointed and work is under way to repaint the interior. Curtains will be hung for sound-proofing. Some furniture has been purchased and installed; more has been ordered. A soft-drink machine is now in use and a juke box has been ordered. Dean Davis states, ‘Never before in the history of Dodge City College have the students been fortunate to have and operate their own social center.’”

The article goes on to say in paragraph

two, “Now that we have our student lounge, the Conq Corral, we should make every effort to take care of it by returning our empty Coke bottles to cases, keeping cigarette butts in the ash trays and caring for the upkeep of the furniture. It is for us and our use, so let’s show our appreciation.”

The Conq Corral on Second

So, from this humble beginning, the Conq Corral was launched. Located first in the basement of the old college building at 1000 N. Second Ave., the Conq Corral was a busy place from the very start. It was the place for a quick snack, a cold drink, or a few hands of cards. It also was the place to go for school dances and sock hops.

Three years after its inception, a Nov. 22, 1960, Conquistador newspaper article, announced that remodeling of the “Student Union, better known as the Conq Corral, is progressing rapidly.”

This expansive remodeling project included the addition of a mezzanine level, which “will also be used for small

group meetings,” and a stairway on the east “providing access to the outdoors and the student patio.”

The building housing the college, and the Conq Corral at this time, was originally built as a high school in 1914, and then it served as a junior high facility from 1924 to 1956. And beginning in 1957, it became the home of the Conquistadors. So, it’s interesting to note that the article further mentions that this first Conq Corral occupied the “quarters formerly used by the Junior High School Girls’ Gymnasium.”

Another function of the 1960s Conq Corral was serving as a venue for some of the student dances. The Feb. 8, 1961, Conquistador newspaper records that a dance was planned for Feb. 11. “The Valentine Dance this year will be in the form of a ‘Sock Hop.’ The dance will be held in the Conq Corral, beginning at 8 o’clock and lasting until 12 o’clock.” And the article concludes with, “And best of all, the music will be furnished by a much-needed and wanted JUKEBOX.”

By 1963, the Conq Corral was again receiving some upgrades. According to a Dec. 20, 1963, article in the Conquistador newspaper, the new improvements included “acoustical tile ceiling, new florescent lights, and a ventilating system” And all of these wonderful upgrades were reported to cost about \$2,000.

And the final paragraph of that story reads, “Future plans are for the construction and equipping [of] a snack bar in the Conq Corral. This snack bar would be open during a specific time each day and would include the sale of such items as pop, ice cream, coffee, milk, sweet rolls, pie, cake, sandwiches, fresh fruit, and potato chips. It is the hope of the college officials that this snack bar may be completed by the start of second semester.”

Another fun feature of the original Conq Corral was that it also served as the college’s art gallery from time to time. A Nov. 13, 1964, Conquistador newspaper article, with the headline of “First Art Exhibit Is in the Conq Corral,” records that “numerous casein paintings by Sue Henry of Dodge City and several construction pieces by the students in the design class” were included in the exhibition.

By 1966, the Conq Corral was expanding its food services once again. A Feb. 18, 1966, Conquistador newspaper story records that “meals are served at

noon only, but sandwiches are served until ten every night. Sweet rolls, coffee, and milk are available for breakfast.”

The article also includes that the seating capacity in the Corral recently had increased to 130 with the addition of the “17 new tables and chairs.”

John Ewy, a DC3 student from 1967 to 1969 and a DC3 faculty member from 1976 to 2017, said the Second Avenue Conq Corral had a “neat atmosphere.”

“You met a lot of students there that you might not have always met in the classroom, because there weren’t dorms at that time. It was everything we needed,” he said.

“The nice thing about that, between classes, or maybe you had a 30-minute break, you could run down to the Conq Corral, and play a little 13-point pitch,” Ewy said, referring to a card game he often played with his friends. “And you know, just have a pop and visit with your friends.”

Nancy (Finch) Folkerts, another DC3 student from 1969 to 1971, said she remembers the Second Avenue Conq Corral as “a friendly place” and “a good, safe place to spend an afternoon” when she was not working.

“I learned to play pitch there,” Folkerts said. “Great memories. We moved mid-semester to the new location in spring of ’70. But, it wasn’t the same once we moved.”

The Conq Corral on 14th

By fall 1970, most of the college facilities had been relocated to the new campus on 14th Avenue, and the contractors were putting the finishing touches on the remaining buildings. The Sept. 18, 1970, issue of the Conquistador newspaper, ran an article titled, “Union Opening Set for October 1.”

In this article, the writer mentions that “students have expressed their desire to have the recreation area in the atmosphere of the Conq Corral in the old college, thus including the vending, TV, and recreating into one large area.” And the article further mentions, “A snack bar, study, and lounge facilities will also be located in the Union.”

And so, the students got their wish. When the college was fully moved from Second Avenue, the Conq Corral came with it.

In a Nov. 5, 1980, Conquistador newspaper story, the writer states, “Many students think of the Conq Corral as their home away from home, and Betty Viers, the manager, as their adopted mother.” And Viers is quoted in the story as saying, “I try to make this place where you can relax, kick your shoes off, and have fun after class. I just love working with you kids, it keeps me young.”

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A busy day at the Conq Corral on Second Avenue in 1968.



CONQ CORRAL CONTINUED -

According to the article, the 1980 Corral featured pool, snooker, foosball, pinball and other electronic games. And the article also announced that the “TV room will be acquiring a new TV.” And Viers added that this new television would be “a color TV with a 45-inch screen” that “will be good for watching sports.”

RJ Post, who attended DC3 from August 1981 to December 1983, said the Conq Corral was “like a second home” to him.

“In those days—before I discovered coffee—I subsisted largely on Coca-Cola and Snickers bars from the Conq Corral,” Post said.

“When I worked on the Conquistador student newspaper, our newsroom was in a room without windows at the end of a long hallway that ran just north of the Conq Corral,” he said, referring to the room that is now the Conq Corral game room.

“One day when we were getting out the weekly paper, the power went out, and the newsroom became a black hole,” he said. “Undeterred, I picked up my portable typewriter, moved to a booth in the Conq Corral and proceeded to bang out my story. With all that glass on the front of the Student Union, the Conq Corral offered plenty of light to work by, even with the power out.”

Post said he also recalls watching the final episode of “M*A*S*H” with others on the big TV in the back of the Conq Corral, on Feb. 28, 1983, as the Conquistador staff worked on another edition of the paper.

The Conq Corral Today

Although there is currently talk about renovating the Conq Corral yet again, nothing has been set in motion at this time. The last major upgrade was in June 2018, when local businessmen, and DC3 alumni, David Weece, of the Ashley Furniture HomeStore, and John Wentling, of G&G Car and Truck Supercenters, donated new furniture.

This donation included new tables, chairs, recliners, electronics, and an entertainment center—and also funds to refurbish the Corral’s walls and gaming tables.

“The college experience is as important as the education,” Wentling said, at the time of the donation. “If they don’t have somewhere to have great times and make great friends and build those relationships, those students might not come back for another year. It’s an important part of college, so we are happy to do this.”

Today, the Conq Corral food service is managed by Great Western Dining, which is the company that operates the college’s

cafeteria, and it can comfortably seat about 60 people in its dining area.

For entertainment options, it features two pool tables, a ping-pong table, a foosball table, a Star Wars pinball machine, and an area to enjoy gaming equipment. And, like in the past, it’s still the place to go on campus for drinks, short-order food, candy, ice cream, and grab-and-go snacks.

“The Conq Corral is one of the college’s hidden gems,” DC3 President, Dr. Harold Nolte, said. “You know, it’s a very comfortable environment, and the food is very, very good. It’s just a good place for students, staff and faculty to congregate and to have lunch and visit.”

Nolte said that although the college snack bar has undoubtedly seen a lot of changes in its 65 years—just like the college itself—it has withstood the test of time.

“The Conq Corral is a proud DC3 tradition,” he said. “As long as there is a Dodge City Community College, I hope there will be a Conq Corral to go along with it.”

In order to mark the Conq Corral’s 65th year, the college threw a birthday party—with free cake and ice cream—on Oct. 31. At this fun, informal event, more than 75 students, faculty, and staff were on hand to enjoy the festivities and wish the Conq Corral well on its next 65 years. ■



Baseball student-athletes (left to right), Zandt Payne, sophomore, Guthrie, Okla.; Cole Mungia, freshman, Edmond, Okla.; and Jacob Loflin, Edmond, Okla., play pool in the Conq Corral’s game room on Feb. 4.

From the Director's Desk



Recently, I listened to a speech about commonalities and differences. Remember the story of the British and the German troops on opposite sides of the battlefield, less than 100 yards from each other on Christmas Eve during World War I in 1914?

That evening, the British soldiers heard the German soldiers singing Christmas carols. So, the British began singing carols of their own. Before long, both groups declared a truce just long enough to come out of the trenches to sing Christmas carols together. They did not speak the same language and were obviously on different sides of the war. It seemed they had absolutely nothing in common, yet when commonalities appeared, they seemed significant.

Even people we do not know... or do not like, share something with each and every one of us.

Many of us feel we have nothing in common with the younger generation. I am someone who has to wear bifocals in order to read. My taste in music is subdued compared to the younger generation, and there are several sayings the younger generation speak that I do not understand at all. I have developed the wisdom, in my opinion, of common-sense reactions to complex challenges all around me that I see my own children struggle with when faced with the same challenges. I find myself completely baffled at how the younger generation deals with some things.

There are people around me who speak a completely different language than I do, and we cannot communicate verbally. My friends and I are excited about learning about the history of Dodge City, yet there are others who make fun of us for doing so. I perceive to have nothing in common with students at my alma mater high school nor at the colleges I attended.

I can focus on the differences with the people around me: young vs. old, English speaking vs. non-English speaking, male vs. female, major donor vs. volunteer, athlete vs. non-athlete, and many more. Any two of us have PLENTY of things NOT in common with each other. But we may not be all that different. Because of our humanity, we all have something in common. It is so much more valuable to concentrate on what we do have in common with others.

These commonalities bring us together. You definitely have something in common with any one of the students at Dodge City Community College (DC3). Maybe you were helped as a student when you were in high school or college by a professor, a mentor, a donor, a friend, a classroom experience, a coach, or the simple sense of security where elsewhere that security was non-existent. Maybe you received a scholarship. Maybe you received kudos for your participation as a volunteer outside of the classroom. Maybe you met your most amazing circle of friends while at college.

Whatever your commonality is with the current students at DC3, you are able to reach out and remind them that there are other humans across the world who recognize them and who care about them, giving them hope for their futures. Volunteering and making monetary donations are meaningful ways to connect with others and feel a sense of purpose in your own life. Giving back to those in need also amplifies your sense of gratitude and well-being.

DC3 needs your help providing a common space for all athletes here on campus through the **Purple with Purpose** campaign. A new weight room will provide a number of benefits to the student population on campus: larger space, up-to-date equipment, and more study time. Not to mention the opportunities to find that moment of clarity and inspiration with a coach. Or to develop that friend group that will last a lifetime. Or to learn the language of a new friend. Or to celebrate a team accomplishment that will be a memory never forgotten. Differences melt away. Commonalities become the catalyst for lasting memories for a lifetime. (For more information about the **Purple with Purpose** campaign, see Page 16.)

Be that donor who recognizes at least one thing that is in common with the younger generation of students. Help us to continue the community of DC3 Conquistadors. That is something that we all have in common.

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

Christina Haselhorst
Director of Foundation & Community Relations



Above, one of the flags from the 2022 Foundation golf tournament on Aug. 19. Right, President, Dr. Harold Nolte, and wife Lynn, pause for a photo at the 2022 Foundation Gala & Auction on Oct. 30.

LAKIN SCHECK



LANCE ZIESCH

Successful Golf Tournament and Auction

by Christina Haselhorst

Fundraising events are always a wonderful way for the DC3 Foundation to connect with supporters and businesses across the community. This year, the Foundation hosted two large fundraising events to raise funds for the organization as well as for scholarships for students.

The 12th annual golf tournament was the largest golf tournament to date for the Foundation. Thirty teams enjoyed the beautiful summer day on Aug. 19. The DC3 cheer team volunteered at the event, overseeing two fun games on the course and assisting with the serving of lunch for all in attendance.

Much laughter and good-natured competition was had by everyone, and the tournament finished as a storm moved in! Typical Dodge City weather.

Title sponsors for this event were Rocking M Media, Building Solutions LLC, Great Western Dining, and United Capital Management (sponsoring a great lunch from John Ross Catering). Other sponsors were Haynes Electric, Farm Bureau Wealth – Ann Frigon, O’Neil Distributing, Victory Electric, Steven and Pamela Preston,

Edward Jones – Melanie Harshberger, Kerbs Law Office, United Wireless Communications, Phillips Chiropractic and Physical Therapy Center, Mammoth Construction, Landmark National Bank, McDonald’s, and Edward Jones – Wes Owens. Proceeds from this event benefit the DC3 Foundation and its programs.

“I was blown away by the response this year for the golf tournament,” Christina Haselhorst, DC3 Director of Foundation and Community Relations, said. “Never in my tenure here have we had this many participants in this event, and I enjoyed catching up with each and every one of them during the day. The support showcases the importance of the mission of the DC3 Foundation for Dodge City Community College.”

Fast forward a few months and the DC3 Foundation Gala & Auction was held on Oct. 29, in the Student Activity Center on campus. The evening showcased guests enjoying a wonderful evening of food, fun, fellowship, and fundraising.

Raising nearly \$65,000, the auction provides needed funds for scholarships

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

“Unfortunately, we did not meet this year’s fundraising goal of \$75,000, a concern that I had going into the event during this current uncertain economy,” Haselhorst said. “However, we were still able to raise important funds for both current scholarship funding efforts as well as for future monies through a matching grant program this year. I am very grateful to every single sponsor, donor, volunteer, and participant who helped make this year such a success despite the challenges.”

Celebrating Dodge City’s 150th Anniversary with the theme, “Denim and Diamonds,” guests were treated to a dinner sponsored by Cargill, and they perused a record number of items for bidding. Well over 170 items were donated for the event from generous donors from all over the United States. And nearly 40 DC3 students volunteered to serve the meal.

Additionally, Dodge City native and former DC3 dual-credit student, Miss

Kansas 2022 Ayanna Hensley, attended the event. She shared her testimony of support she received from people in Dodge City.

She will compete for the title of Miss America in December in Connecticut, sharing her social impact initiative of ACEs LOW: Overcoming Adverse Childhood Experiences.

Her focus for this initiative is to help promote an ideology centered on assisting youth to overcome their adversity as most traumatic situations a child faces will correlate into lifelong problems. As an individual directly affected by severe trauma, Hensley said she knows what realities some children need to overcome and how to break their generational cycles.

Many thanks to all auction participants, volunteers, donors, and the following sponsors of this year's gala and auction: Hilmar Cheese Company, Brian and Melissa Huff, National Beef, Victory Electric Cooperative, ServiceMaster Restore, Hy-Plains Feedyard, Family Practice Associates, Great Western Dining, Gibson's Pharmacy, Fee Insurance Group – Mary Trent, David and Paula Ripple, Fidelity State Bank and Trust Company, JD and Kim Kish, Coldwell Banker Hancocks-Jolee Chris Cole Kerbs, William Mims, Farm Bureau Wealth – Ann Frigon, United Capital Management, Steven and Pamela Preston, Chaffin Inc., United Wireless Communications, High Plains Title LLC, and Conant Construction LLC.

This year has shown that truly, Together We CONquer! ■



Ayanna Hensley

Building a Legacy, Strengthening a Community

by Christina Haselhorst

These generous donors gave to the Dodge City Community College (DC3) Foundation from April 28, 2022, to Nov. 2, 2022. Totaling more than \$179,000 over that time period, including donations for scholarships, projects, the Foundation general fund, the Purple with Purpose Campaign, annual golf tournament, purchases for the annual auction, DC3 employee donations, and memorials.

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). Your support allows Dodge City Community College to grow and thrive each year.

Leave your legacy with us and strengthen a community. We are not just a community college... we are a college community. You are an integral member of that community! Thank you! ■

Several Anonymous Donors	David & Paula Ripple	Jacquelyn Barngrover	Mary Burrichter
Aaron & Sarah Atzbach	Deborah Daw	James Cox	Dr. Mary Scott
Dr. Adam John	Dixie & Joe Kliesen	Dr. Jammie Phillips	Dr. Mechele Hailey
Alfredo Sanchez	Don and Kathy Ramsour	Dr. Jane Holwerda	Mammoth Sports Construction LLC
Alice White	Doug Austen	Jared & Erin Stevens	Meade Locker and Processing LLC
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Audrey & Casey Rynerson	Ernie Fernandez	Jennifer Bernatis	Mitch Little
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Brittany Rohr	Georgia Burke	Joseph Nuci	Platzer, Swergold, Goldberg, Katz, & Jaslow LLP
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Christina Haselhorst	Frank Sumaya	Kerbs Law Office	Scott & Ashley Taylor
Christopher D. Robinson	Drs. Harold & Lynn Nolte	Kind Curbing & Landscaping	ServiceMaster Clean & Restore
Dr. Clayton & Melissa Tatro	Haynes Electric	Kindsvater Inc.	Shannon Benish
Courtney Huff	High Plains Title LLC	Kiwanis Scholarship Fund	Sheri & Larry Cook
Dr. Christy Johanson	Hilmar Cheese Company, Inc.	Kristi Ohlschwager	Sherry Curtis Rogers
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Credit Union of Dodge City	JD Kish & Kim Yost-Kish	Lana McDonnell	Steven & Pamela Preston
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		Louie Riederer	
		Martha Montes	

Foundation Announces Scholarship Winners

by Christina Haselhorst

The Dodge City Community College (DC3) Foundation announces the scholarship recipients for the 2022-23 school year.

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

Increased enrollment last year, and the current economic changes nationwide, show that “the need for scholarships is high,” she said.

“A few very large donations were made this past year for scholarships,” she said. “However, much more work is to be done because the scholarship funds with the Foundation are so much lower than some other community college foundations and endowments across the state. The Foundation is participating in a program through Title V as well that requires the Foundation to place unrestricted funds into an investment account where it will stay for twenty years. That will be available to future students and is a great way to grow the endowment funds for the organization.”

In spite of the economic downturn that is in effect currently throughout the nation, the DC3 Foundation was able to make more than \$100,000 available to DC3, meeting the yearly goal of Director Haselhorst and the Board of Directors.

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

The 2022-23 recipients are as follows:

- **Dick Brown Memorial Scholarship:** Wendy Medina
- **Krumrey Scholarship:** Natalya Delgado and Maris Shipley
- **Jim Bock Memorial Scholarship:** Anexi Gaucin. (This scholarship is in progress with more potential recipients to come.)
- **Ann & Norman Ehrlich Memorial Scholarship:** Bree Stephens
- **DCHS Classes '60, '61, '62, White & Williams Scholarship:** Camila Castanon.
- **Elisa Murphy Memorial Scholarship:** Maria Reyes
- **Bernice Williams Memorial Scholarship:** Vincent Carlos
- **American AgCredit Scholarship:** Juan Susa and Andrea Pinzon
- **Howard & Thelma Sailor Memorial Scholarship:** Miguel Angel Avila, Diego Aguilera, Austin Mee, Niccolo Cantini, and Janik Buch
- **Richard K. Burke, PhD. Memorial Scholarship:** Gabi Marquina
- **Frank & Edith Spaniol Memorial Scholarship:** Ryui Akiyama, Supakit Seelanagae, Peyton Mueting, Nayely Urrutia, Aujanee Latimer, Nayeli Alvarado, Makenzi Anguiano, Litzy Garcia, Kalli Favela, Alicyn Oniel, Ryan Wenman, Martyna Kmuk, Ozge Tan, Edgar Sepulveda, and Miguel Nova.
- **Cleda Dodge Memorial Nursing Scholarship:** Riley Hands
- **Irene Paulin Nursing Scholarship:** Grace Murray and April Lee
- **Web, Wharton & Vale Nursing Scholarship:** Baylea Larson
- **Scroggins Nursing Scholarship:** Christopher Ahumada
- **Lucille Schaapveld Nursing Scholarship:** Ella Friess
- **Glen & Marjory Jeffery Memorial:** Hailey Ellis
- **June Hull Sherrid Nursing Scholarship:** Alieyah Pauly and Maribel Aguilar
- **Kevin Pember Memorial Scholarship:** Pedro Lorencatto
- **Intercollegiate Rodeo Scholarship:** Andrew Class



Class Notes

Travis Armbruster



COURTESY OF INSTAGRAM

2003-2005

A native of WaKeeney, Kan., Travis Armbruster attended Dodge City Community College (DC3) between 2003 and 2005. He earned a Bachelor of Science in Fitness & Kinesiology from Pittsburg State University in 2008.

A former bobsledder, Armbruster raced competitively in 2009, and he was a pusher on the U.S.A. Bobsled Team from 2009-2010. After his bobsled career, Armbruster became more involved in fitness and wellness and was a personal trainer for Iron Orr Fitness from 2010 to 2013.

Currently living in California, Armbruster owns and operates multiple businesses, including White Buffalo Fitness in San Diego, which he has owned since 2014. He also has been a general manager and an investment capital broker at Engineering Marine Consultant & Petroleum Services Company (ECPS) since 2013.

Armbruster is married to Olympic bobsledder Kaillie Humphries.

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!

Alumni Update Form

Name: _____

Address: _____

Email Address: _____

DC3 Attendance Years: _____

Graduation Year: _____

Major and/or DC3 Activities: _____

DC3 Memories and/or Life Updates: _____

This form may be mailed in the postage-paid envelope included with this issue or sent by email to alumni@dc3.edu.

- **Scroggins Child Care Scholarship:** Jaiden Borger and Yessenia Ornelas
- **Carl & Linda Bjork Scholarship:** Pedro Cabezas
- **Barnes-Gleckler Memorial Scholarship:** Emily Cacari
- **Clair C. Conard Family Foundation Scholarship:** Jacqueline Castro
- **Bob Schmitt Scholarship:** Yanelly Contreras
- **Ed Alexander Scholarship:** Aldo Aguero
- **Landon Jay Frazier Scholarship:** Alexa Alvarenga and Gonzaolo Arroyo
- **Leslie & Betty Houser Scholarship:** Natalie Garcia, Renata Zacarias, Erik Martinez, Maria Olivas, Alexis Reyes, Michaela Mink, and Paige Mink
- **Noble Melencamp Academic Scholarship:** Gentian Gjikolli, Nelson Veloso, Yanis Debarh, Gaetan Francois, and Bastien Dechamps
- **Mullin Brothers Foundation Scholarship:** Morgan Mink, Jennifer Rico-Esquivel, and Edgar Sepulveda
- **Marvin Hampton Memorial Scholarship:** Gonzalo Arroyo

The above list reflects “only the Foundation’s scholarships, which means it does not include the full number of scholarships available to DC3 students,” Haselhorst said.

Students interested in applying for scholarships should visit dc3.edu to view institutional aid options under the “Admissions” tab.

“On behalf of the DC3 Foundation, congratulations to all of our scholarship recipients,” Haselhorst said. “We are excited to be able to continue to assist students in their educational endeavors at Dodge City Community College.”

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



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2022 High Honors Students

High Honors students pose with Distinguished Alumnus, Larry Rodriguez (first row, fifth from right), at the Honors Banquet on May 13, which took place at the Boot Hill Casino and Resort Conference Center, in Dodge City.

LANCE JILES