

The Conquistador

Spring 2023

THE MAGAZINE OF DODGE CITY COMMUNITY COLLEGE



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Cheer Wins Intermediate Division at National Championship

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The Conquistador

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DC3 BY THE NUMBERS

TOTAL ENROLLMENT

1,517

AVERAGE CLASS SIZE

20

STUDENT-TO-FACULTY RATIO

11:1

STUDENTS FROM

37 STATES

38 COUNTRIES

ATHLETIC PROGRAMS

17

STUDENT GENDER

51% FEMALE

49% MALE

'Memories Never Die'



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). Regarding this past semester, I am reminded of the words of "Hail the Purple and Gold," our college alma mater:

"Praise our Alma Mater, / Raise your voices high. / You we will always cherish, / Memories never die. / Keep our spirit ever / True to all we love. Know our faith will always / Shine like stars above. / Hail, Dodge City Community College. / Hail the Purple and Gold."

This spring, we have seen incredible things happen at DC3 with our cheer and basketball teams! Up first, our cheer team won a national championship at Daytona Beach, Fla., for the second time! And for the first time in school history, both our men's and women's teams advanced to their respective national tournaments in the same season. In fact, on one of the days, we had basketball games in two states!

At any rate, I am so proud of our wonderful student-athletes and coaching staff for their historic seasons and their amazing character, sportsmanship and abilities. Borrowing some words from our alma mater, I would like to tell them, "We will always cherish you. And our memories of this past spring will never die! Thank you for jobs well done!"

As I said earlier, there are many wonderful things happening here at DC3, and I am so glad we can share them all with you through the pages of this magazine! So, read on! Together we conquer!

Sincerely,

Harold Nolte
Harold Nolte, Ed.D.
President

Conq Corral

Conqs on campus and around our community.



A large crowd attended the DC3 Rodeo Live and Silent Auction, on Feb. 4, at the Boot Hill Museum Mariah Gallery. With proceeds from the event going toward the college's rodeo program, the night included remarks from DC3 President Dr. Harold Nolte, a home-style meal, and silent and live auctions. Pictured (from left to right) are Head Rodeo Coach Jarrod Ford; Taylor Davis, sophomore, Rifle, Colo.; Katherine Walker, freshman, Sherman, Ill.; Leah Addison, freshman, Lake Placid, Fla.; Hanna Miller, freshman, Aberdeen, S.D.; Mathias Dockendorf, sophomore, Kinsley, Kan.; Cody Newell, freshman, Jonesville, Mich.; Kyle Cheney, freshman, Powell, Wyo.; Lane Boshaw, freshman, Dewitt, Mich.; Andrew Class, freshman, Bell, Fla.; Kavan Smith, sophomore, Eckley, Colo.; and Derek George, freshman, Natoma, Kan.



U.S. Sen. Jerry Moran (R-Kan.) visited the DC3 campus on Feb. 20, to announce that a \$500,000 Congressionally Directed Spending (CDS) grant had been awarded to the college for its forthcoming industrial maintenance program. With these grant funds, DC3 plans to purchase classroom and lab equipment for the new workforce development program, which is slated to begin fall 2024. Pictured (left to right) are Dr. Jay Kinzer, Vice President of Student Services and Risk Management; Christina Haselhorst, Director of Foundation and Community Relations; Mike Webster, Assistant Vice President of Information Technology/CIO; Kristi Ohlschwager, Assistant Vice President of Administration and Human Resources; Renee Allen, Executive Assistant to the President; Alma Garcia, Executive Assistant to the Vice President of Academic Affairs; Dr. Jodi Rust, Assistant Vice President of Online and Outreach Learning; Jeff Cermin, Vice President of Administration and Finance/CFO; Dr. Harold Nolte, President; Dr. Clayton Tatro, Vice President of Workforce Development; Sen. Jerry Moran; Gary Harshberger, Board of Trustees Chairman; Bill Turley, Trustee; Joann Knight, Economic Development Director, City of Dodge City; Dr. Jane Holwerda, Vice President of Academic Affairs; Michael Burns, Vice-Mayor, City of Dodge City; Mark Fischer, DC3 Foundation Board Member; Kent Smoll, Mayor, City of Dodge City; Nick Hernandez, Manager, City of Dodge City; Duane Ross, community member; and Dr. Christy Johanson, Assistant Vice President of Enrollment Management/Registrar.



The winners of the first-ever Conq Care Cabinets Donation Competition—a food drive contest at spring Inservice—celebrated their victory on Feb. 18, in the Student Activity Center VIP Lounge. The winning team, which was composed of DC3 Humanities Department faculty, enjoyed food and refreshments during the men's and women's basketball games with Dr. Harold Nolte, President. Pictured (left to right) are Renee Allen, Executive Assistant to the President; Benjamin Cuellar, Instructor of Business; Lana McDonnell, Professor of Speech/Communications; Nick Clohecy, Instructor of English; Coronado the Conquistador; Dr. Nolte; Josh Smith, Instructor of Psychology; Jay Gooldy, Instructor of English; Jeff Cermin, Vice President of Administration and Finance/CFO; and Amber Giese, Instructor of English.



The Applebee's Together We Care Tuesday (TWC) initiative hosted the DC3 Foundation on Feb. 21, with 50% of sales from the TWC menu—as well as a few cash donations—going to the DC3 Foundation. The funds received from this fundraiser will benefit the Purple with Purpose campaign for a renovated weight room on campus. Pictured (left to right) are Christina Haselhorst, Foundation Director; Derek Foster, Dodge City Applebee's Assistant Manager; and Jake Ripple, Athletic Director.



The DC3 Music Department hosted Conquering Broadway on March 9, in the DC3 Little Theatre. The concert, which featured soloists and ensembles performing pieces from hit movie musicals and Broadway productions, included performances by the DC3 Concert Choir and Choral Union. Under the direction of Kerry J. Kuplic, Associate Professor of Vocal Music, the concert also featured Gloria Morford, Part-Time Accompanist, on piano.

Conq Corral

Conqs on campus and around our community.



Several DC3 students and employees participated in Read Across America at Dodge City's Linn Elementary on March 3. At this popular event, volunteers from DC3 get a chance to read books aloud to students at local elementary schools. Pictured (left to right) are DC3 women's soccer student-athletes, Yessica Dozal, Dodge City; Angela Valoy, Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic; Joselin Pando, Great Bend, Kan.; Cristina Boluda, Valencia, Spain; Maria Scopino, São Paulo, Brazil; Yndra Zenia Oedit, Capelle aan den Ijssel, Netherlands; Joelle Brand, Fribourg, Switzerland; Alexandra Sibrikova, Moscow, Russia; and Yui Fujii, Osaka, Japan.



The Dodge City Rotary Club donated seven books to the DC3 Library on March 28. The books, which range in topic, tie in with the Library's scheduled monthly activities. For example, one of the titles, "The Myth of Normal," coincides with the Library's celebration of Mental Health Awareness in April. Pictured are Holly Mercer, DC3 Library Director, and Ryan Ausmus, Dodge City Rotary Club President.



Representatives of Lewis Automotive Group announced an equipment donation to the DC3 automotive program on March 2, which included two automatic transaxles with accompanying service tools, a toolbox, a technician's creeper, a hydraulic body repair tool, and a hydraulic power steering analyzer. Through this ongoing partnership, DC3 and the Lewis family will work together to meet the area's high demand for automotive technicians by providing a strong and capable pipeline of workers for the future. Pictured (left to right) are Vincent Vigil, Ford Field Service Engineer; Jeff Cole, DC3 Professor of Diesel Technology; Dr. Clayton Tatro, DC3 Vice President for Workforce Development; Tom Staples, Lewis Ford of Dodge City General Manager; and Devin Bailey, Lewis Ford of Dodge City Service Manager.



Three DC3 cheerleaders surprised Manor of the Plains resident Dorothy (Stramel) Gabel with a DC3 blanket and a gift basket on March 21. Gabel, who attended the college during the 1956-57 school year, was a Conq cheerleader and also was involved with the College Chorus, Pep Band and Conq-Ettes girls' pep club. Pictured (left to right) are Sophia Lord, sophomore, Aurora, Colo.; Kaitlyn Leffley, sophomore, Perth, Australia; Dorothy Gabel; and Colby Redford, sophomore, Ponca City, Okla. **Editor's Note:** For more information about Dorothy Gabel, please see *Class Notes* on Page 25.



Sheila Bertelsen (right) was officially sworn in as a DC3 Board of Trustees member at the group's March 30 meeting. Bertelsen, who will fill the vacancy created by the resignation of Mia Schraeder-Korbelik in September, was given the oath of office by Chief Judge—and 1998 DC3 graduate—Laura Lewis of the 16th Judicial District.



The DC3 Kappa Psi Chapter of Phi Theta Kappa (PTK) Honor Society, inducted its new members on April 16, in the DC3 Library. Nearly 50 new members were inducted by Kappa Psi Chapter President, Olivia Ramos, and Kappa Psi Advisor, Professor Kerry J. Kuplic. In addition, Ramos was recognized for being named as a distinguished alumna by the Heartland Region. And the group celebrated its recent Five Star Chapter designation, which is a reflection of its outstanding working relationship with DC3 administration and the Dodge City community.



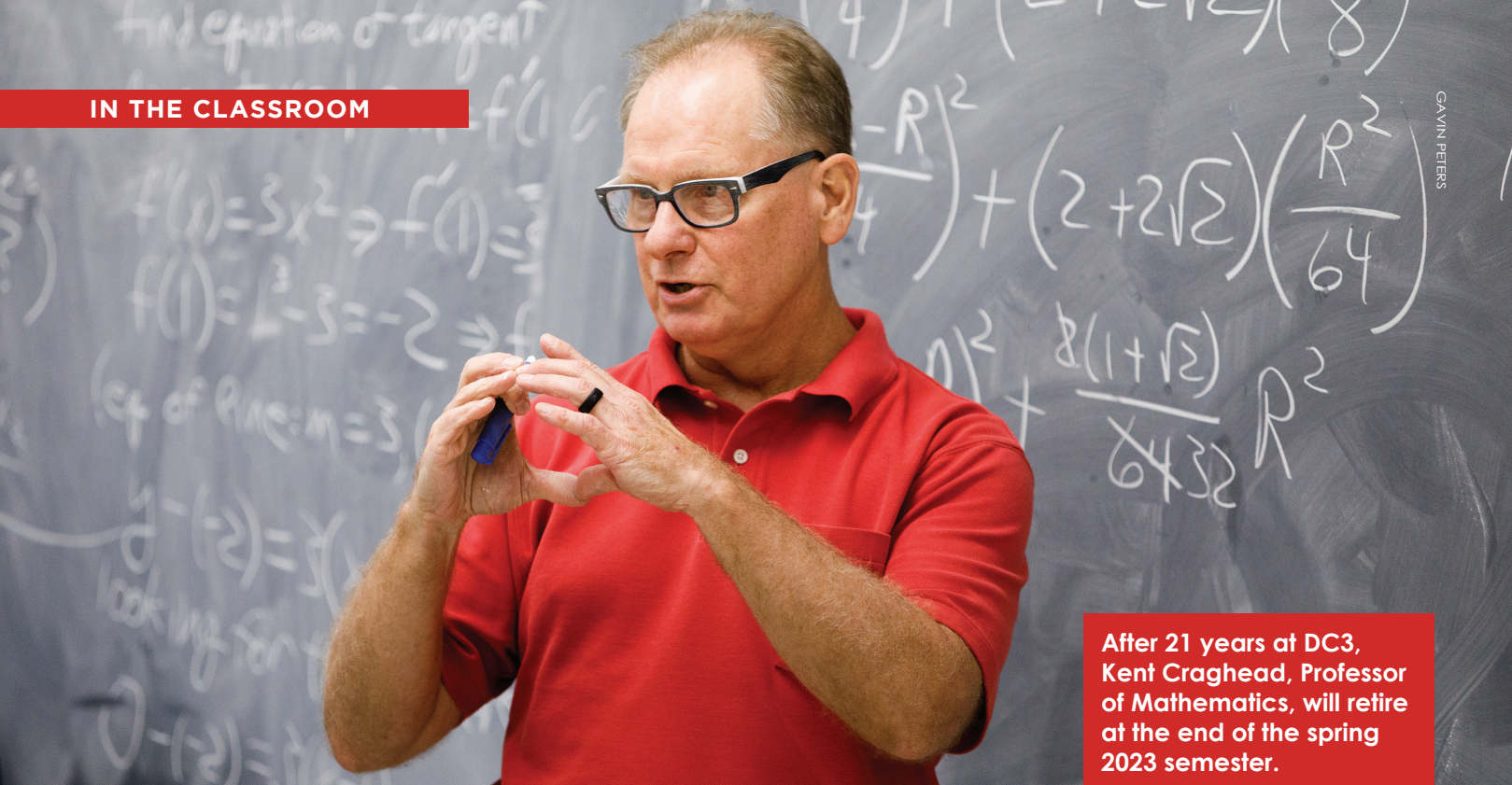
The DC3 Music Department presented "An Evening of Jazz" on April 21, in the Little Theatre. The concert, which was directed by Joel Vinson, Band Director, featured performances by the DC3 Jazz Ensemble and the DC Jazz Orchestra.



The DC3 Symphonic Band and the Dodge City Symphony Orchestra performed their Spring Instrumental Concert on March 31, in the Little Theatre. The groups, which were directed by Joel Vinson, Band Director, and Katherine Bowden, Percussion Assistant, played the music of Bach, de Meij, Claude T. Smith and more.



On April 19, DC3 was recognized by the Office of the Director of National Intelligence for partnering with the University of Kansas (KU) Intelligence Community-Center for Academic Excellence (IC-CAE). The KU and DC3 partnership will facilitate student transfers to KU and the KU-Edwards Campus. Pictured (left to right) are Dr. Jane Holwerda, Vice President of Academic Affairs; Dr. Harold Nolte, President; and Mike Denning, Director of IC-CAE.



After 21 years at DC3, Kent Craghead, Professor of Mathematics, will retire at the end of the spring 2023 semester.

Professor Retires After 21 Years

by Lance Ziesch

After 21 years at Dodge City Community College (DC3), Kent Craghead, Professor of Mathematics, is retiring at the end of the spring 2023 semester.

“During my time at DC3, I have had the opportunity to teach and become friends with many students,” Craghead said. “Seeing the success they have after they leave DC3 brings great pride to me and reminds me of why I have been in this profession for so many years. I will miss building relationships with students.”

Craghead, who graduated from Colby Community College with an Associate of Arts degree in 1986, also has a Bachelor of Science degree from Kansas State University and a Master of Science degree from Emporia State University.

“My first teaching position was at Bee County College in Beeville, Texas—now called Coastal Bend College—in the fall of 1991,” he said. “I did have a computer in my office, but I had to load WordPerfect onto the computer every time I wanted to use it, which was mainly for typing up tests. Then, I would save the test on a 5¼-inch floppy disk. We have come a long way from then!”

After his time at Bee, Craghead returned to Colby—this time as an employee—to teach math in the fall of 1993. And he would remain at Colby until 2002.

In 2001, he was contacted by his former math teacher at Jetmore High School, Craig Knobbe, who was then teaching at DC3.

“He thought I would fit in well here, so I applied for the position in the spring of 2001. However, the college offered the job to someone else,” he said. “So, I stayed at Colby. Then, at the beginning of the spring semester of 2002, the Dean of Instruction called and said DC3 had an opening again for a math instructor and offered me the job.”

After accepting the position, Craghead, and his wife Erika, moved back to Jetmore, and he taught his first class at DC3 that summer. And in fall 2002, he began teaching full time.

“Things have changed greatly over my 32-year career as a professor of mathematics,” he said. “When I first started teaching, there was this thing called the Internet that was just invented. And there was email. It was a very cool thing to be able to send messages via the computer!”

In addition to serving as a mathematics professor for more than 20 years, Craghead also has spent several years on the college’s Assessment Committee, serving twice as the committee’s chairman. The first time was from 2007 to 2010, and the second was 2017 to 2022.

For Dylan Faullin, DC3 Professor of Mathematics, Craghead’s retirement is

going to take some time to process, since the two have worked together since Faullin started in 2005.

“When I first started working here, Kent and I shared an office,” he said. “So, there will always be an association for me between him and my employment here.”

Describing Craghead as “a very consistent and reliable person,” Faullin said he will miss working with him day-to-day.

“Kent is a caring and supportive colleague,” Faullin said. “He is always willing to listen, and if you’ll excuse a math pun, find solutions to problems. I wish him well as he retires, and I want to thank him for all the years of service enriching the lives of his colleagues and students.”

Although he hasn’t figured out all of the details, Craghead said he is looking forward to the next chapter of his life, whatever that might be. And he also is excited about spending more time with his wife and three sons—Drew, Tyler and Jake.

“I do not know exactly what God has planned for me after I retire from DC3, but I am looking into starting a music ministry,” he said. “I will probably work somewhere as well, although I don’t know where that would be.”

The college will honor Craghead with a retirement reception from 1-3 p.m., on May 8, in the Student Union Board Room. The public is invited to attend. ■

Math Program to Change to ‘Corequisite Model’

by Lance Ziesch

This fall, Dodge City Community College (DC3) will be switching its mathematics program to a corequisite math model.

The project, which internally has been dubbed “DC3 CONQuers Math,” officially began in October 2022 as a proactive response to future changes the Kansas Board of Regents (KBOR) will make regarding the state’s mathematics curriculum. Among KBOR’s initiatives will be new math pathways and the elimination of developmental math courses taught at the college level.

“KBOR’s goal is for all students to be taking—as their first math course—a college-level math course that directly relates to their area of study,” Stephanie Gruver, DC3 Professor of Mathematics said. “This will allow students to move more quickly through their math courses than our current developmental model, while giving them the opportunity for support in those courses. It will also save them money as they do not have to pay for the supplemental classes that do not count toward their graduation credits.”

Gruver, who serves as the math project’s liaison, said the new corequisite model will initially involve two classes: Modern College Math (MATH 101) and College Algebra (MATH 106).

“Students will have the option of enrolling in a 2-hour, 0-credit supplemental lab course that will coincide with their paired course that will be graded as pass/fail,” she said. “The supplemental lab courses will provide just-in-time instruction and review of the current topics being covered in the parent course.”

“Just-in-time” instruction refers to the idea that instead of preloading the prerequisite material at the beginning of the semester, it will be spread throughout the course and will be used at the moment the student needs to apply it to the material in the credit-bearing course.

And another aspect of the new model is that students will be comingled in the credit-bearing course, which means there will be students of varying preparations sitting beside one other in the same class.

“An advantage to comingled is that students who need extra help also will have peers in their class who can help them as well,” Gruver said.

Regarding placement, she said students will be placed in their first college credit-bearing math course through guided self-

placement, which is a tool that is housed on the dc3.edu website at various locations.

“Mainly, it can be found within the MyDC3 student portal of our website. But, it also can be found on both the course search page and within the student tab,” she said. “The guided self-placement tool will make recommendations to the student regarding course enrollment and the corequisite option. In addition, faculty in the credit-bearing course also will do an assessment of student placement during the first week of class.”

Analysis of corequisite math course completion rates show that students are more likely to complete a college-level mathematics course under this model, unlike those who take the traditional developmental mathematics sequence, she said.

Gruver said the college’s overall goal for the math redesign is to “increase the percentage of students who pass their first transferable college-level math course within their first academic year.”

DC3 Vice President of Academic Affairs, Dr. Jane Holwerda, said developing this change in curriculum has been an amazing process and project for the college and its students.

“When data clearly demonstrated that our sequence of introductory math courses was an obstacle to student success, our college committed to doing math better,” she said.

However, Holwerda said this change would not have been possible without the support of DC3’s Board of Trustees and President Dr. Harold Nolte—and the help of many faculty and staff members from Academics, Advising, Athletics,

Enrollment, Tutoring, the Business Office, and more.

“I want to shout out, and loudly, my appreciation for faculty members—Stephanie Gruver, Dylan Faullin, Sherry Curtis Rogers, and Math Lab Coordinator Russ Rickers—for their hard work and long hours,” she said. “DC3 has the best faculty ever.”

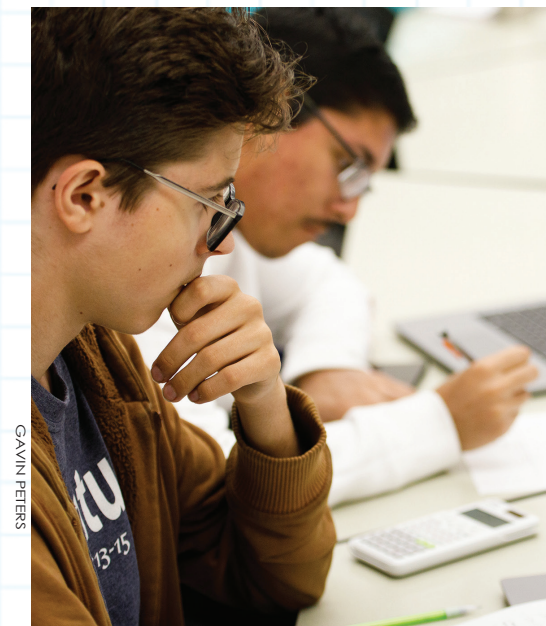
Although the college is still finalizing details for its August 2023 implementation of the corequisite model—and is still looking at possible math platforms and the features they offer—changes to prerequisites in both math and chemistry course descriptions already have been made to reflect the college’s updated course offerings.

“We will be the first community college in the state to move to the corequisite model,” Gruver said. “By being the first, we will be a step ahead of the other community colleges when KBOR implements the changes at the state level, which will allow us to move into the math pathways without having to readjust our curriculum.”

In addition, she said DC3’s proactive transition to the corequisite model will help with student retention.

“The barrier for many students in receiving a college degree is getting through a college-level math class,” she said. “The corequisite model has been shown to be more successful in helping students through their college-level math courses than traditional developmental math models.” ■

Editor’s Note: For more information about the DC3 math redesign, see dc3.edu/conqueringmath/.



Colin Richter (front left), a freshman from Dodge City, and Angel Orozco Macias, a dual-credit student from Dodge City, work on an in-class math activity on Oct. 6, 2022. Next semester, DC3 will transition its mathematics program from a developmental model to a corequisite model, which will better prepare students for math classes that pertain to their areas of study.

Alumna Helps with Grammy-Winning Album

by Lance Ziesch

People may not realize that when American jazz infusion band Snarky Puppy received a Grammy on Feb. 5, there was a Dodge City Community College (DC3) graduate listed on their winning album's liner notes.

Skyler Childress, a Dodge City native, who majored in music and graduated from DC3 in 2018, was credited on Snarky Puppy's 2022 live album "Empire Central" as a sound engineer. And she happened to be with the band when they got the news that they had won the award for Best Contemporary Instrumental Album.

"Lots of hugs and love were shared," Childress said. "They actually didn't know that it was my first project I had worked on, and the excitement ramped up even more. I personally am still processing it. I've only been in this side of the industry for about a year. It's been an absolute whirlwind."

DC3 Associate Professor of Vocal Music, Kerry Kuplic, said he thinks it's wonderful to see that "the education, foundation, and support we gave her is paying off in very real and tangible ways." And he said it's also "gratifying" to know he played a part in her journey.

Kuplic said that in addition to taking his Aural Skills I-IV sequence of classes, Childress also participated in a number of his projects, such as music presentations to area schoolchildren, performing at area concerts, and playing her trumpet at commencement and other college events.

"Skyler was a very dedicated and talented student who was eager to learn," he said. "I was always impressed with her work ethic and quality of work. And she had a great sense of humor."

During her time at DC3, Kuplic said he talked to Childress a lot about her future and which paths she might want to pursue in the music industry.

"She was a very talented trumpeter, but I knew she was also interested in the engineering side of the music," he said.

Childress said her journey into sound engineering actually started during her first semester at DC3 with a simple recording setup with her jazz professor Dr. Paul Morelli.

"He'd decided he wanted us to record one of the charts we were working on for fun," she said. "I have no idea what setup he was using—just some mic and his laptop recording it. The whole process,

regardless of how simple, had me hooked."

From that point on, she began researching the best schools for audio engineering and "doing everything I could" to get into the school of her choice, which was the Conservatory of Recording Arts and Sciences (CRAS) in Phoenix, Ariz.

After graduating from DC3 in December 2018, Childress moved to Arizona and began studying sound engineering at CRAS, where she would eventually graduate in February 2021.

"COVID unfortunately halted progress for a while," she said. "The program was only supposed to be about 10 months, but it lasted about a year and a half. I studied audio engineering and received a certificate in their Master Recording Program II."

However, before Childress could graduate from CRAS, she had to complete an internship within the industry. So, she chose to return home to Dodge City and work in radio with Rocking M Media.

"The Conservatory has an internship program that students are required to complete to graduate," she said. "They also have an employment coordinator to help graduates out if and when needed."

Skyler Childress (left), a 2018 DC3 graduate, was credited as a sound engineer on Snarky Puppy's album "Empire Central," which won Best Contemporary Instrumental Album at the 65th Annual Grammy Awards. Also pictured (left to right) are sound engineers Michael Harrison, Matt Recchia (back), and Nic Hard.



Skyler Childress performs a trumpet solo at a 2018 DC3 Music Student Recital in the Little Theatre. Also pictured is Don Steele on piano.

While still working at Rocking M, Childress said she began to look for other opportunities.

"Our employment coordinator had posted in an alumni group that there was an intern opportunity in Dallas for an album recording," she said. "I didn't know what I was getting myself into."

The listing said the job was unpaid. And although there were no details given, Childress said she decided she was interested anyway.

"I responded. I was then scheduled with my mentor, Nic Hard, to interview with him," she said. "He asked if I could get down there the next day, and I said, 'yes.' I just happened to walk right into a Snarky Puppy album recording."

Initially expecting to be an intern tasked with getting food, coffee, and other items, Childress said she soon discovered that the position could be much, much more.

"Long story short, I was gradually just thrown into the mix of everything," she said. "I was solely involved in the recording process of the album. I started off with simple tasks to show Nic what all I could handle."

Her first job assignments involved recording setup, such as taking inventory of all of the microphones and then putting them on the appropriate stands. Next, she was asked to mic up the drum kit, followed by the horn section, and then finally the percussion. And after mastering setup in all these areas, she graduated to rehearsals.

"I was in charge of recording each of the rehearsals," she said. "Rehearsals

lasted a week, then the recordings for the week after, two sets per night. I was in charge of recording the backup recordings. Both mine and Nic's recordings were used in the mixing process later on."

Following the shows, Childress saved the recordings and made hard drive backups. And after that, she spent the last day in Dallas tearing the entire recording session down, which included wrapping mics and cables, organizing and separating rented and owned items, and finally packing up anything that needed to be shipped back to the musicians.

Although it has been less than a year since she first met the band, Childress said she is "incredibly honored" to have worked with Snarky Puppy multiple times now.

"They welcomed me with open arms, and as they keep telling me, I'm stuck with them now," she said. "They are incredibly humble and hilarious individuals. The familial aspect with them is on a different level."



Regarding the "Empire Central" album, Childress said it is the first of its kind. It was recorded live in front of a studio audience over the course of eight days in Deep Ellum—which is an East Dallas, Texas, neighborhood largely composed of arts and entertainment venues.

"All 19 members, plus some, were together recording," she said. "It was chaotic and yet somehow the most cohesive and well planned thing I have ever witnessed."

Currently living in Dallas, Childress said she is "kind of all over the industry" at the moment working as a freelance audio engineer. But as a result of her work with Snarky Puppy, her "main job" is now at Deep Ellum Art Company where the album was recorded.

"I am now the production manager and audio engineer at Deep Ellum Art Company, which is a 600-capacity venue," she said. "The owners called me about two weeks after the recording to offer me my current position."

However, Childress said her end goal is to one day become an artist's front of house engineer and tour the world with him or her.

Kuplic said he is excited to see what's next for Childress, and he will continue to follow her career through social media.

"I'm so proud of her for following her dreams and making those dreams a reality," he said. "Her drive and focus are an inspiration to me, and I think her story can be a great inspiration to all the other students we serve. And who knows, we may have the next Skyler in classes right now!" ■



COURTESY OF BRETT ROJAS

Pictured, left to right (front row, left) Assistant Coach, Brett Rojas; Sadie Acuna, freshman, Clute, Texas; Ryleigh Bates, sophomore, Frisco, Texas; Lexi Hunt, freshman, Colorado Springs, Colo.; (front row, right) Anais Telles, freshman, Las Cruces, N.M.; Gabriella Quintanilla, freshman, San Antonio, Texas; Jady Sawyer, freshman, San Angelo, Texas; Allison Sullivan, sophomore, Centennial, Colo.; Head Coach, Michael Brewster; (second row, left) Abigail Billingsley, sophomore, Colorado Springs, Colo.; Victoria Thomas, freshman, Fort Worth, Texas; Adrianna Vanelli, freshman, Colorado Springs, Colo.; (second row, right) Denicea Lewis, sophomore, Cherokee County, Texas; Kaitlyn Leffley, sophomore, Perth, Australia; Jasalyn Rivera, freshman, Clifton, N.J.; Baylea Larson, freshman, Colorado Springs, Colo.; (third row) Alieyah Pauly, sophomore, Leander, Texas; Micheala Mink, freshman, Dodge City; Kenzie Wehmeyer, freshman, Mart, Texas; Marley Spring, sophomore, Shawnee, Kan.; Caiden Walthall, freshman, Garland, Texas; Emalea Warden, freshman, Bucklin, Kan.; Tayler Petrikat, freshman, Pearland, Texas; Sophia Lord, sophomore, Aurora, Colo.; Emily Cacari, freshman, Highlands Ranch, Colo.; Jessica Facio, sophomore, Plainfield, Ill.; (fourth row) MJ Foster, sophomore, Homewood, Ill.; Colby Redford, sophomore, Ponca City, Okla.; Candler Clark, freshman, Atlanta, Ga.; Connor Monroe, sophomore, Camas, Wash.; Zebastian Mata, sophomore, Dodge City; Teanna Beckham, freshman, Parker, Colo.; Josephine Flacon Davidson, sophomore, Azle, Texas; Natalie Ortiz, sophomore, Pasadena, Texas; and Alex Nicholas, freshman, Perth, Australia; (fifth row, right) Jaheim Sanders, freshman, Sebring, Fla.; Bryan Flores, freshman, Houston, Texas; Austin Mee, sophomore, Colorado Springs, Colo.; and Ryan Larner, freshman, Colorado Springs, Colo.

Cheer Wins Intermediate Division at National Championship

by Lance Ziesch

For the second time in the past three years, the Dodge City Community College (DC3) cheer team brought home a championship trophy from the National Cheerleaders Association (NCA) Cheer National Championship, in Daytona Beach, Fla.

And for the first time, the Conqs were represented at the April 6-7 competition with two squads—one in the advanced

category and one in intermediate.

“It is always a major accomplishment and sense of pride when we are able to bring home a national championship,” Head Coach, Michael Brewster, said. “Seeing those student-athletes—who stayed true to their commitment to the college and program—have that experience that every collegiate cheerleader dreams of, is what it is all about.”

Brewster said he thinks last year’s results, being a runner-up at the national championship, had a major impact on the program this year and also greatly affected the routines that were put together for this past season.

“The advanced squad competed with the hardest routine I have ever taken to college nationals in the 10 years I have been doing this,” he said. “The routine was

set up to leave no doubt that we would be the highest scoring team and deserve the national championship. Unfortunately, our performances had errors in them, and we came up short this year.”

However, the intermediate squad was a different story ending the competition with a 95.0903 performance score, which placed them in the top spot. All in all, Brewster said it was “a heck of an accomplishment” having two teams in the championship.

“When I arrived December of 2019, the program had five to eight cheerleaders total on the roster,” he said. “So, to witness how much we have been able to transform the program in such a short period is exciting.”

A big part of that transformation, Brewster said, is seeing the individual growth and success of the student-athletes he coaches. One example is Dodge City sophomore Zebastian “Zbass” Mata.

“Watching these student-athletes grow and improve right in front of our eyes is the most rewarding thing as a coach,” he said. “Seeing the amount of emotion and pride pouring out of Zbass after awards was something that I will never forget.”

Of course, Mata is only one example. Another sophomore, Denicea “Neci” Lewis, from Cherokee County, Texas, had a rough transition to college, but she chose to persevere, he said.

“Although she was part of the program in 2021, she was not eligible to be on the active team,” he said. “Instead of leaving, she supported from the side and stuck with our program. As a third-year member,

Neci was on the intermediate team and got to win that jacket and ring that she missed out on in 2021.”

As a coach, Brewster said one of the things he enjoys most about coaching cheer is being able to make an impact on the next generation.

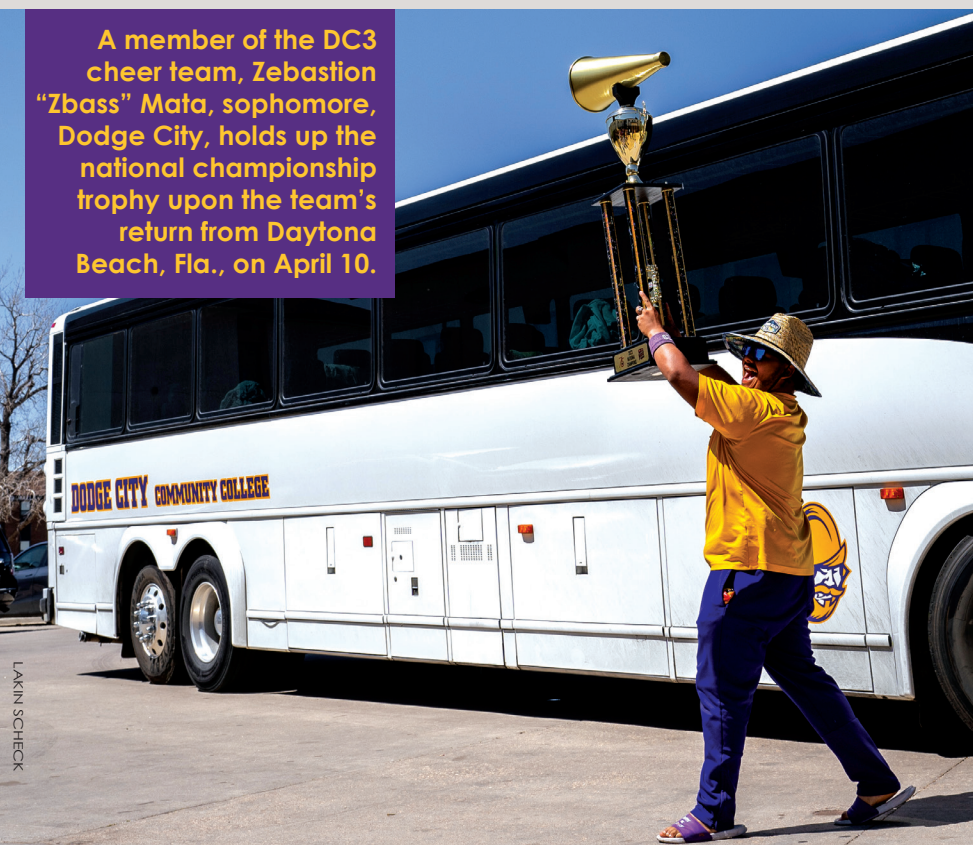
“I was given an opportunity to be successful athletically and academically, and that set me up for this life that I now have,” he said. “Being able to give back to our student-athletes in that way is what makes this job worth it.”

A good example of Brewster impacting the next generation is Brett Rojas, who serves as his Assistant Cheer Coach. Rojas was one of his student-athletes from 2011-2014, and Brewster said it has been a privilege to watch him grow as a cheer coach.

“His passion for this program gets transferred into the student-athletes,” he said. “And to see him go from a student-athlete to a coach—continuing the traditions and building the legacies we want for this program—is a privilege to be a part of.”

Already looking to next year, Brewster said he is planning to again bring two teams to both the Region VI and national competitions.

“The next goal is to continue to bring home the Region VI Grand Championship title,” he said. “And then of course our sights will be set on bringing home two national championship titles the next season!” ■



A member of the DC3 cheer team, Zebastian “Zbass” Mata, sophomore, Dodge City, holds up the national championship trophy upon the team’s return from Daytona Beach, Fla., on April 10.

LANINI SCHECK

DC3 Cheer Competes at Nationals in Two Divisions

by Mike Smith

The Dodge City Community College (DC3) cheer squad traveled to Daytona Beach, Fla., for the National Cheerleaders Association (NCA) Cheer National Championship, on April 6-7. And for the first time, the Conquistadors brought two teams to the national championships.

The Conqs took to the mat in the Advanced Small Coed Junior College competition once again, as they have in years past, and this year also competed in the Intermediate Small Coed Junior College division.

The intermediate group claimed the National Championship in the division competing against three other junior colleges. Day One of the competition saw the Conqs post a performance score of 92.8889 to sit in first, and then they capped the competition with a 95.0903 performance score on Day Two.

The advanced group competed against four other schools in their division, and they finished in third place. On Day One of the competition, the Conqs posted a performance score of 94.5741, and then they followed that up with a 95.06 on Day Two.

The Conqs capped the year in strong fashion competing at the NCA Cheer National Championship in Daytona Beach once again. ■



Pictured, left to right (front row), are DJ Jones, sophomore, Chicago, Ill.; Janan Davis, freshman, Montreal, Quebec, Canada; Shawn Warrior, sophomore, Wichita, Kan.; Brandon Williams, freshman, Lauderhill, Fla.; Jason Edwards, sophomore, Lawrenceville, Ga.; Chris Robinson, sophomore, Brooklyn, N.Y.; Quincey Kidd, freshman, Topeka, Kan.; Dawson Taylor, freshman, Dodge City; (back row) Brennan Brumbaugh, freshman, Goodland, Kan.; Darren Tuck II, freshman, Piscataway, N.J.; Jayshon Jones, freshman, Shelbyville, Tenn.; Albert Diarra, freshman, Bamako, Mali; Tuscan Onuoha, freshman, Sydney, Australia; Ezekiel Joseph-Mullings, freshman, Toronto, Ontario, Canada; Cam Malray, sophomore, Kansas City, Mo.; Jacobi Sebeck, freshman, Midwest City, Okla.; and Avnoor Bhullar, freshman, Surrey, British Columbia, Canada.

Men's Basketball Team Makes Second Straight Elite Eight Appearance

by Mike Smith

For the second straight year, the Dodge City Community College (DC3) men's basketball program earned a spot in the Elite Eight of the National Junior College Athletic Association (NJCAA) Division I National Tournament, at Hutchinson, Kan. The Conqs finished their season there, on March 23, falling 75-69 to Tallahassee Community College.

The Conquistadors cap the season with a 25-10 record making the national tournament for the second straight year and 11th time in school history, while repeating as the Kansas Jayhawk Community College Conference (KJCCC) champs.

The Conqs jumped on top early scoring the first five points of the game, and over the first nearly eight minutes, they would

outscore Tallahassee 22-9 to hold a sizable lead. It was a 12-2 run over three minutes that propelled the Conqs to the 22-9 lead with 12:09 remaining in the first half. Tallahassee countered with a 9-0 run to cut the lead to four points with 7:45 left in the first half.

The Conqs would continually fend off Tallahassee and push the lead back to as high as nine before carrying a 37-33 lead into halftime. The contest would remain tight throughout the second half with the Conqs holding the lead until 7:32 remaining in the game when Tallahassee took their first lead at 57-56.

It would remain tight down the stretch, but Tallahassee would maintain the advantage down the final stretch, and the Conqs fell 75-69.

In the loss, the Conqs shot 35.9%, while Tallahassee shot 44.1% (including over 50% in the second half).

Leading the way for the Conqs was **Jason Edwards** who finished with 19 points and five rebounds, while **DJ Jones** added 14 points and four assists. **Chris Robinson** added 13 points and four assists, while **Cam Malray** finished with nine points and 11 rebounds. **Jacobi Sebeck** chipped in eight points and 10 rebounds.

Year One under Head Coach **Brad Witherspoon** was a strong one as the Conqs finished 25-10 on the season claiming the KJCCC title and earning a trip to the national tournament—both for the second straight year—and making the Elite Eight. ■

Women's Basketball Team Advances to Nationals in Historic Season

by Mike Smith

The Dodge City Community College (DC3) women's basketball team capped their season on March 22, falling 48-38 to New Mexico Junior College, in the first round of the National Junior College Athletic Association (NJCAA) Division I National Tournament, at Lubbock, Texas.

With this loss, the Conquistadors finish the season 29-4. Accomplishing several things during the season, they earned a trip to the national tournament for the first time in school history, won the Kansas Jayhawk Community College Conference (KJCCC) title for the first time since 1987-88, broke the school record for total wins and KJCCC wins in a single season, and had the longest winning streak in school history at 22-straight games.

It was a sluggish start to the game

and both teams would struggle to shoot throughout the contest. After taking an early 3-2 lead, the Conqs saw New Mexico snare the lead and hold a 10-5 advantage at the end of the first quarter.

After cutting the deficit to one in the second quarter, New Mexico would mount a late 6-0 run in the first half, and ultimately the Thunderbirds would take a 21-17 lead into halftime.

The start of the second half saw the best stretch of offense for the Conqs as they went on a 7-0 run over the first four-plus minutes to grab a 24-21 lead. But New Mexico would throw a counter punch with a run and would finish the third quarter outscoring the Conqs 13-4 to lead 34-28. The lead sneaked up to double figures in the fourth quarter, and the Conqs were

unable to make a run falling 48-38 to end their season in the first round of the NJCAA DI National Tournament.

The Conqs shot just 30.2% from the floor and only 4-24 from three-point range with 19 turnovers, while the Conqs' defense did keep New Mexico in check as they shot just 28.6% and 2-13 from three-point range.

In the loss, **Leah Mafua** finished with 10 points on 4-8 shooting with six rebounds, while **Jada Burton** finished with eight points, 10 rebounds, and three assists. **Bree Stephens** chipped in eight points and four rebounds.

Year Two under Head Coach, **Landon Steele** finished with the Conqs finishing 29-4 on their historic season with records in wins, a KJCCC title, and a first-ever national tournament appearance. ■



Pictured, left to right (front row), are Alyssa Rodriguez, freshman, El Paso, Texas; Blanche Mampuya, sophomore, Stockholm, Sweden; Kianna Lemons, sophomore, Colorado Springs, Colo.; Paris Santacaterina, freshman, Mackay, Australia; Jenna Rose Mafua, sophomore, Wellington, New Zealand; Jada Burton, sophomore, Spartanburg, S.C.; (back row) Leah Mafua, sophomore, Wellington, New Zealand; Shakara Anderson, sophomore, Roanoke, Va.; Hanna Miller, freshman, Aberdeen, S.D.; Georgia Gray, sophomore, Melbourne, Australia; Bree Stephens, sophomore, Townsville, Australia; Aujanae Latimer, sophomore, Colorado Springs, Colo.; and Mariyah Green, manager, sophomore, Chicago, Ill.



An artist's rendition of the new DC3 student-athlete weight room, looking west.



The future weight room, looking east.



Landon Steele

Brad Witherspoon

Both Basketball Coaches Named 'Coach of the Year'

by Lance Ziesch

On March 16, both Conquistador head basketball coaches were named Kansas Jayhawk Community College Conference (KJCCC) Division I Coach of the Year.

Women's Head Coach, **Landon Steele**, in his second season, and Men's Head Coach, **Brad Witherspoon**, in his first season, made DC3 school history by both receiving the Coach of the Year honor in the same basketball season.

"Winning this award is a reflection of our players and what a great job they did on the court this year," Steele said. "Better players make better coaches, and without them I don't receive this honor. The Coach of the Year honor is an award that is voted on by the coaches within the Jayhawk Conference. It feels good to know they thought enough of me and our program to vote for me."

Regarding the women's historic season, Steele said he thinks this year's team was "very special."

"We never set a goal of 'we need to win X amount of games' or 'make the national tournament.' My goal personally was to maximize the potential of this group. I believe we got really close to it. Moving into next year, the bar has been raised."

Steele said the women's roster will look a lot different next year, since only a few of the players will be returning.

"But, that is the nature of junior college basketball," he said. "The goal is to recruit the best people we can, maximize their potential on the court, and help them get to the next level."

For Witherspoon, the Coach of the Year also "means a lot." "I grew up in Kansas wanting to coach in this league," he said. "And for me to win this honor in Year One is a huge deal."

Looking forward to next season, Witherspoon said the goals for the men's team will remain the same: to win the KJCCC, to make the National Tournament, and to win games while they are there.

"We are currently trying to find a whole new team," he said.

In addition to their KJCCC honors, on April 12, both Steele and Witherspoon were named Two-Year College Coach of the Year from the Kansas Basketball Coaches Association (KBCA), in the women's and men's divisions, respectively. ■

Purple with Purpose

DC3 Continues Fundraising Campaign

by Lance Ziesch

In the past two years, Dodge City Community College (DC3) has made numerous improvements to its critical structures across campus such as new sidewalks, mezzanines, sound systems, directional signage, interior building renovations, and landscaping. And now the college is working to complete its Purple with Purpose fundraising campaign to create a new weight room for its student-athletes.

According to Christina Haselhorst, DC3 Director of Foundation and Community Relations, this new weight room will be built within the

existing Athletics building. And this new facility will not only help improve recruitment, but it will also help increase enrollment.

"While the 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," she said. "An updated weight room will be relocated within the Athletics building, near the original gymnasium, to a larger space to better accommodate all athletic programs."

After its relocation and transformation, the new weight room will be an up-to-date space for all of DC3's athletic teams, and it will feature cutting-edge training equipment that is comparable to other Kansas community colleges.

"The current equipment and space do not even match the caliber of some area high schools," Haselhorst said. "Without successfully obtaining these long-overdue improvements, DC3 will continue to lack the equipment to expand our offerings for fitness, exercise, and healthy

living activities for our student-athletes."

Not only will this new project elevate the visibility of DC3's athletic programs, Haselhorst said it also will put the college in a better position to provide the programs and activities expected of an academic institution of its size.

"When the Purple with Purpose campaign succeeds, everybody wins: students, college, and community," she said. "Our goal is to raise more than \$900,000 to complete this project by next summer."

Haselhorst said that not only do student-athletes benefit

from the enhanced physical fitness and emotional support of teammates, coaches, and mentors, they also learn accountability, self-discipline, and leadership. In turn, they tend to instill a sense of pride in the greater community and serve as a rallying point for school spirit.

"Our student-athletes are community members and are an integral part of Dodge City and Ford County, whether they are from the area or from around the world," she said. "They give back to the local community by volunteering their time in classrooms, helping with community clean-up projects, moving furniture for local entities, volunteering during Dodge City Days, and much more. They also help generate tourism dollars when their families come to visit. And their athletic events generate funds within the local economy when visiting teams utilize hotels and restaurants."

For those interested in contributing to the Purple with Purpose campaign, Haselhorst said the state of Kansas is currently offering taxpayers a 60% tax credit through House Bill 2239 for those who want to contribute to community college campaigns. With the program, 40% of their donations can then be deducted as charitable contributions on federal taxes.

"If you are interested in the tax credit, I urge you to please discuss this option with your tax professional," she said. "For example, a \$100,000 contribution to DC3 will result

in a \$60,000 state tax credit on your state tax bill. For some, this can be incredibly beneficial for their financial plans."

Haselhorst said the tax credit option is available on a first-come, first-served basis, and the maximum tax credit per taxpayer per year is \$250,000, which is about a \$416,000 total donation. Of course, contributions can always be made as federally tax-deductible donations to the DC3 Foundation, which is an IRS recognized 501c3 charitable organization.

"This weight room project is long overdue," she said. "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 outlets for creativity, fitness, self-discipline, healthy activities, community opportunities, and general well-being for DC3 students."

For more information about joining the Purple with Purpose campaign, please contact Christina Haselhorst at (620) 225-9542 or at foundation@dc3.edu.

"Providing a welcoming space for our student-athletes only enhances the experiences they have within the community of Dodge City," Haselhorst said. "It also yields a higher satisfaction and a greater likelihood of them returning to Dodge City to work and to live or to give back to the college and community in the future." ■



DC3 student-athlete, Brayden Bergkamp, a freshman from Jetmore, Kan., qualified for nationals in the high jump, in spite of never competing in the event before.

The Brayden Bergkamp Story

by Gary Van Cleave

The Brayden Bergkamp Story is unfolding at Dodge City Community College (DC3). It features a freshman student-athlete who began running hurdles for the Conqs, and then he later qualified for nationals in the high jump—in spite of never competing in the event beforehand.

Bergkamp, a May 2022 graduate from Hodgeman County High School, excelled in football, basketball and track. He was first team All-League his senior year and was selected to play in the Kansas Eight-Man All-Star Game at Beloit. He also notched honorable mention All-State on defense.

In basketball, he displayed a talent at rebounding. Twice he was named Team Rebounder of the Year, and he helped his team reach the sub-state finals as a junior.

Then there was track and Bergkamp's love for running hurdles. Last May he qualified for State Outdoor at Wichita's Cessna Stadium. He finished seventh in the 110-meter hurdles.

"I started hurdles in junior high and have always enjoyed them," Bergkamp said.

"Going into high school I had a rough few years, which is why I didn't have any other schools looking at me. I had my COVID-19 year my sophomore year, which canceled track that year. Then my junior year before running in any meets, I tore my sartorius tendon in practice, which put me out my entire junior year.

"Going into my senior year, it was supposed to be my 'breakout year,' but during my first meet of the year, I fell in the 300 hurdles and broke my elbow. Thankfully, I was able to come back and run the last two meets before I qualified for state in the 110 hurdles. At state, I qualified for finals for the first day, but during the finals I didn't run the best race, and I ended up placing seventh in state."

So, when the time came, DC3 was the only school that believed in him enough to offer him a scholarship.

"It is a funny story for DC3," he said. "So, the reason I had an offer from them was because of my DC3 coach's niece. I had mentioned to her that I may go to Dodge just for school, but she mentioned me to

the coach (her uncle), and it wasn't but a week later that Coach Ballard called me and wanted me to take a visit. With track being the main reason for coming here, there were a lot of other pluses, like it is definitely an affordable college, but also, I live close enough that I am able to stay at my own house and not live in the dorms."

However, Bergkamp said fall practice at DC3 was definitely one of the hardest things he has done.

"With the intense practices, and then immediately going to the weight room, it was a challenge," he noted. "But Coach Ballard said at the very beginning that if we buy into his program and give all our effort that we would get better. I will be the first one to admit that I definitely improved in my speed, and now, my jumping ability."

But on Jan. 19, everything changed for Bergkamp. And for the better.

"Our practices are set up where the jumpers will have practice before all of the sprinters and other groups," Bergkamp said. "That day I came to practice a little early, as I usually do, and the high jumpers

were still practicing. And I just asked them if I could try jumping over it. I was still in my sweats and sweatshirt, and I jumped over 5-11.

"Coach Ballard was over at the long jump pits and he happened to see it, and he threw his hands up and said, 'Why haven't you been coming to high jump practice?' Coach wasn't actually going to put me in the HJ in the first meet, and I told him to let me just go out and compete."

Consequently, after Jan. 19, Bergkamp's practice schedule included two events: hurdles *and* high jump.

"So, at the moment, with me only doing HJ recently, my form isn't the greatest and it needs some work," he said. "Coach and I came to a decision that we wouldn't try to fix my entire form and just let me practice once or twice a week and go out each weekend to compete. I am practicing hurdles full time like I normally would."

On Jan. 21, Bergkamp awoke in Maryville, Mo., not knowing what was about to happen at the Northwest Open.

"The day I jumped 6-7½, I was definitely intimidated," Bergkamp said. "With it being my very first collegiate indoor meet and being in such a nice facility, I had a lot of thoughts going on in my head.

"I was also very intimidated when I saw all the other guys who were doing high jump, they were all taller than me by 4 to 5 inches, and they were jumping over the warm-up bar like it was nothing. I think what really helped me that day was my teammate Sam McCloud who was jumping with me. We both went in with a relaxed mindset, and we were just going to have fun and enjoy the experience."

The Conquistador tracksters opened the indoor portion of their schedule at Northwest Missouri State on Jan. 21. In his very first attempt in actual competition, Bergkamp cleared 5-11.

"I was definitely glad that I got over the opening height, but after that I knew that I was going to be able to go higher," he said.

And he did, to an insane degree.

"With every height I attempted up to 6-7.50, I cleared it on my first attempt, and after 6-7.50, I attempted 6-9," Bergkamp said. "But before I attempted that height, I had to run the 60-meter hurdles, after which I went back to attempt the height. And I was definitely tired, and I wasn't able to clear it."

Of course, that didn't matter as much as what he had accomplished with 6-7½.

"This was the height I needed to qualify for nationals, so once I got to my mark, I really didn't think about anything," he said. "I kept my mindset relaxed and I just went



LARIN SCHECK

Brayden Bergkamp pauses for a photo during a track and field practice on April 21.

and jumped as high as I could."

And with that jump, a guy from Jetmore, Kan., qualified for nationals in an event he had never previously competed in.

"I'm not sure I can even describe the feeling when I cleared it," Bergkamp said. "When I went over, I knew I had barely hit that bar, and when I hit the mat I flipped my head around to see if it fell, and it was still sitting on the stand."

"I rolled off the mat and celebrated with my teammates. The celebration didn't last long though as Coach Ballard came over to me and congratulated me. He was insanelly impressed," Bergkamp said. "He then told me that I needed to calm down and relax, because I needed to get down to the starting line for the 60-meter hurdles."

And then Ballard told him, "That may be the craziest thing I have seen in my 17 years of coaching."

Over the past few months, Bergkamp said he has learned three things about himself.

"The first one is obvious: I can jump pretty high," he said. "Secondly, I have a lot more work to do if I want to have the

chance to go to a D1 school. Lastly, I have incredible support from everyone around me. Even when I have a bad race or jump, they are all there to still congratulate me."

And he has some simple, yet powerful, advice for any kids who might want to follow in his footsteps.

"The message I would like to share with young people is exactly what my dad told me since I was a little kid: If you are disciplined and work hard, you are going to beat three-fourths of the people in this world, and you'll accomplish whatever you set your mind to."

And with that, he added, "Also, to put all your faith into God, as He is the only one who will guide you to your life's ultimate goal." ■

Editor's Note: An earlier version of this story appeared in the Dodge City Globe newspaper on Feb. 7, 2023.

Brayden Bergkamp competed at the National Junior College Athletic Association (NJCAA) Indoor Track & Field National Championships, in Topeka, on March 3, where he placed 11th in the high jump with a leap of 6-04.25 (or 1.94 meters).

SOPRANO ALTO
TENOR BASS

Praise our Al - ma - ma - ter, Raise your voi - ces high. You we will al - ways cher - ish

7
S. A. mem - ries ne - ver die. Keep our spi - rit ev - er true to all we love. Know our faith will al - ways
T. B.

13
S. A. shine like stars a - bove. Hail, Dodge Ci - ty Com - mu - ni - ty Col - lege. Hail the pur - ple and gold.
T. B.

COLLEGE ARCHIVES

From the Director's Desk



Community. The Merriam-Webster Dictionary defines community as a unified body of individuals: such as people with common interests living in a particular area; a group of people with a common characteristic or interest living together within a larger society; and an interacting population of various kinds of individuals in a common location.

If you asked my grandparents, or even my parents, what the word community meant to them, they would immediately reference their hometown. However, the 21st Century notion of “community” has changed. Bill Bishop, author, stated, “It used to be that people were born as part of a community, and had to find their place as individuals. Now people are born as individuals, and have to find their community.”

Dodge City is an incredibly diverse community. People from all over the world come to this part of Kansas to live, to work, to visit, and to be educated. Does this make them visitors only simply because they were not born here? Of course not. Yet, sometimes we find ourselves considering “outsiders” as visitors, and not as members of our “community.”

As our world expands through technology, we see more and more people traveling elsewhere to establish their own sense of community. Our communities are expanded beyond the people who we meet while walking down the street. In essence, WE ALL are community. Community is not only the people, places, and experiences that we have in common. It is also the gaps between and within those commonalities. It is important to see those who are the same as us, and those who are different, as all being part of the community. This is what makes community so complex. Community is connection in its truest form.

College students may only be here at Dodge City Community College (DC3) for a year or two, but they are most definitely part of the greater area community. They live here, they work here, they participate in local activities, they contribute economically through shopping, restaurants, and gas for their cars, and some even stay here to work after graduation. Many of our DC3 students volunteer throughout the area community, becoming active members of the communities and creating a positive societal impact. This helps students get experiences within their areas of interest, meet people in a professional field, helps them practice teamwork, problem-solving, practicing communication and organizational skills, and in some cases, job training. I have lost count how many email inquiries and phone calls I have received over the years from community members looking for student volunteers for various projects. Would those phone calls and email requests be directed at the guests who visit Dodge City and are true visitors only for a day or two?

Dodge City COMMUNITY College does not just mean the campus is a few acres of visitors. This college is a home away from home, and a place of refuge, for many students. The diverse area community is changing all of the time and these students are a part of that change. What an exciting time to be a Conquistador!

Within the pages of this magazine, you will see over and over again evidence of the reason I consider each and every student at DC3 to be a member of this community. Watching these students become involved in the area community when they arrive brings me joy. I see them giving back to area organizations consistently and often. I am proud that they are all a part of this community we all live in. We are Dodge City. We are Ford County. We are Southwest Kansas. We are Dodge City Community College. #TogetherWeConquer

Christina Haselhorst
Director of Foundation & Community Relations

“Hail the Purple and Gold” The Story Behind the DC3 Alma Mater

by Lance Ziesch

The DC3 alma mater—“Hail the Purple and Gold”—was written by student Bradley Deck in 1953, as an assignment for a harmony music class taught by Vernon Zollars.

According to the Conquistador student newspaper on May 22, 1956—after Zollars had collected several years’ worth of alma mater material from his students—a contest was organized in 1956 to select an official college song from amongst the many submissions.

At this special assembly, the newspaper reports that the top three songs in the contest were performed by the college chorus, and following these performances, the students were asked to vote.

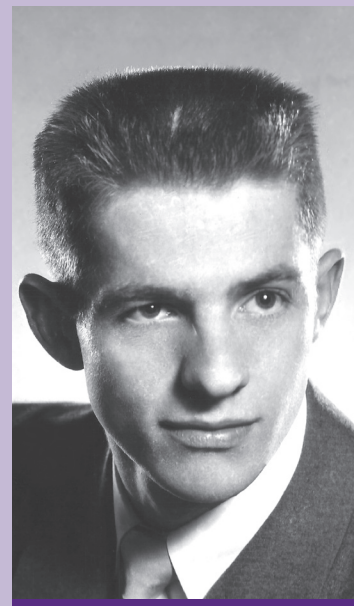
“Hail the Purple and the Gold,” a school song with words and music written by Bradley Deck, former Dodge City College student, was selected as the Alma Mater song of the college by popular vote of the students at a special assembly, Friday, April 27.”

Over the years, only two major changes have been made to the alma mater’s words, with the first being the elimination of the second “the” in the song’s title and lyrics.

Originally, Deck titled his composition, “Hail the Purple and *the* Gold,” which also was the last line of the song. However, this second “the” was eliminated in both instances, most likely, to make the song easier to sing.

And the second change was the addition of “Community” to the song’s lyrics, which happened sometime after 1969, when the college officially changed its name to Dodge City Community College.

In order to accommodate this change in Deck’s original composition, the words “O Hail” were replaced with “Community.” So, the original second-to-last line, “Hail, O Hail, Dodge City College,” became what it is today, “Hail, Dodge City Community College.” ■



Bradley Deck

COLLEGE ARCHIVES



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Gardens, Auctions, and Golf! Oh My!

by Christina Haselhorst

Fundraising events are always wonderful ways for the Dodge City Community College (DC3) Foundation to connect with supporters and businesses across the community.

These events allow donors and community members to actively engage with the Foundation, providing an enjoyable experience for everyone.

This year, the Foundation has hosted and has scheduled several opportunities for donors, supporters, businesses, and community members alike, to join in the fun, fellowship, and fundraising for DC3.

DC3 Rodeo Auction

The year began with the DC3 Rodeo Auction on Feb. 4. This was the first event of its kind for the Foundation, and it was a success.

Hosted at Boot Hill Museum, the auction attracted a moderate crowd who helped the Foundation and the college to successfully raise funds for

the DC3 Rodeo program. As a result of this fundraising, the rodeo program has been able to utilize the badly needed funds for supplies for both students and livestock alike.



Books, Bottles, and Buzz

April 22 saw the return of the DC3 Foundation wine and cheese fundraiser. Simply a social gathering, this low-key event featured music from the DC3 Jazz Ensembles as well as local music celebrities, John and Connie Chavez (saxophone and vocal jazz).

The event was hosted by the DC3 Library staff with the assistance of the DC3 Foundation.

Funds were raised for the installation of a pollinator garden on the main campus.

The garden, once constructed, will be open to the community as well as to faculty and students of the college.

Coined, "Books, Bottles, and Buzz," the event was designed to raise funds for the pollinator garden—and to also showcase the new affiliate designation of "Bee Campus USA."

This designation is designed to marshal the strengths of educational campuses for the benefit of pollinators. DC3 joins many other cities and campuses across the nation united in improving their landscapes for pollinators.

The project provides an opportunity for curriculum additions for faculty and for service-learning. Bee Campus USA is an initiative of the Xerces Society for Invertebrate Conservation, which is a nonprofit organization based in Portland, Ore.

Foundation Golf Tournament

The 13th annual golf tournament is scheduled for

Aug. 18, at Mariah Hills Golf Course in Dodge City. Always a wonderfully fun event, last year's tournament yielded the largest number of participants in the tournament's history.

"Our goal for 2023's tournament is to meet or exceed participation from area community," Christina Haselhorst, DC3 Director of Foundation and Community Relations, said. "This event is a wonderful way for all of us to get together, get some sunshine, and have a ton of fun on a Friday!"

Foundation Gala & Auction

The DC3 Foundation Gala & Auction is tentatively scheduled for fall 2023. This event is the largest fundraising event for the Foundation each year, yielding \$50,000 to \$100,000 of funds for DC3 scholarships and for the Foundation, meeting the mission of assisting the college and assisting students with their educational needs.

- CONTINUED



DODGE CITY COMMUNITY COLLEGE AUTOMOTIVE TECHNOLOGY

EXPANDING WORK-BASED LEARNING KEEPING INDUSTRY MOVING



Donations needed for facility and program upgrades, including state-of-the-art equipment.*

Tax credit information and links to donate can be found at:
<https://dc3.edu/foundation-alumni/campaigns/>

CONTACT US
620-225-9542
www.dc3.edu
foundation@dc3.edu
2501 N. 14th Ave., Dodge City, KS 67801

*State of Kansas tax credits available for 2023 donations!

GARDENS CONTINUED -

“The auction has grown substantially from the years prior to 2016,” Haselhorst said. “It is important to continue to grow the event larger each year. If everyone comes together to make this a successful goal, more and more students each year will be helped by scholarships for years and years to come.”

A matching grant program participated in the auction proceeds last year, providing future monies for the Foundation’s and college’s goals for students and programs.

“Because of this matching grant and funds raised by events throughout the last two years, the Foundation has been able to contribute more than \$200,000 to an investment program, Haselhorst said. “These unrestricted funds will be available to the Foundation upon their maturity. There are two more years of this matching grant program, and the Foundation is dedicated to working toward contributing the maximum amount possible.”

Haselhorst said she is very grateful to every single sponsor, donor, volunteer, and participant who helped make the goal such a success.

“While contributing to immediate needs is extremely important, it is only responsible to also plan for the successful future of the DC3 Foundation and the college itself,” she said.

Purple with Purpose

And, finally, the Purple with Purpose campaign, while not an event fundraiser, is continuing its efforts to raise funds for the new weight room project and the new and improved automotive program.

State of Kansas tax credits (60%) are available for both projects through 2026. Several donors have taken advantage of this tax credit so far, and the Foundation is encouraging others to do the same.

“I am proud of the fantastic growth of the DC3 Foundation over the past six years,” Haselhorst said. “Without the enthusiastic support of each donor, sponsor, and attendee, it would not be possible.” ■

Building a Legacy, Strengthening a Community

by Christina Haselhorst

These generous donors gave to the Dodge City Community College (DC3) Foundation from Nov. 3, 2022, to April 17, 2023. Totaling more than \$472,000 over that time period, including donations for scholarships, projects, the Foundation general fund, the Purple with Purpose Campaign, sponsorships, 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! ■

13TH ANNUAL CONQS GOLF TOURNAMENT August 18, 2023

REGISTER NOW: www.fundraiser.support/DC3Golf

- 8AM REGISTRATION
- COFFEE & DONUTS IN THE MORNING
- 9AM START
- \$100 PER PERSON/\$400 PER TEAM
- 4-PERSON SCRAMBLE - 18 HOLES
- PRIZES - GIVEAWAYS
- LUNCH SPONSORED BY UNITED CAPITAL MANAGEMENT

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Mariah Hills Golf Course, Dodge City, KS

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| AmazonSmile | General Federation of Women's Clubs of Kansas | Lewis Mize |
| Applebee's | Lorna Ford | Next Step Cheer |
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| M. Jay Brown | Eric & Christina Haselhorst | Dr. Jodi Rust |
| Douglas Buxbaum | Daryl & Carla Henton | Jacob Sander |
| Richard & Lynda Caughron | Dr. Jane Holwerda | Francis & Emma Sanko Calhoun Trust |
| Central Station Bar & Grill | Wes Hughes | Dr. Mary Scott |
| Jeff Cermin | Greg & Linda Goff | Virgil & Diane Scott |
| Paul & Marsha Chaffee | Dr. Christy Johansen | Patrick Shiew |
| Dodge City Motors, Inc. | Kathleen Keller | Don Skinner Fund |
| Jeffrey Cole | Lacie Killian | Fidelity State Bank & Trust |
| Cowboy Dentist Farms, LLC | Dr. Jay Kinzer | Frank Sumaya |
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| | Jim & Kathy Maag | Gary & Jackie Witherspoon |
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| | Lana McDonnell | Lance Ziesch |
| | Midland College | |

PURPLE WITH PURPOSE



Leave Your Legacy

Dodge City Community College athletes are an asset to the area community they live in as students through volunteerism, sports tourism dollars, future giving, and employment. Help us give back to them by donating to update the campus weight room!

Details

- ✔ Tax credits
- ✔ Increase recruiting
- ✔ Double sq. ft.
- ✔ Modernize campus
- ✔ New equipment
- ✔ Future expansion

Chris Haselhorst

DC3 Foundation
foundation@dc3.edu



www.dc3.edu
#TogetherWeCONQuer



Class Notes

Dorothy (Stramel) Gabel



1956-1957

Dorothy (Stramel) Gabel, who attended Dodge City College during the 1956-57 school year, was a Conq cheerleader and also was involved with the College Chorus, Pep Band and Conq-Ettes girls' pep club.

The daughter of Andrew and Arlie Stramel,

Dorothy married her husband Marvin on June 17, 1957. (He passed away on Nov. 12, 2004.)

During their lives, Marvin and Dorothy ran two grocery stores. The first was in Ensign and was called the Ensign Market. And later they had a store in Fowler called the Fowler Food Market.

Today, Gabel lives in Dodge City at Manor of the Plains. She loves to quilt, and she has made more than 50 quilts to date. She also crochets hats, flowers, blankets, and clowns.

In addition to her sewing projects, Gabel enjoys spending time with her five children, 17 grandchildren, and five great-grandchildren. And she is particularly proud of the fact that her grandson, Jared Stevens, currently works at DC3 as the Director of Facilities and Operations.

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!

BELOW: Fall 1956 cheerleaders for Dodge City College included (left to right) Monty Archer, freshman, Larned; Eleanor Schrader, sophomore, Dodge City; Bob Riegel, sophomore, Ford; Dorothy Stramel, freshman, Dodge City; and Marlene Lix, freshman, Dodge City.

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.





DODGE CITY
COMMUNITY COLLEGE

Dodge City Community College
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www.dc3.edu

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Just One More



Defying Gravity

Jacobi Sebock, freshman, Midwest City, Okla., goes in for a dunk on March 20, during the first round of the National Junior College Athletic Association (NJCAA) Division I National Championship tournament. The Conqs would triumph over Meridian Community College 83-63.