

Admissions Events Build Momentum

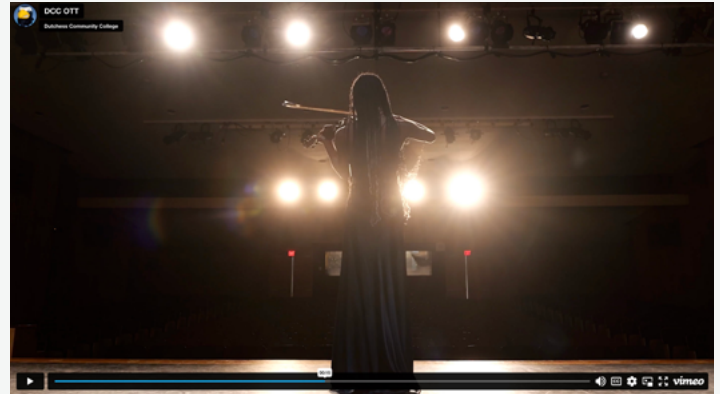
New admissions and marketing tactics have garnered promising results – with both the Aviation and Fall open houses drawing impressive turnouts.

Three hundred guests, including 110 prospective students, attended October's Aviation Open House at Hudson Valley Regional Airport.

For the first time, our Fall Open House was held on a Saturday to better accommodate invitees, and the decision paid off. Attendance doubled from last year, with more than 532 total participants, including 204 prospective students.

To support admissions efforts, the Office of Marketing and Communications also spearheaded some new ideas. For the first time, the College introduced a commercial on streaming TV resulting in 120,000 impressions reaching households with school-age children. Check it out [here](#).

The department also added a spot on New York radio station Z100 FM to its usual lineup of social media and local radio ads to attract interest from New York City and surrounding suburbs for our aviation programs. This, in addition to Admissions visits to many high schools and college fairs, helped generate enthusiasm.



On November 11, students and their families seized the opportunity to explore the many wonderful facets of DCC, getting the lay of the land and a taste of student life with a self-guided tour of the main campus.

The open format of the Fall Open House allowed attendees to see where their departments were located, talk to their future professors and connect to resources and student activities. Student Financial Services also offered workshops on the hour, which demystified the financial aid and scholarship application processes. Rounding out the day, 20 students and their families made their way to the airport to tour the facilities and meet with aviation program faculty.

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Associate Dean of Student Services Mike Roe shared early post-event survey results indicating that students and their families enjoyed the event and were impressed with the friendliness of DCC students and employees.

“Both of these Open House events have provided DCC with the chance to show the public all of our

wonderful educational opportunities,” said Roe. “The Admissions Office can’t do these without the support of the campus community, and we greatly appreciate everyone who played a role in the success of these events.”

Women’s Volleyball Makes Nationals

Students, faculty and staff gathered in Washington Circle on November 7 to wish our Falcons well as they embarked on a trip to Cedar Rapids, Iowa, to compete in the 2023 NJCAA Division III Championship. The team finished the season tied for 13th place in the nation.

“We went into nationals against the team that would wind up winning the national championship with an undefeated season,” said Head Women’s Volleyball Coach Frank Sanfillipo, “It was a very difficult task, and although it did not go the way we would have liked, it was an amazing experience for me and the team. We are grateful for the opportunity that we have been given and look forward to what DCC volleyball has to offer in the coming years.”

Individual players earned awards for their success in the 2023 season. Lauren Siegel was named to the All-Region first team and All-Tournament team, Region XV. Grace Ferretti was named to the All-Region second team and



All-Tournament team. Maya-k Johnson received an All-Region honorable mention, and Franchelis Guzman was named Region XV defensive player of the year. Three players earned recognition in the **Mid-Hudson Conference** – with Siegel named MVP and both Ferretti and Johnson selected to the all-conference 1st team.

Director of Athletics Matt Paquet said, “It’s been a tremendous two seasons for women’s volleyball. To have the opportunity to attend national tournaments and represent DCC is a great honor for myself and our students.”

Help us Build DCC’s Digital Presence!

Need to update something on the website? Submit a web request at sunydutchess.edu/web-request.

Have a story or event to share? Past, present and future DCC stories and events – this is the material we need to engage our audience. Submit your ideas here: sunydutchess.edu/social.



Academic Discourse & Open Dialogue

Born In Gaza: Film Screening and Discussion

On November 16, the BHS Department hosted a screening and discussion of "Born in Gaza." The documentary follows 10 Palestinian children who speak about their daily lives in the aftermath of the 2014 Gaza war, focusing on the violence of the Israel-Palestine conflict.

After a portion of the film was shown, Professor of Behavioral Sciences Dr. Mehmet Kucukozer and Associate Professor of Psychology Dr. Kim Rybacki facilitated an open discussion highlighting social, political and psychological themes that emerged from the viewing.



Israel-Hamas: U.S. Interests and Diplomacy

On November 2, DCC hosted Bard Professor and Diplomat in Residence **Frederic Hof** who gave a talk titled "Israel-Hamas: U.S. Interests and Diplomacy" followed by a q-and-a. The event, held in the James and Betty Hall Theatre, was well-attended by students, faculty and staff.

Hof began his presentation by expressing his sympathy and condolences to anyone in the audience who lost family, friends or acquaintances in the current crisis, and stating his goal – to share his thoughts and receive feedback about American objectives and diplomacy concerning the Israel-Hamas war.

The talk was coordinated by Associate Professor of Government Karin Riedl and presented by the **World Affairs Council of the Mid-Hudson Valley**, an all-volunteer organization founded in 2003 as a forum for citizen education and participation in global issues.

Recent events in the Middle East can take an emotional toll on all of us, and discussion can feel stressful. As a reminder to faculty and staff, the Counseling Center is available to support DCC students. The knowledgeable, caring staff provide free in-person counseling, referrals and additional resources.

Counseling Services

Student Services Center, Room 303

Phone: (845) 431-8040

sunydutchess.edu/counseling



VIPs in Action: Ibis Guzmán



Ibis Guzmán is one of three DCC alumni currently serving on the Board of Trustees. As an Otomi born in Tetzhu, Hidalgo — a small village

115 miles from Mexico City — he is a proud first-generation immigrant. Guzmán aims to serve as a source of inspiration for young Spanish speakers, who are historically underrepresented in higher education, demonstrating by his example the possibilities available to them.

Guzmán says that growing up in Dallas, he never saw people who looked like him in positions of power, which limited his ability to see himself as anything other than a painter, gardener or other manual laborer. When he took a trip to San Antonio, he saw Hispanic people in suits for the first time, walking out of tall buildings. He didn't know what they did for a living, but that didn't matter. Just seeing them dressed in business attire ignited his imagination and broadened his ideas of what he could become.

Guzmán is now one of those men in suits himself. In addition to his professional role, assistant vice president and branch manager for the Bank of Millbrook, he serves as town justice for the Town of Pine Plains. He also volunteers with both the fire department and Lion's Club among many other responsibilities.

He credits DCC with helping him build the academic foundation that launched his educational and professional journey. "At DCC, it wasn't just about learning facts or dates, it was about learning to think for myself," said Guzmán. "I believe in this institution and what it's doing, and that's why I chose to serve on the Board."

Bring It On Sets the Stage for DEI

You would expect a musical about competitive cheerleading to be full of pep and enthusiasm. Authentic, diverse characters who celebrate one another's differences? Or a positive, laughter-inducing story exploring complex subjects like race, body image and sexuality? Maybe not. But that's exactly what the DCC Performing Arts Program and Masquer's Guild Theatre Club did under the direction of Theatre Adjunct AnnChris Warren.

The energetic production featured 'backbreaking feats of athleticism' and impressive dancing choreographed by Performing Arts alum Cedric James. The stellar arrangements and orchestrations were directed by Instructor of Music and Music Program Supervisor John Howell. The cast, a mix of first- and second-year DCC students from several different majors, was phenomenal.

Associate Dean of I & L: Pre-Collegiate Programs/Title III Project Director Dr. Rachel Mead, who attended the Saturday performance shared, "The actors represent our student body and illustrate that DCC provides a space for students to grow and develop, no matter their background. The play itself spoke to inclusion, tolerance and building friendship across differences – motifs that are especially important now, when it's less and less likely those with differing views and perspectives will come together reciprocally or harmoniously."

The musical, which debuted in 2011 and introduced Broadway's **first teenage transgender character**, outdid expectations and drew over 1,200 attendees across four shows on the weekend of November 9. Brava!



November is Native American Heritage Month



It's a fair assumption that we all know Poughkeepsie is the location of DCC's main campus. But, how many of us are familiar with how the town and city got their names? Native American Heritage Month is an invitation to delve deeper into the region's rich cultural, linguistic and historical past. Here's one little tidbit to whet your appetite for more knowledge:

In "Manhattan to Minisink: American Indian Place Names of Greater New York and Vicinity" scholar of Native American history in New York State and the northeast United States

Robert S. Grumet writes that the word Poughkeepsie roughly translates to "reed-covered bridge by the small water place." The Poughkeepsie Public Library also has a short origin story [here](#).

Below is a list of resources compiled by DCC Assistant Librarian Rich Kovarovic for those interested in learning more about Native American history:

- Hudson Valley magazine article: [Discover the Hudson Valley's Native American History](#)
- Dutchess Tourism article: [Interact With Indigenous Culture in Dutchess County](#)
- A map and guide of [Dutch and Native American Heritage in the Hudson Valley](#)
- Online library book: [To Live Upon Hope: Mohicans and Missionaries in the Eighteenth Century Northeast](#)
- [The Forge Project](#), a Native-led initiative located on the unceded homelands of the Muh-he-con-ne-ok in upstate New York
- History of [The Wappinger People](#) from the folks at Mount Gulian Historic Site in Beacon

You can also check out the growing collections of local, statewide and national resources at [The Ritz Library](#).

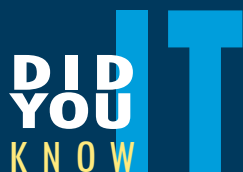
Get Cyber Secure

Research shows that more than 80% of cybersecurity incidents are caused by human error. But did you know that education is the fourth largest group hit with ransomware and other attacks? Did you know that DCC's IT team has mitigated over a thousand vulnerabilities/attack vectors in the past year?



With that in mind, on October 25, Infrastructure Systems Specialist Joseph Falcone and Senior Systems Architecture Administrator Michael Costakis from IT presented a campus forum about cybersecurity, including the hidden costs of ransomware and other cybercrime threats. They identified best practices for faculty and staff who handle other people's personal identifiable information (PII), and how to safeguard their own. In addition, on October 24 there was a booth in Drumlin for students to learn about the types of threats and offered resources to help combat identity theft, credit fraud and more.

Also, with this issue of DCC Connects, we are introducing [Did You Know IT](#) – a regular feature that will highlight computer tips and tricks that, well, you need to know!



You're working on your computer and you get an error. Wait! Before you close the window and enter a Helpdesk ticket, **take a screenshot**. It's easy and it will help IT better see your problem.

On Windows, use the following key combination (press all keys at the same time): **Windows Key + Shift + S**.

When you've done this, right-click and paste (or use **CTRL + V**) the screenshot into your Helpdesk ticket response or email.

On a Mac, press **Command + Shift + 4**, drag a window across what you want to capture, then insert the resulting screenshot document into your ticket response or email.

Can't email? Call the Help Desk at **x4357** or **(845) 431-8005**. If you get voicemail, please leave your contact information and a description of your troubles. All voicemails are automatically generated into tickets.

More Than Just a Drill

EMT Students Get Hands-on Practice

On November 9, DCC EMT students practiced their trauma assessment and treatment skills during a mini-drill that included multiple mock mass casualty incidents. In the morning simulation, a snowstorm-induced multiple car accident unfolded in parking lot D. The EMT class managed the chaotic scene, treating “patients” with injuries and cold-related conditions. The class then moved inside CBI, entering a scenario, which mimicked a heat emergency at a nursing home. The drill not only tested the students’ clinical skills but also their ability to adapt to environmental challenges, helping to prepare them for the dynamic nature of emergency medical situations.



EMS Connections Conference

DCC hosted the 14th annual EMS Connections Conference on Saturday, November 11. This joint conference between DCC EMS Programs and Mid-Hudson Regional Hospital provides first responders, EMTs and paramedics with up to-date information on medical and trauma emergencies. The conference drew over 100 attendees from Albany to New York City and included 17 professional development classes in addition to the Certified Instructor Update (CIU) course offered that evening.

Great Debates

On November 4, the DCC Speech and Debate Coalition competed in the 31st annual Jack Lynch Tournament, hosted by St. Anselm College. The team had an impressive showing. First-year debaters Andrew Check and Calvin Serpico made the semifinals in the Novice Individual Parliamentary Debate (IPDA), finishing in third and fourth place respectively, and first-year debater Shayna Kaiser narrowly missed breaking into the semifinals. The team also brought home speaker awards, with Kaiser finishing tenth and Serpico winning fourth-place honors. Check, who finished the tournament as the top-ranked speaker in the Novice IPDA Debate, is a graduate of John Jay High School where he was an active participant in the DCC/BOCES debate initiative, which has kickstarted and supported debate teams in high schools across Dutchess County.

Building on this momentum, the team finished third overall in the debate division at Bowling Green State University’s Falcon Classic tournament. Held over the weekend of November 17, the competition was fierce. The team faced two- and four-year schools, including Notre Dame, Marshall University and John Carroll University.



Campus Notes



A Wild and Untamed Thing

Each year at the end of October, the Dutchess Student Media Group (DSMG) hosts a Halloween dance followed by a live enactment of *The Rocky Horror Picture Show* – this year, they called the event *Monster Mash*. At 11 p.m. on October 27, **Apoca-Lips**, the Hudson Valley's premier shadow cast company, took the audience *on a strange journey*, bringing the action off the screen and into the cafeteria. The group, made up of former DCC students, has been leading the fan ritual here since 2000 and now offers a variety of quality performances, traveling throughout the tristate area to entertain.



Stomp Out the Stigma!

On November 2 and 9, the Counseling Center hosted *Stomp Out the Stigma!* on both the main campus and in Fishkill. The goal of the interactive event was to change perceptions and reduce the stigma associated with mental illness and substance abuse disorders. Students, faculty and staff were invited to participate in activities and engage in conversation around prioritizing mental health and wellness.



Om Away From Home

On World Kindness Day, November 13, DCC celebrated the official grand opening of our new Meditation Space in Hudson Hall, Room 222. Thanks to our Wellness Committee, Counseling Services team, library colleagues, facilities and administrative leadership, who made this amazing resource possible. If you haven't already done so, take a moment of zen, lie on a yoga mat and enjoy beautiful views – in complete peace and quiet!



A Bloomin' Good Cause

From December 1 to 31, the DCC Food Pantry will receive \$1 from every specially marked **Bloomin' 4 Good** bouquet sold at

Stop & Shop
59 Burnett Boulevard
Poughkeepsie, NY

So, if you need an excuse to buy yourself flowers, now you have it!

Campus Notes



Celebrating Recent Retirees

A reception was held on October 20 honoring former colleagues who retired between 2020 and 2023. Twenty retirees, joined by several current employees, attended a celebratory dessert reception held in the Ritz lounge.



Bank Tank Champions Local Entrepreneurs

DCC teamed up with KeyBank and [Seasoned Gives](#), a local nonprofit focused on entrepreneurship as a vehicle for social justice, to host Bank Tank on October 21. The competition – similar in structure to Shark Tank, the well-known reality show – gave participants the chance to pitch their business ideas to a panel of judges, who gave constructive feedback on their presentations. One of the judges was DCC Assistant Professor of Business Management Maureen Gittelman, and DCC students volunteered to help with the event. No, Mark Cuban and Mr. Wonderful did not attend.

“It was wonderful to see small business entrepreneurs present their vision and goals to a panel of judges, with diverse areas of expertise in business, for a chance to win \$10,000 to further their company’s growth,” said Bonnie Gallagher, associate dean for I&L, Learning Commons. “We are looking forward to future Bank Tank events at DCC.”

For further reading, check out [this article in River Reporter](#).



Transfer Fair Recap

The Academic, Career & Transfer (ACT) Center hosted 78 colleges and universities for the annual fall Transfer Fair on November 7 in Falcon Hall. Colleges and universities from 10 states representing 51 cities visited the fair to showcase their institutions to

DCC students. Over 164 DCC students and their families attended the event, and fees collected from the attending colleges raised over \$3,500 for the DCC Foundation’s Transfer Scholarship.

According to Coordinator of Transfer Services Dr. Janette McCoy McKay, college representatives indicated in a post-event survey that they were pleased by the turnout and impressed with DCC students and staff, highlighting our professional, welcoming and friendly staff. One rep wrote, “The kindness of the Dutchess team is always such a nice touch.”

Campus Notes



DCC Foundation's 51st Holiday Craft Fair

The DCC Foundation's annual craft fair is a Hudson Valley tradition, and a great way to kick off the holiday season while shopping local and supporting scholarships and other educational initiatives. The Foundation partnered with Quail Hollow, Q92 and Pepsi Cola of the Hudson Valley this year, and the event was a huge success. More than 3,000 visitors from near and far came in search of unique handmade gifts and confections. The event highlighted over 100 exhibitors in 10 media categories. The DCC Foundation would like to thank everyone who made this event possible.



Opening the Doors to Industry

The Mechatronics Lab team held an Industry Opening Meeting on November 1 at The Center of Excellence for Industry & Innovation in Fishkill. Approximately 40 guests attended from more than 20 companies, including OnSemiconductor, The Gap Distribution Center and all three regional utility companies (Con Edison, Central Hudson and NYSEG).

Assistant Professor of Electrical Technology Dan Barbuto reported that there was a great deal of excitement about the new lab during the tour. "I want middle and high school students to know what an electrical technician is and does," he said. "I want

those students to see the facility in person and have it make a lasting impression."

Mechatronics Programming Coordinator Freddy Santiago shared, "Cultivating a talented and technically advanced skilled workforce within our community ensures that DCC is committed to the growth and sustainability of automation and advanced manufacturing in the Mid-Hudson Valley region."

Director of Workforce Education & Development Paloma Krakower said, "We look forward to continued collaboration with industry in creating a talent pipeline and upskilling opportunities for their current workforce."



Mechatronics on WAMC

WAMC's Jesse King took an in-depth tour of the Mechatronics Lab and interviewed Director of Workforce Education & Development Paloma Krakower and Coordinator of Mechatronics Programming Freddy Santiago for a story that aired on WAMC's Midday Magazine and Northeast Report. The 5-minute radio spot covered the lab's cutting-edge technology, showcasing its role in training students for high-tech manufacturing careers.

Missed the broadcast? Listen to it [here](#).

Campus Notes



Kristallnacht Exhibit

On November 8, 2023, 85 years after the horrors of Kristallnacht, a multimedia installation of the same name opened in the Mildred I. Washington Gallery. The exhibition, brought to DCC by Gallery Director and Professor of Communication Media Dana Weidman, tells the fictional story of a Jewish woman and Nazi soldier who meet on The Night of Broken Glass.

The opening reception was followed by a concise historical overview by Professor of History and recipient of the Handel Foundation-Greenspan Trust Endowed Chair in Holocaust and Genocide Studies Dr. Werner Steger. A panel, featuring Dr. Steger, the artist Dean Goldberg and journalist Rosemary Armao followed. It was a nuanced conversation between experts, exploring connections between the provocative work, the current political situation in the U.S. and recent atrocities in the Middle East.

Head to the gallery to check it out, now through December 8.



Follow the Yellow Brick Road

This year's Fall Family Festival attracted the characters of Wizard of Oz, along with students, faculty and staff who brought family and friends to join in the fun! The weather may have shifted the celebration indoors, but the activities went on in full force. Pumpkin decorating, rock climbing, face painting, a preview performance from Bring It On, and so much more. It was one for the books.



Come Hear the Music Play!

Come hear the Performing, Visual Arts & Communications department, the Performing Arts program, and the DCC Academy of Music will be continuing their tradition of putting on great winter concerts next month. All will be in the James & Betty Hall Theatre and all are free and open to the public. On December 7, you can enjoy a performance by the DCC Jazz Ensemble at 7 p.m., followed by a double-billing on December 15, with recitals by performing arts students at 5 p.m. and a program featuring the DCC and Academy of Music Chorus & Mid-Hudson Community Orchestra at 7:30 p.m. See you there!

Campus Notes

New Hires – Welcome to DCC!

Maureen Callamari, part-time faculty,
Behavioral Sciences General

Craig Castrovinci, lab nursery school educator,
Early Childhood

Eric Chambers, professional tutor,
The Center for Academic Achievement

Laura Decker, Think Ahead program coach,
Accommodative Services

Heather Eberhart, professional tutor,
The Center for Academic Achievement

MaZoila Gallegos-Carrillo, housekeeper,
Housekeeping

Christian Griffin, teaching lab assistant

Riyahauna Headley, professional tutor,
The Center for Academic Achievement

Aidan Higgins, professional tutor,
The Center for Academic Achievement

Solita Moran-Frye, program assistant,
Aviation Maintenance Technology*

Brianne Reznicek, senior office assistant, Nursing

Orianna Santiago, library clerk, Library

* returned to DCC in August

Congratulations, Colleagues!

Matthew Daddona, acting chief of Campus Safety
and Security, Campus Safety and Security

Alexandra Vincent, director secondary and post-
secondary partnerships, Instruction & Learning



Celebrate the Season at the Annual Faculty & Staff Holiday Gathering

*'Twas the holiday season, and all through Ritz Lounge
Faculty and staff were gathered around;
Refreshments were set on the table with care,
The Brown Brothers' music filling the air.*

Thursday, December 14

1 – 3 p.m.

Ritz Lounge

Dutchess Hall