I am proud to present the 2012-2013 President’s Report on behalf of the students, faculty and staff of Dutchess Community College. The accomplishments, events and other activities highlighted on the following pages reflect the vibrant, collaborative and supportive learning environment for which DCC is widely recognized and highly regarded. Many of the names and faces featured in this publication likely will be familiar, whether you are connected to DCC in some way or because you live and/or work in Dutchess County.

Providing a quality, affordable education that opens doors to remarkable opportunities is at the core of everything we do at Dutchess Community College. Our mission is more important than ever, especially with President Barack Obama’s recent unveiling of a revamped education plan focused on the cost of higher learning. At the same time, the issue of crushing student loan debt also has been making headlines, as students and families grapple with meeting the escalating price of college.

I am proud that we as a community have — for more than 55 years — taken a lead in making a college education attainable. One of the most highly regarded community colleges in the State University of New York (SUNY) system, DCC attracts more Dutchess County high school graduates (36%) than any other institution of higher learning.

DCC’s current students are following in the footsteps of the College’s 40,000 alumni, who also were able to complete their freshman and sophomore courses without incurring staggering debt. For the 14th consecutive year, DCC has charged the lowest tuition — $3,200 per year — of any college or university in the state.

Students leave DCC with the critical thinking, technical and other skills necessary for them to achieve their goals — and without the financial burden typically associated with a college education. Employers find our graduates are well-prepared to meet the challenges of today’s business environment. Those who transfer to four-year colleges are ready for the rigors of upper-level academic work. In fact, SUNY recently examined first-year retention rates of community college transfer students enrolled full time in bachelor’s degree programs at four-year SUNY institutions, and DCC students had the highest fall 2012 retention rate. Our graduates, of course, also are recruited by the nation’s top private schools.

As high school students and others consider the future, I want them to know that a quality college education needn’t come with a price tag that jeopardizes personal or family finances. A recent article in Forbes, on containing college costs, called community colleges a “win/win solution.”

Higher education should not be a luxury. I commend our board of trustees, the DCC campus community and our county for sharing the conviction that a college education provides personal, professional and financial advantages in this knowledge-based economy — and that every family should be able to afford it.

On a personal note, I want to acknowledge that this is my last President’s Report. As you may know, I have notified the board of trustees of my decision to retire at the end of my contract next August. I feel fortunate to have had the opportunity to work with outstanding board members and some of the smartest, most dedicated and experienced faculty and staff to be found anywhere. It has been immensely gratifying to be part of an institution that every day touches lives and profoundly and positively impacts a motivated, hardworking and diverse student body. It “takes a village” to achieve the excellence for which DCC is recognized, and everyone in our community plays a vital role in our success and that of our students.

We thank you for your continued support and hope to see you on campus for some of the lectures, concerts, art exhibits, sporting events, plays and other activities coming up this year.

D. David Conklin, Ed.D.
President
Enrollment Hits 10,000+ Mark for Third Consecutive Year

Dutchess Community College welcomed 10,478 students in fall 2012, breaking enrollment records set the two prior years. According to the latest figures, 36 percent of Dutchess County students who elect to continue their education after high school attend DCC, and of those who graduate from the College, 90 percent either transfer to a four-year school or find work right away.

As reported recently in The New York Times, median income for households headed by people with a high school diploma was $39,300 in June 2013, while those headed by people with an associate degree was $56,400 and with a bachelor’s degree, $84,700.

“In today’s competitive work environment a college degree is more important than ever,” explains DCC President D. David Conklin. “At the same time, students and families have become keenly aware of the cost of a higher education and the dangers of incurring significant student loan debt. DCC’s ability to deliver a high-quality education while offering the lowest tuition in the state for 14 years in a row has made it an attractive option for increasing numbers of students.”

DCC Leads in SUNY-Transfer Retention Rates

The State University of New York (SUNY) recently examined first-year retention rates of community college transfer students enrolled full time in bachelor’s degree programs at SUNY four-year institutions. Dutchess Community College students had the highest fall 2012 retention rate, at 85 percent.

Looking at the system as a whole, 78 percent of students who transferred from the 30 community colleges to four-year SUNY schools in fall 2011 returned to those four-year institutions in fall 2012. DCC has exceeded the SUNY average for the past three years, rising from 79 percent to 83 percent and now, 85 percent.

“DCC is highly regarded as providing a solid foundation for those planning to pursue a four-year degree,” notes Dr. José Adames, vice president and dean of Academic Affairs. “Our students are recruited by top schools both within and outside the SUNY system, and their success upon transfer is a testament to our faculty’s commitment to teaching the critical thinking, technical and other skills necessary for them to achieve their goals.”

Graduation Breaks Record

DCC celebrated its 54th Commencement May 16, graduating almost 1,200 students. The ceremony was held on the Falcon Hall North Lawn on DCC’s main campus; more than 4,000 were in attendance. In addition, the ceremony was streamed online and viewed by hundreds of friends and family members worldwide.

Associate degrees and career certificates in 55 programs of study were conferred on 1,200 graduates who ranged in age from 17 to 74. Associate in Science degrees were awarded to 46 percent of the students; 23 percent received Associate in Arts degrees; 23 percent received Associate in Applied Science degrees; and 8 percent earned certificates. About one-third of the class graduated with honors, having achieved a 3.2 GPA or higher.

“Alumni approach me on a regular basis to share how Dutchess Community College changed their lives for the better,” said President D. David Conklin. “And they always mention a few faculty members who had a huge impact on them. These connections made at DCC are a testament to the commitment of our faculty and staff.”

The keynote speaker was Dutchess County Executive Marcus Molinaro (’01). Other speakers included SUNY Board of Trustees Chair H. Carl McCall, DCC Board of Trustees Chair Thomas LeGrand, History Professor Dr. Laura Murphy and Student Government Association President Luke Cierniak.

Almost 1,200 students graduated at DCC’s 54th Commencement in May.
Michael Arnoff Named Business Person of the Year

Almost 200 guests came to DCC in June for the 2013 Poughkeepsie Journal Business Person of the Year luncheon to honor award recipient Michael Arnoff, president of Arnoff Moving & Storage.

Arnoff’s tenure as president has seen many successes, and he has positioned his company to remain competitive and vibrant, even during challenging economic times. On top of his professional accomplishments, Arnoff founded the Hudson Valley Family Business Institute at Marist College and worked with the Dutchess County Department of Community and Family Services on the “Bright Nights” outreach program to help secure necessities, such as coats, for those in need.

The Poughkeepsie Journal Business Person of the Year Award is presented annually to recognize an individual whose leadership, hard work and dedication has made a measurable impact on the economic viability and vitality of the region. The recipient is selected by a panel of judges from various sectors of the community, and each year a brick engraved in the awardee’s honor is placed in the DCC Pine Grove Patio.

The award luncheon was co-sponsored by the Poughkeepsie Journal, the DCC Foundation and the law firm of Corbally, Gartland and Rappleyea.

Students Contribute to Community Initiatives

Members of DCC’s Student Government Association work to enhance both the campus environment and our community at large. Last year, the SGA and student clubs raised about $11,000 for deserving organizations.

Some of the groups that benefited from the fundraising efforts included Hurricane Sandy Relief, the US military, the Red Cross, the Marathon Project, Dutchess Outreach, Toys for Tots and diabetes organization JDRF. The SGA Bowl-a-Thon held in November raised $2,500 for the Students for Students Emergency Fund, which was created by the DCC Student Government Association to provide emergency assistance to cover unexpected transportation, food or medical expenses for students in need who currently are enrolled in DCC credit courses. The initiative was recognized last year with an award from the Mid-Hudson Valley Chapter of the Association of Fundraising Professionals.

State Supreme Court Justice, Alumna Sproat, Delivers Keynote

Approximately 120 Dutchess County business and community leaders, friends and donors gathered in January for the 20th Annual Dutchess Community College President’s Breakfast.

The keynote address was given by the Honorable Christine Sproat, New York State Supreme Court Justice and a 1976 graduate of DCC.

Sproat, who continued from DCC to SUNY New Paltz for her bachelor’s and master’s degrees, and then to Pace Law School, spoke about how her experience at DCC instilled a passion for higher education and led to a successful career.

“From my first day of class at DCC, I was so impressed by the teaching staff,” said Sproat. “I will never forget the professors who made such a difference in my education and my life.” She also spoke of her tenure as a DCC board member and noted that her children also began their college careers at DCC.

The President’s Breakfast was sponsored by TD Bank and hosted by the Dutchess Community College Foundation.
Three Appointed to Board of Trustees

Three new members joined the Dutchess Community College Board of Trustees in the past year. Barbara Hugo and Daniel P. Kuffner were appointed by Gov. Andrew Cuomo and Robert G. Rolison was appointed by the Dutchess County Legislature.

Barbara Hugo is a former Clerk of the Dutchess County Legislature. Her public administration experience also includes work with New York City’s Environmental Protection Administration as well as the Mayor’s Office of Neighborhood Government. Hugo also worked for both Procter & Gamble and People magazine prior to moving to the Hudson Valley in 1999 and establishing a video post-production and graphic design firm.

Daniel P. Kuffner is a former Dutchess County Legislator who served on numerous committees, and also as liaison between the legislature and the DCC Board. He is a retired teacher who taught for more than 30 years in the Hyde Park Central School District and was the owner of Kuffner Painting for 27 years. He coached cross-country teams for local high schools and has volunteered as a Hyde Park Little League coach and a CYO basketball assistant.

Robert G. Rolison is the Chairman of the Dutchess County Legislature. He is a 26-year veteran of the Town of Poughkeepsie Police Department, where he served 12 years in the patrol division before being promoted to detective, a position he held for 14 years before retiring in 2008. In addition to serving on the DCC board, Rolison is a board member of the Dutchess County Economic Development Corporation and the New York State Office of Children and Family Services, among other organizations.

In addition to Rolison, Hugo and Kuffner, members of the DCC Board of Trustees (as of September 2013) are: Thomas LeGrand (Chair), Vincent J. DiMaso (Vice Chair), Betsy Brown (Secretary), Richard Keller-Coffey, Kip Bleakley O’Neill, Sherre Wesley and Student Trustee Yoshinori Tsuji.

Lab Nursery School Celebrates 50 Years

An open house celebrating the 50th anniversary of the Lab Nursery School at DCC was held in May. In 2009 the Lab Nursery School was named in honor of June Roush-Pierson, the school’s first teacher-director and longtime chairperson of the Early Childhood program.

The festivities included an exhibit of children’s artwork, live music, tours of the classrooms and refreshments. Former and current nursery school students and their families, past and present students of the Early Childhood program and members of the general public attended the celebration.

Opened in 1963, the Lab Nursery School provides a real-world setting for students in DCC’s Early Childhood associate degree and Early Childhood Caregiver certificate programs to gain practical teaching experience under professional supervision. Since its creation a half-century ago, more than 650 children have been enrolled in the Nursery School.

Production Company Visits Campus for Duke Documentary

In preparation for a documentary on acclaimed actor/director Bill Duke, producers from TV One recently visited campus to film where the 1963 DCC graduate found his passion for acting. The program will be part of a new series, “Hollywood Unsung,” to be broadcast on the cable station next year.

Duke discovered acting at DCC, where he performed in many student productions. His first major acting role at the College was as the lead in Eugene O’Neill’s “Emperor Jones.” After graduating, he continued his education at Boston University and NYU’s prestigious Tisch School of the Arts. In 1999 he was recognized by the American Association of Community Colleges as its Alumnus of the Year and was inducted into DCC’s Alumni Hall of Fame in 2005.

Duke is well known for his roles in films including “Predator,” “Commando” and “Bird on a Wire.” His directing endeavors include “The Cemetery Club” and “Sister Act II.” He has received several industry awards and published a number of books.
Residence Hall Marks First Anniversary

The College’s suite-style residence hall opened in August 2012 and was filled to capacity in both fall and spring with students eager to take advantage of the benefits of a DCC education while experiencing on-campus living. Of the 30 SUNY community colleges, 20 currently offer student housing; the majority of the remaining institutions are in the process of planning or construction.

In addition to being advantageous for the students living in the residence hall, the new addition has positively impacted the campus at large by enhancing its vibrancy. Student clubs, activities, lectures, concerts, theater performances, sports and other activities are experiencing increased participation, as the residential students embrace the many educational and social opportunities on campus.

Additionally, several clubs – including the International Students Club, Fire Science Club, Gamers Guild and radio station – held special events in the Conklin Hall atrium, and a variety of activities were offered.

The suites in Conklin Hall are fully furnished and are available in four-, five- and six-person configurations. Amenities include a lounge on each floor, cable television and wireless Internet service, laundry, fitness and mail rooms, a vending area, noncombustible construction, sprinklers throughout, 24-hour security, controlled access, on-site Director of Residence Life and staff and geothermal heating and cooling.

Those wishing to live in Conklin Hall should apply for both College admission and housing early, as space in the residence hall is limited. Students interested in moving into Conklin Hall in the spring semester may apply now; those planning on fall 2014 occupancy will be able to apply at the end of January.

All students from counties other than Dutchess and Putnam must have a high school average of at least 70 in order to be considered for residence hall eligibility. Visit sunydutchess.edu/dorm for more information and to sign up to be a Dorm Insider and receive special email alerts. To contact the Office of Residence Life, email studenthousing@sunydutchess.edu.
Top High School Graduates Earn Full Scholarships

Thirty-four Dutchess Community College freshmen were awarded the Charles E. and Mabel E. Conklin Scholarship for Academic Excellence last fall. When combined with the Conklin scholars who began at DCC in fall 2011, 75 students benefited from the initiative last year. The Conklin Scholarship provides full tuition for any Dutchess County high school student who graduates in the top 10 percent of his or her class.

The Charles E. and Mabel E. Conklin Scholarships for Academic Excellence are made possible through a generous gift from the Conklins, and the Dutchess Community College Foundation. This full-tuition scholarship was created 18 years ago by DCC President D. David Conklin and subsequently funded by Charles and Mabel Conklin, who are of no relation to the College president.

Pinning Ceremony Recognizes Graduating Nurses

Almost 100 graduates of the Dutchess Community College Nursing Program received pins May 9 during a ceremony celebrating the completion of the challenging curriculum. The Pinning Ceremony signifies their transition from hard-working students to professional nurses ready to begin their careers.

Nursing Club President Tiffany Warick made the introduction, followed by greetings from President D. David Conklin, Vice President and Dean of Academic Affairs José Adames and remarks from DCC Nursing faculty.

DCC’s highly regarded nursing program includes classroom lectures, labs and clinical experiences in local health care organizations. More than 70 percent of the nursing staff in local hospitals and health care facilities have graduated from the program.

Vice President and Dean of Academic Affairs Named

In the spring, Dutchess Community College announced the appointment of Dr. José Adames as Vice President and Dean of Academic Affairs. He succeeded Carl Denti, who retired after 42 years of service.

As the chief academic officer of the College, Adames is responsible for participating in institutional policy formulation and strategic planning, overseeing all curriculum matters, providing leadership to the faculty and facilitating teaching excellence and assessment of student learning.

“Dr. Adames brings to this position excellent credentials, impressive community college leadership experience and a management style that encourages thoughtful deliberation and collaboration,” said President Conklin. “Shortly after he assumed the position on an interim basis in January, it became apparent that Dr. Adames possesses the skills necessary to explore the opportunities and meet the challenges the College will face in the future.”

Prior to joining DCC, Adames served as Vice President of Academic Affairs and Interim President at Bergen Community College in New Jersey. He also was Associate Vice President for Academic Affairs at Union County College and Dean of the Kean University College of Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences, and held other positions in higher education.

“I was attracted to DCC by the excellent reputation of its faculty, academic programs and services,” said Adames. “The College’s commitment to student success reflects my own priorities and values, and I am proud to be part of this vibrant campus community.”

Adames earned Bachelor and Master of Arts degrees from Seton Hall University and a master’s and doctorate in Education from the Columbia University Teachers College.
Constitution Day Lecture Focuses on Civil War Era Influence

Eric Foner, author and DeWitt Clinton Professor of History at Columbia University, discussed “How the Civil War Era Changed the Constitution” to mark Constitution Day.

Foner’s most recent publication is the award-winning “A Fiery Trial: Abraham Lincoln and Slavery.” Foner has appeared on television and radio programs including “Charlie Rose,” “Book Notes,” “The Daily Show with Jon Stewart” and “All Things Considered,” as well as documentaries on PBS and The History Channel.

Students, Community Benefit from Endowed Chair Lectures

April was a big month for endowed chair lectures that gave our campus and local communities access to notables in various fields.

Former U.S. Poet Laureate Robert Pinsky came to campus to host a Favorite Poem Project event featuring readings by Dutchess County residents. The Favorite Poem Project was created by Pinsky in 1997; the first installment was a national initiative, with more than 18,000 Americans volunteering to read their favorite poems in front of an audience. Since then, hundreds of cities and towns across the country have organized events and invited their communities to participate.

Pinsky was invited to campus by DCC English Professor John Desmond, recipient of the Llelanie Orcutt Endowed Faculty Chair. The event was sponsored by the DCC Foundation.

New York University History Professor Dr. Kimberly Phillips-Fein came to DCC to give a lecture called “The Long Reaction: The Transformation of American Politics and the Backlash Against the New Deal.”

Phillips-Fein is the author of “Invisible Hands: The Making of the Conservative Movement from the New Deal to Reagan,” which chronicles the vital role of wealthy business leaders and business trade groups to the rise of the Conservative Movement and its successes in chipping away at the policies of the New Deal.

The lecture was presented by the Handel Foundation Endowed Faculty Chair to Perpetuate the Legacy of Franklin and Eleanor Roosevelt and facilitated by Dr. Mikko Manner, a professor in DCC’s Department of History, Government and Economics.

Also in April, DCC History Professor Dr. Werner Steger hosted a screening of the documentary “Inheritance.” The James Moll film focuses on Monika Hertwig, daughter of Nazi commander Amon Goeth, and how she comes to terms with her father’s legacy. Part of the journey includes her meeting with Helen Jonas, who as a child was sent to a concentration camp and became a servant in Goeth’s home and is a survivor of Goeth’s brutal treatment.

The screening was sponsored by the Greenspan Trust-Handel Foundation Endowed Chair in Holocaust and Genocide Studies.

Student Presents Paper at Research Competition

DCC student Tristan Zukowski presented his paper titled “Female Agency of Violence in the Middle Ages” at the Beacon Conference held in June in Bethlehem, PA. Zukowski crafted his paper under the mentoring of DCC History Professor Todd Wilmot.

The Beacon Conference was established in 1993 when 10 community colleges in the eastern U.S., including DCC, partnered to recognize the achievements of outstanding students in academic research and writing. Funding came from the American Association of Community Colleges and the Kellogg Foundation.

There are 20 categories in which entries may be submitted, and the top three papers in each category are selected to be presented at the conference. Students work with mentors at their school to prepare their submissions, and readers from member colleges score the papers and select the winners. The three presentations in each category are judged at the conference by an expert in the subject from local four-year colleges and universities, and the winning students each receive a $100 prize.
Student Success Boosted by Academic Skills Programs

DCC’s SmartStart, FOCUS and Educational Opportunity programs all helped increasing numbers of students with an academic or financial need pursue higher education and successfully adjust to college life.

In July, 140 students graduated from SmartStart, a summer initiative of skills-building classes for incoming freshmen who need extra help to place into college-level courses. Classes focus on mathematics, reading, writing and study skills. SmartStart students graduate at a rate double that of students who are eligible for SmartStart but don’t participate.

The College’s FOCUS program also centers on student success, but is held during the school year. Seventy-six percent of fall 2012 FOCUS students registered for the following semester, compared to 64 percent of those who qualified, but chose not to participate in FOCUS.

The Educational Opportunity Program (EOP) provides counseling and tutoring to students who are financially and academically disadvantaged. A ceremony commemorating EOP students’ successful completion of the academic year was held in May.

During the past year, 215 under-represented and economically disadvantaged students were served by the Collegiate Science and Technology Entry Program (CSTEP). Students participated in a variety of program services, attended conferences and had a very successful year. The fall-to-spring retention rate was 71 percent. CSTEP was created to assist under-represented student populations in coursework leading to employment in scientific, technical and health-related careers. DCC’s CSTEP office provides free professional tutoring as well as a variety of counseling services.

While making up only two percent of the general DCC population, CSTEP students comprised four percent of DCC Foundation Scholarship recipients. Four CSTEP students were accepted into summer Research Education for Undergraduates programs, two at SUNY New Paltz, one at Purchase College and one at the Wadsworth Center for Science and Research, where more than 200 students apply but just 10 are accepted.

New Members Welcomed into Business Honor Society

Delta Zeta, the Dutchess Community College chapter of business honor society Alpha Beta Gamma, welcomed 27 new members into its ranks in April.

The inductees were: Daniel Benson, Joshua Bogen, Brett Boland Jr., Tatiana Bowne, Elyse Brust, Kreshnik Deliu, Kyle Drugan, Aimee Estrada, Krista Everett, Esterina Frangaj, Nicole Gilmartin, Bianca Keesler, Michael Kehr, Youseff Khan, Brooke Lafko, Qiu Lin, Brandon Margosian, Jessica Morra, Anna Murray, Catherine Schmitz, Danielle Seipp, Sarah Stevens, Brianna Troy, Yoshinori Tsuji, Cara Tully, Kevin Walsh and Ala Yolas.

ABG is an international business honor society established in 1970 to recognize and encourage academic achievement among two-year college students in business curricula. The organization reserves more than $500,000 in scholarships for members who transfer to four-year colleges and universities.

In Other News ...

The first graduates of DCC’s Bridges to Excellence program completed their two years at DCC in May and have transferred to Marist College. This innovative, cutting-edge program supports motivated students from Dutchess County who, due to limited academic preparation, have not had the same opportunity as others to achieve their academic potential.

DCC and Marist work together to select participants for the program through a review of applicants’ high school transcripts, DCC placement test scores, and an interview process.

The Mathematics, Physical and Computer Sciences Department has introduced two innovations in developmental mathematics, based on a Carnegie Foundation initiative. More than 60 percent of all students entering college in the U.S. are not equipped for college-level math and are required to complete remedial/ developmental courses as a first step toward earning a degree. A staggering 70 percent of these students never complete the required math courses. Students at DCC who need just one college-level math course can take a new preparatory course aimed at a broad selection of applied math skills. Remedial students with greater math requirements can try a modular approach to intermediate algebra. This sequence divides the course into three parts, any of which can be repeated immediately if the student is not ready to move ahead.

The Dutchess Community College Association, which operates the bookstore, daycare center, dining services and residence hall, has donated $250,000 to the College for the purchase of computer equipment. The initiative enhances access to upgraded technology for students, faculty and administrative areas.

More than 450 computers have been, or will be, purchased over the next year to replace older units or increase availability throughout campus. Students will notice new computers in areas including classrooms, engineering and architecture labs, campus kiosks, the Writing Center and Business Resource centers, as well as at DCC South.
College Fair Draws a Crowd
The annual College Fair hosted by Dutchess Community College took place in October, drawing hundreds of guests. Representatives from more than 150 colleges — in-state and out-of-state, four-year and two-year, public and private — were on hand. Technical schools and the armed services also were present. The event is held annually to give high school juniors, seniors, parents, transfer students, adult students and high school counselors the chance to learn about many different colleges in one convenient location.

Family Festivals: Free, Fun Entertainment for Community
Many talented and engaging performers were welcomed to campus by the Office of Student Activities during the fall and spring semesters to perform for children and adults. The shows were held on Saturday mornings as part of the College’s free Family Festival program.

“Criss-Crossing Borders” by Arm of the Sea Theatre, Goowin’s Balloowins, Steve John’s Magic Variety Show and “The Mrs. Claus Holiday Celebration” by Kit’s Interactive Theatre were presented in the fall, while spring shows included Sylvia Markson and the Magic Trunk, Evelyn Clarke — Storyteller and “The Science of Magic” by Jeff Boyer.

The Family Festival series reflects DCC’s commitment to engage young children and offer fun, educational and interactive programs for families.

College Fair Draws a Crowd

Faculty Engage In Academic, Literary and Community Pursuits
Our faculty members continue to demonstrate a passion for, and expertise in, their fields. Among recent accomplishments:

Seemi Ahmad (History) continued her position on the board of trustees of the World Affairs Council of the Mid-Hudson Valley and coordinated a series in the Poughkeepsie Journal titled “Hudson Valley Views.” She also served as a member of the Jewish-Muslim Interfaith Group.

Mark Condon (Biology) presented at the All About Autism Expo and at the National Association for Multicultural Education at Lehman College.

Joe Cosentino (Speech and Theater) wrote a musical adaptation of Washington Irving’s “The Legend of Sleepy Hollow,” which currently is being performed on tour.

PI Darcy (Mathematics) presented at the MAA/ PREP Workshop “Improving Mathematics Teaching through Faculty Development” at West Point, NY. His presentation was based on his professional development after participating in the workshop in 2011.

Lowell Handler’s (Photography) e-book, “Crazy and Proud,” was published with the sponsorship of the Dutchess County Arts Council.

Renee Lathrop (Physics) presented a laboratory writing workshop at a conference in California, through a grant from the National Science Foundation.


Camilo Rojas (Communications) has had articles and interviews published in “The Voices of New York,” “The Lakeville News” and “La Voz.” His artwork and videos have been included in the Hudson Valley Museum of Contemporary Art, the Woodstock Art Center, the RE Institute in Millerton and the Florean Museum in Romania.

Mark Roland (Mathematics) presented his perspective on the Survey of Mathematics course at the Association of Mathematics Teachers at Two-Year Colleges Conference.

Andrew Scala (Biology) presented “Teaching with Technology in the Sciences,” at the Pearson Seminar.

Brenda Squires’ (English) short story, “Every Penny Social,” was published in the Paterson Literary Review.

Werner Steger (History) made his professional expertise available to the community at large by continuing to publish articles in the Poughkeepsie Journal on current affairs in historical perspective.

Sara Taylor (Mathematics) spoke at two conferences about facilitating Intermediate Algebra modules.

David Walsh (Fire Science) presented at a Fire Training Seminar in Mount Kisco, NY and at the NYS Association of Fire Chiefs Conference in Verona, NY. Also, under Walsh’s leadership, DCC’s Fire Science program earned Fire and Emergency Services Higher Education recognition from FEMA.

Lyceums Entertain, Educate
Actress Carol Lempert came to DCC in October to perform “After Anne Frank,” a one-woman show that weaves together the story of Lempert’s Holocaust-survivor uncle with her own experience acting in “The Diary of Anne Frank” on three separate occasions in her career.

“The Obama Presidency in Historical Perspective” was presented at DCC in November by Leo P. Ribuffo, an American historian and professor at George Washington University. Ribuffo reviewed Obama’s first term and placed it in the context of other U.S. presidents.

Michael Korda, a former editor-in-chief of Simon and Schuster, was on campus in April to give a lecture titled “The Art of Writing Memoirs and Biographies.” Korda is the author of “Ulysses S. Grant: The Unlikely Hero” and “Ike: An American Hero” among many other works.
Diverse Cultures Celebrated through Events and Programs

Each year, DCC faculty, staff and students serve on Black History, Hispanic Heritage and Women’s History committees to bring to campus programs and events that celebrate diversity. The college community and the public at large enjoyed a range of entertaining and educational presentations and activities over the past year.

A Kwanzaa celebration, gospel concert, and Lyceum presentation by legendary comedian and activist Dick Gregory were just some of the activities offered this year by DCC to celebrate Black History Month. The Kwanzaa celebration served as the kickoff event and marked the seven principles of Kwanzaa: Unity, Self Determination, Creative Work and Responsibility, Cooperative Economics, Purpose, Creativity and Faith.

The gospel concert featured performances by guest soloists, praise dancers and youth and adult choirs from local churches. The show has drawn standing-room-only crowds for many years.

“The World According to Dick Gregory: An Afternoon of Humor and Humanity” featured social satire by the well-known humorist, who came to prominence decades ago by providing white Americans with a different perspective on black comedians. He also paired with other African-American luminaries such as Martin Luther King Jr. and Medgar Evers for non-violent protests during the civil rights movement. Gregory spoke that same evening at Marist College, which partnered with DCC to facilitate the performances.

The College’s annual celebration of Women’s History Month in March featured Lyceum speakers, including a trailblazing former senior editor for Newsweek.

Lynn Povich, an award-winning journalist with more than 40 years in the news business, came to campus to present “The Good Girls Revolt,” during which she discussed her role as one of 46 female employees who sued Newsweek magazine for sexual discrimination in 1970. Five years after that landmark lawsuit, she was appointed the first woman senior editor in the history of the magazine.

Former DCC instructor and current SUNY New Paltz professor Dr. Meg Devlin O’Sullivan gave a lecture titled “In the ‘Best Interests of the Child’: Adoption, Native American Women and the Solution of Sovereignty,” which focused on the forced and coercive removal of children from Native American parents and the 1978 Indian Child Welfare Act.

In addition, DCC Assistant Professor of Photography Lowell Handler discussed his book, “Crazy and Proud,” which chronicles his experiences teaching photography to a group of transient, mentally-ill women inside an inner-city shelter.

DCC’s annual Hispanic Heritage Month celebration from mid-September through mid-October included fun and enlightening events such as a performance by a Mexican roots band, a food festival and a poetry show called “Hispanic Literary Readings.” Another highlight of the month was a library display called “Artisanal Carvings and Dolls from Venezuela.”

Earth Day Urges Sustainability

The BIOS Club and the Campus Activity Board, with the assistance of Dutchess Radio and the Outdoor Adventure Club, hosted Earth Day activities in April. The day included live music, food, games with an environmental theme and displays about non-toxic pest solutions, the environmental impact of home maintenance and more.

Big Read Focuses on Hammett’s ‘The Maltese Falcon’

DCC English Professor John Desmond hosted a program on campus in October as part of the Poughkeepsie area’s Big Read, the local effort of the National Endowment for the Arts initiative aimed at emphasizing the importance of reading in American life.

Desmond analyzed multiple film adaptations of “The Maltese Falcon,” examining cinematic and narrative elements and changes made between the creation of author Dashiell Hammett’s book and its presentation on the screen.

In addition, English Professor Dr. Beth Kolp hosted a discussion of Hammett’s appearance before the House Un-American Activities Committee and subsequent imprisonment, and Associate Professor of English Dr. Keith O’Neill headed a talk about the “hard boiled” fiction literary style, which was popularized by works such as “The Maltese Falcon.”

The 2012 Big Read project was administered by the Poughkeepsie Public Library District, with a host of community partners.
President to Retire in Summer 2014

Dr. D. David Conklin announced this summer that he will retire in August 2014, at the expiration of his contract. Currently the second longest-serving president in the State University of New York system, Conklin will have led DCC for 22 years upon his retirement. The one-year notice was stipulated in the president’s contract to allow the College sufficient time to conduct a search for a successor.

During his two-plus decades at DCC, Conklin has led initiatives including:
- Construction of the Washington Center for Science and Art
- Creation of a one-stop Student Services Center and relocation and expansion of the library
- Maintenance of the lowest tuition in the state for 14 consecutive years
- Establishment of endowed faculty chairs
- Creation of a full-tuition scholarship for students in the top 10% of their Dutchess high schools
- Growth in DCC Foundation assets from $280,000 to $8.5 million
- Acquisition of $2.6 million in campus artwork at no taxpayer expense
- Expansion of DCC South in Wappingers Falls
- Addition of a day care center
- Construction/opening of first community college residence hall in the mid-Hudson region

The editors of this publication sat down with the President to talk about his tenure at Dutchess Community College.

What do you consider your greatest accomplishments at the College?

“I feel privileged to have helped enhance access to higher education for the residents of Dutchess County. We have been responsive to our students’ needs, whether they plan to continue on for a bachelor’s degree or enter the workforce directly after earning an associate degree or career certificate. The academic support services and special programs we provide – GED, SmartStart, FOCUS, Early Admissions/Bridge for high schoolers, Honors track and the like – ensure students have the tools they need for success.

“An extremely high number (91 percent) of our county’s high school graduates go to college. We know that DCC plays a big role in that ... between 36 and 39 percent of the high school graduates come to us each year. More importantly, our students succeed when they leave us because we have an outstanding faculty committed to excellence in teaching.

“The fact that we’ve kept tuition the lowest in the state for 14 consecutive years is another source of pride. Also, we’ve maintained and enhanced the physical plant to provide a pleasant, comfortable and safe environment. We’ve worked especially hard to provide necessary resources, keep up with the rapid changes in technology and to create an enriching, engaging campus atmosphere.”

You’ve been approached to lead other colleges. Why did you choose to stay at DCC?

“I have a real sense of belonging here, at both the college and in the community. Also, I derive a great deal of satisfaction from working with our faculty and staff, and in seeing how well our students do. I think it’s been a good fit between my interests and skills and the needs of the college.”

What would you say sets Dutchess Community College apart?

“It’s no accident that we’re so highly regarded and that our students do so well. It’s because of the commitment to excellence shared by our faculty, staff and Board of Trustees, and the pride everyone feels in being part of this vibrant and caring institution. I see it around campus every day; it’s palpable.”

How would you characterize the College’s role in our community?

“Dutchess Community College is a vital resource in our community and should be appreciated and supported. There are few families that have not been served by the College, whether through credit programs, the Office of Community Services, free lectures, art exhibits or other offerings. Our graduates tend to stay local, and are the backbone of our community ... as workers and as business and civic leaders. Our community should be very proud of the college it has created and nurtured, and of all the lives that have been positively and profoundly impacted.”
In Others’ Words ...

The Poughkeepsie Journal interviewed several community members in preparing a story about Dr. Conklin’s upcoming retirement. Following are some of the comments that appeared in the story published on August 15.

‘I view Dutchess Community College as one of the best, if not the best, community college in the state of New York. We do have a number of students who transfer to Marist from Dutchess and they are extremely well prepared and David has contributed to the success the college has had during his very long tenure.’
— Dennis Murray, President of Marist College

‘As a community college, Dutchess is highly sought after … and is among the first choice for high school graduates.’
— Marcus Molinaro,’01, Dutchess County Executive

‘The credit to him and the board of trustees for working with the county executive and Legislature and keeping the tuition at the lowest of any college in the state of New York, I think, is an enormous achievement and has impacted tens of thousands of families.’
— William Steinhaus, ’69, former Dutchess County Executive

‘He should be very proud of his legacy, and hopefully he will continue to stay involved. David is the epitome of an outstanding leader.’
— Mary Madden, President and CEO of Hudson Valley Federal Credit Union

‘David has been a real asset to our community – first by doing an exceptional job leading Dutchess Community College but also by contributing his professional skills and talent to important community service through boards.’
— Steve Lant, President and CEO of CH Energy Group

‘Dr. Conklin took his responsibilities seriously. He was an asset to any board he served on. He just really cares about his community.’
— Wayne Nussbickel, owner of N&S Supply

Arts Across Campus

Gallery Features Exhibits in Varying Mediums and Styles

Dutchess Community College’s Mildred I. Washington Art Gallery attracts campus and community members with its rotating exhibits of student art as well as pieces and collections by regionally and nationally known artists.

The first student exhibit occurred in September 2012 and featured artwork created in the spring and summer semesters, followed by a January 2013 show that showcased select works from students in fall 2012 art classes. Both exhibits featured photography, drawings, ceramics, graphics, paintings and more. The work was chosen for display by instructors teaching both introductory and advanced art classes.

“Visions,” a collection of paintings by artist Elena Pellegrino, was on display throughout October. The majority of Pellegrino’s work is based on flowers, figures and landscapes. Pellegrino is a featured artist in La Leona Arts’ 100 Artists/100 Dreams project. Photographs, sculptures, ceramics, paintings and more pieces created by members of the DCC faculty were displayed in the gallery in November and December.

In February, artist Sadee Brathwaite displayed a selection of oil-on-canvas pieces called “Cosmic Daughters Sacred Grandmothers.” Brathwaite is a founder of La Leona Arts. In March and April, the gallery hosted a display of works that were used in the design of seed packets offered by the Hudson Valley Seed Library. Artwork created by more than 30 local artists in varying mediums was used as packaging art for a wide selection of seeds.

Music Ushers in the Holidays

Musical selections varying from classics to contemporary and popular works filled the DCC campus during four concerts in December. Featuring musicians from various segments of our campus community, the concerts are always a highlight of the holiday season.

The DCC Jazz Ensemble and Guitar Consort performed instrumental works including classical, contemporary and popular pieces, under the direction of Dr. Christopher Brelochs and Helen Avakian. The Winter Choral Concert featured the chorus and chamber choir, conducted by Elizabeth Gerbi. The Mid-Hudson Community Orchestra performed pieces by world-famous composers as well as holiday favorites. The last concert featured students of voice, piano, saxophone, guitar and more who performed selections in a wide variety of styles.

Theater Offerings Evoke Emotions

Students in the DCC Performing Arts program and Masquers’ Guild troupe showcased their talents in a range of performances that attracted theatergoers from throughout the region.

In November, the two groups collaborated to stage “Urinetown.” The musical comedy, which ran on Broadway from 2001-2004, is set in a world where a 20-year drought leads to the outlawing of private bathroom facilities, prompting a group of rebels to take on the Urine Good Company mega-corporation that controls the public toilets. The production was directed and choreographed by Kevin Archambault with musical direction by Matt Woolever.

Performing Arts students staged William Shakespeare’s classic, “The Taming of the Shrew,” in April. The play was the last to be directed by DCC Theater Professor Steve Press, who retired in August after more than four decades at the College.

The Masquers’ Guild presented its annual Broadway Cares/Equity Fights AIDS Musical Revue in December. Approximately $1,800 was raised for the fundraising organization. In December, the group – under the direction of Wayne Pyle – brought Tennessee Williams’ four-character memory play, “The Glass Menagerie,” to the stage.

*Urinetown* was staged last fall.
Awards and Honors

Diversity Initiatives Lauded by Poughkeepsie Journal

For the second time, DCC was presented with the coveted Richard K. Wager Workplace Inclusiveness Award sponsored by the Poughkeepsie Journal. The College’s prior win came in 2001.

“Dutchess Community College has shown that an environment of inclusiveness is a formula for success,” said Barry Rothfeld, publisher of the Poughkeepsie Journal. “We congratulate them on what they have accomplished, and all organizations should look to them as an example.”

DCC was honored for its diverse staff and faculty in all areas of the College and at all levels of employment, and also for its student population, which reflects the diversity of the region.

Academic Services Office Deemed ‘Outstanding’

DCC’s Office of Academic Services and Testing has received the 2013 National College Learning Center Association’s Frank L. Christ Outstanding Learning Center Award for two-year colleges.

The award, named after a leader in the academic services field, was created to give national recognition to the work done by learning centers and to foster their future growth and development. Award criteria included range and accessibility of services, inter-campus partnerships, use of technology and staff training.

History, Government and Economics Awards Presented

Dutchess Community College held its annual Eugene Sheridan Awards ceremony in April, which honors student achievement in the social sciences. Ciaran Brune was presented the Ann and Dan Zidakoff Memorial Scholarship. Jacob Angell received the Xavier H. Verbeck Memorial Award and Tristan Zukowski was presented with the Eugene Sheridan Award for Excellence in the Social Sciences.

Three History, Government and Economics Departmental Awards for Outstanding Achievement in the Social Sciences were presented. They went to Kayla DelBiondo, Kreshnik Deliu and Nicole Shanks.

Six Earn Chancellor’s Awards for Excellence

Each year, SUNY recognizes superior achievement by the faculty, professional staff and students at its campuses with the Chancellor’s Award for Excellence. DCC is proud of the six recipients who earned this honor.

Dr. Ellen Gambino, associate dean of Academic Affairs, was awarded the 2013 Chancellor’s Award for Excellence in Professional Service. Since coming to the College in 2006, Gambino has provided leadership in Academic Affairs working with faculty and staff on curriculum, academic assessment, faculty hiring and professional staff development. She has led committees to develop initiatives to support student success including a new developmental math curriculum and online tutoring. Gambino also has served on various campus committees including Curriculum, Academic Standards, Professional Staff Development and the DCC Mentoring Program for administrative staff. In addition, Gambino is a member of the Eleanor Roosevelt Valkill Community College Leadership Program Steering Committee.

Renee Lathrop, associate professor of Physics, received the Chancellor’s Award for Excellence in Teaching. She came to DCC in 2003 and was promoted to assistant professor in 2008. She is DCC’s representative to the SUNY Faculty Council of Community Colleges, and has served in other leadership roles including as president of the Association of Women at DCC and chair of the Academic Standards Committee. She also was a member-at-large for the Professional Staff Organization, a member of the Curriculum Committee and has contributed to DCC youth outreach initiatives such as Math and Science Matter … Especially for Young Women and the Hudson Valley FIRST Lego League competitions.

Four DCC students received the Chancellor’s Award for Student Excellence. Kayla DelBiondo, Amy Fuerst, Lauren Molella and Tristan Zukowski were among the 243 students from the 64 SUNY campuses presented with the honor. The Chancellor’s Award for Student Excellence was created 16 years ago to recognize students who have best demonstrated, and been recognized for, the integration of academic excellence with accomplishments in the areas of leadership, athletics, community service, creative and performing arts or career achievement.
Model UN Team Earns Recognition

Students from the DCC/Vassar College Model United Nations team were presented with a Distinguished Delegation award, recognition for several Outstanding Position Papers and awards for Outstanding Delegates at the National Model United Nations simulation held in New York City in the spring.

The National Model United Nations program is sponsored by the National Collegiate Conference Association, a not-for-profit organization that promotes understanding of international issues and the United Nations.

The program provides students with a better understanding of the inner workings of the U.N. and fosters the development of skills in civics, diplomacy and compromise. Students take on different roles and are required to use effective communication skills to debate human rights, environmental, economic and other issues.

The joint DCC/Vassar team, led by Professor Richard Reitano, prepares with an academic course that begins in January, with the five-day simulation in the spring serving as the culminating event.

Honors Students Receive Awards

Fourteen students who graduated in May from Dutchess Community College’s Honors Program in Liberal Arts and Sciences: Humanities and Social Sciences were presented awards earlier in the month to celebrate their academic achievements. The Honors Advisement Sequence, led by Dr. Werner Steger, challenges select students with an enriched liberal arts education and an upper-level interdisciplinary seminar.

The honorees were Jocelyn Alvarez, Zuleima Cabrera, Alexandra Camporese, Katherine Colon, Kayla DelBiondo, Amanda Federico, Laken Flynn, Andrew Guerrazzi, Elizabeth Hollick, Michael Keating, Stephanie LeCain, Alyson Oliva, Christopher Perez and Paul Vespo. The Richard Reitano Scholarship in Political Science awardee was Kreshnik Deliu.

Student Filmmakers Laundered

Twelve students, including 10 current or former Dutchess Community College students, were honored as finalists in the Eli Jaffe Film Competition held over the summer. The students are Alex DeLeon, Jason Alfonso, Jayme Portanova, Brendan Kiernan, Amanda Fleming, De’Juan Encarnacion, Elise Greenage, Edith Morris and Jordan Thomas, all from DCC, Chris Sarmiento of DCC and SUNY New Paltz, Ben Golden from SUNY New Paltz and Katelynn Jones from SUNY New Paltz.

The top prize was taken by Sarmiento, Golden and Jones for a short film called “A Son Down, After Sun Down,” which focused on gun violence in Hudson Valley urban areas.

The competition was created to honor public issue-themed video projects by students at DCC and the other five regional colleges: Marist, Vassar, Bard, Mount Saint Mary and SUNY New Paltz.

Teachers Union Honors Student Academic Achievement

The Dutchess United Educators (DUE) union at Dutchess Community College honored 31 students in May at the 28th Annual DUE Awards for Academic Excellence.

The 16 individual award winners were: Kim Bashualdo, Dulce Celaya, Bhawneet Chadha, Andrea Conneely, Michelle Correa, Victoria Culver, Amy Flamio, Amy Fuerst, Michelle Iannotta, Bianca Keesler, Ashley Perez, Samantha Riza, Jonathan Schmierer, Nargis Sultan, Zama Traore and Lisa Witteck.

Special awards given by entire academic departments or in honor of past DCC faculty/staff members were presented to: Sharilyn McVver-Jones, the Department of Behavioral Sciences Award in Honor of Carl Denti; Andrew Roepe, the Department of Business Award; Donovan Borger, the Department of English and Humanities Award in Creative Writing; Corinne Credendino, the Department of Mathematics, Physical and Computer Sciences Award in Mathematics; Rachel Baird, the Department of Nursing Award; Claire Vandenberg, the Founders’ Award in Memory of Cynthia Feldman; Michelle Ban, the Visual Arts Award in Memory of Lowell Butler; Tamar Hedges, the Visual Arts Award in Ceramics in Memory of Lynette McKinney; John Obie, the Physical Sciences Award in Memory of Richard P. O’Connor; Jan Jaminal, the Biological Sciences Award in Memory of Rochel Stein; Elisabeth Balachova, the Business Technologies Award in Memory of George N. Freedman; Donald Byfield, the Academic Excellence Award in Memory of Sabra Toback; Reba Canning, the Academic Award in Honor of Mary Louise Van Winkle; Kayla DelBiondo, the Political Science Award in Honor of Richard Reitano; and Amanda Federico, the Legacy Award in Honor of Lewis Krevolin.

In addition, recently retired faculty members Richard MacNamee and George Stevens were presented with 2013 DUE Honorary Awards recognizing their career-long contributions to supporting academic excellence at DCC.
Faculty, Staff Lauded for Milestone Service Anniversaries


A luncheon was held in May to celebrate milestone service anniversaries for Civil Service, DCC Association and cafeteria employees. Barbara Mosher was honored for 45 years of service. Celebrating 35 years of service was Carol Helion. Honored for 25 years of service were Sean Collins, James Helion, Maureen Mackey, Allison Miller and Kelly Smith-Wajda. Members with 20 years of service were Bobette Collins, Brenda Keller and Cheryl Medeiros. Celebrating 15 years were Anna Carbone, Darren Jackson, Michael Sheehan and Wayne Whitney. Those honored for 10 years of service were Marcia Ali, Jason Brainard, Daphne Demps-Claire, Kathleen Dorney, Nancy Fitzpatrick, Mariel Izquierdo, Barbara King, Norman Krueger, Katherine Merry, James Plass, Martha Russell and Patricia Trocino. Five-year honorees were Lisa Dieffenthaller, John Ellison, Eileen Fasano, John Kuklis, Alec Levinson, Carol Sappe, Loretta Walicki and William Welch.

Retirements

The College extends many thanks to the following employees for their dedication and hard work, and wishes them well in retirement. Collectively they represent more than 200 years of service.

The retirees are: William Angervine (Physical Plant); Holly St. John Bergon (English and Humanities); Sharon Fowler (Allied Health and Biological Sciences); Debbie Most (Business); Wesley Ostertag (Mathematics, Physical and Computer Sciences); Russell Pirog (Community Services); Steve Press (Performing, Visual Arts and Communications); Thomas Randall (Physical Plant); Richard Redder (Instructional Media); Jane Selin (Information Systems); and George Stevens (History, Government and Economics).
Developing Young Minds

Dutchess Community College is committed to offering educational activities to help young people in our community discover challenging and rewarding career paths in science, math, architecture and other areas. The College works with schools throughout our region to encourage development of problem-solving skills and spark healthy competition.

Magnetic Attraction

The first of the semi-annual Magnetic Levitation (MAGLEV) competitions for middle and high school students was held in November with more than 100 students participating. The competition is sponsored by DCC’s Department of Engineering, Architecture and Computer Technologies and facilitated by Electrical Engineering Program Chair Daniel Barbuto.

Participants design a car that uses magnets to levitate itself, and a propulsion system, such as a battery-powered fan, a wind sail or a balloon. The students then build the cars and race them on tracks lined with oppositely charged magnets to keep the vehicles afloat. The first-place division winners were Emily Erb from Union Vale Middle School; Michael Alderisio from Union Vale Middle School; Caspian Packard from Linden Avenue Middle School; Taylor James from Union Vale Middle School; Sean Conroy from Webutuck Middle School; Davin Fraleigh of Red Hook High School; Luke Williams from Union Vale Middle School and Katelin Zichiletta from Linden Avenue Middle School.

An additional competition was held in April of this year to accommodate increased interest in the program. First-place division winners were Kiana Jedlicka, William Grady, Logan Reardon, Rebecca Fox and Emma Smith from Union Vale Middle School; Ben Kocik from Linden Avenue Middle School; Nicholas Patino from George Fischer Middle School and Kevin Barry from Carmel High School.

Lego League Robotics

Robots were on the march in the DCC gymnasium in February when the College hosted the 2013 Hudson Valley FIRST (For Inspiration and Recognition of Science and Technology) Lego League Tournament robotics championship matches. The regional competition features teams of children ages 9-14, who use Lego components to build small robots that complete specific tasks.

The theme for 2013 was “Senior Solutions,” which focused on exploring challenges and finding solutions to problems faced by senior citizens. The autonomous robots designed by the teams performed tasks involving object collection and manipulation.

Dr. Leah Akins, a professor in the College’s Engineering, Architecture and Computer Technologies department, served as coordinator for the event. FIRST is a not-for-profit organization founded in 1989 to foster an appreciation of science and technology in young people. Each year, more than 120,000 students in eight countries participate in the league.

Girls Explore Math and Science Opportunities

To encourage girls to pursue careers in the male-dominated fields of science, technology, engineering and math, DCC has, for 17 years, hosted Math and Science Matter ... Especially for Young Women for girls in grades five through eight.

The program offers hands-on workshops developed by DCC faculty and is designed to engage girls in activities that highlight opportunities in the STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Math) fields. Students conducted experiments, examined fossils, learned about fire, studied the mind and more. The popular offering is coordinated by Tony Zito, department head of Mathematics, Physical and Computer Sciences.

Learning by Design

In March, local high school students interested in architecture worked with professionals in the field for DCC’s Eighth Annual Day of Design.

The teens worked in groups with local architects who volunteered to help students develop concept boards and architectural models. The program is sponsored by the DCC architecture faculty, the Dutchess Community College Foundation and Catskill Art and Office Supply.

Another architecture-focused event was the 21st annual DCC High School Architectural Design Competition in June. DCC’s Architectural and Construction Technologies program presented the initiative. Approximately 20 students entered the competition, and were judged on their designs for a single-family home in an open field with a view of mountains to the west. Annelise Vasti, Danielle Carollo and Shane Ryan of Arlington High School took home first, second and third place, respectively.

Dave Freeman, assistant professor and program chair for Architecture, coordinated both events.

Pumpkins Fly

A team of students from Brewster High School took first place at DCC’s 14th Annual Punkin’ Chunkin’ competition in October. Brewster was the only school to land a direct hit on its target. Teams from Arlington High School, Dutchess County BOCES and Dutchess Community College also participated.

Punkin’ Chunkin’ gives students in physics, engineering and technology classes and clubs the opportunity to design, build and operate a sophisticated mechanical device to hurl pumpkins at a target. The event is coordinated by Mark Courtney, DCC Associate Professor and head of the Engineering, Architecture and Computer Technologies department.
**Sports**

**Basketball**

The men’s basketball squad earned seven wins last season while competing in one of the toughest regions in the country. The team fought hard all season, yet fell just short of making the regional playoffs. The team was led by returning sophomores Jarelle Benitez and Darrius Dow. Through Benitez’s strong play, he earned both All-Conference and All-Region Team honors.

The women’s basketball team finished the 2013 season with eight wins. The team showed great determination throughout the season and reached the playoffs for the first time in eight years. Tanisha Coleman was voted to the All-Region First Team.

**Softball**

The women’s softball team clinched the *2013 Region XV Softball Championship* for the second consecutive year, defeating Nassau Community College, 5-1. Winning pitcher Abby Canning (14-0 for the season) was named to the All-Tournament team and was the 2013 Region XV Tournament MVP. Cheryl Hicks, Casi Kirk, Chelsea Dexter and Alyssa DiMaio were named to the 2013 NJCAA Region XV All-Tournament team. The Lady Falcons finished third in the National Junior College Athletic Association Division III National Championship in Rochester, Minn., with Canning, Hicks and DiMaio named to the NJCAA National Tournament Team. DCC was undefeated in Division III Region XV for the second year in a row and compiled a 17-2 record overall.

Canning, Dexter and DiMaio were named to the 2013 NJCAA Region XV All-Region First Team while Kirk, Hicks and Tori Ostrom were named to the Second Team. Canning was named the 2013 NJCAA Region XV League MVP and was nominated as an All-American for the NJCAA.

Head Coach Christopher Rea was named 2013 Coach of the Year for Region XV Softball.

Lexie Campolong received honors as a member of the 2013 NJCAA Region XV All-Region Sportsmanship Team and the squad received the 2013 Region XV Softball Team Sportsmanship Award.

**Baseball**

DCC’s baseball team fought through multiple injuries to rack up 14 wins during the season. Frank Backer was named to the All-Region First Team and received the Sportsmanship award. Sean Crowell earned All-Region Second-Team honors, while Ryan Atkins was named to the region’s All-Defensive Team.
Athletes as Scholars

The following DCC athletes received all-academic honors for the fall 2012 or spring 2013 semester, indicating their ability to juggle the rigors of team sports with the demands of coursework: Ryan Atkins, Frank Backer, Elisabeth Balachova, Gail Bruce, Donald Byfield, Stephanie Byrne, Tyler Choate, Sean Crowell, Tanisha Coleman, Michael Dewey, Alyssa DiMaio, Dominique Douglas, Cheryl Hicks, Brittany Hilton, Bruce Hotaling, Jerome Jackson, Cassandra Kirk, Lawrence Lang, Ryan McCormack, Amarelis Munoz, Robert Nelli, Daniel Paesano, Avery Pellnat, Mary Richwine, Victor Rodriguez, Hannah Sahawneh, Ryan Storey, Deanna Strang, Monica Susco, Yoshinori Tsuji, Kevin Walsh and Kenneth Welliver.

Volleyball

The women’s volleyball team finished the 2012 season with a 10-5 record, advancing to the Region XV tournament as the #4 seed. The Lady Falcons lost to fifth-ranked Queensborough Community College during the regular season, but rallied to defeat them in the regional quarterfinals. DCC ultimately was defeated in the semi-final round. Setter Trish McGrath was named DCC’s MVP for the tournament and earned MVP for the Mid-Hudson Conference and All-Region First Team honors. Rose Cardascia was a member of the Mid-Hudson Conference First Team and Audra Cannizzaro was placed on the region’s Sportsmanship Team.

Cross Country

The cross country team competed against two-year schools in other regions and also against many four-year colleges. Both the men’s and women’s squads earned success through much individual dedication and focus. The men’s team finished third at the Region XV Championship at Sunken Meadow Park on Long Island. The men’s efforts were led by second-season runner Bruce Hotaling who recorded a top-15 finish. The women’s squad was led by Meghan Kiernan, who earned All-Region honors as well as Third-Team All-American Honors for her 13th-place finish in the National Championship meet held at SUNY Delhi.

Golf

The golf team’s Ryan O’Connell and David Belton excelled this past year. O’Connell had a score of 88 in both the Orange and Dutchess matches, which placed him third in both events. Belton shot a low score of 82 in the Westchester match, good for fourth place.

Bowling

The bowling team again competed with a squad of both men and women in NICAA Division XV. The Regional Doubles Championship was won by Erin Correa and Joe Miller. Miller also made the men’s All-Tournament Team. The squad took runner-up for the Regional Tournament for the third year in a row. The Singles event runner-up was Lawrence Lang, who also was a runner-up for the Men’s All-Tournament Team.
Community Services

DCC’s Office of Community Services and Special Programs served approximately 10,000 students last year with credit-free courses in career and vocational training, workforce development, GED and ESL, professional and personal development, leisure activities, crafts, sports, fitness and youth programs.

Partnership Boosts Language Programs for Immigrants

After New York state launched the Office for New Americans to assist recent immigrants in their efforts to integrate into their new surroundings, DCC partnered with Catholic Charities Community Services in Dutchess County to form an Opportunity Center that provides English instruction.

DCC has registered more than 100 students for its English-for-Speakers-of-Other-Languages program since the beginning of 2013.

Certification Programs Strong

Several hundred individuals were served last year by the Office of Community Services’ certification programs, which equip students with the skills necessary to become an EKG or pharmacy technician, medical coding and billing specialist, medical office assistant, certified alcohol and substance abuse counselor or security guard.

Workforce Training Gets Results

DCC worked with local manufacturers’ association The Council of Industry to create a Leadership Management program, a comprehensive series of daylong courses that prepares supervisors for their challenging positions at manufacturing facilities. Upon completion, the participants were presented with a Certificate in Manufacturing Leadership by the Council and DCC. Participating companies included Alcoa, EFCO Products, Inc., Konica Minolta, Metallized Carbon Corporation, Stanfordville Machine and Manufacturing, Viking Industries, Inc. and Zumtobel.

“The course content, the quality of instruction and the networking that occurs between students from different companies make for an invaluable experience for participants,” said Harold King, vice president of the Council of Industry. “This is the type of training that makes a big difference for the companies that participate, and is the direct result of our special relationship with Dutchess Community College.”

“DCC and The Council’s supervisory training series helps fill the gaps for manufacturers who are training our new leaders in industry-specific skills,” said Denise Watson, director of human resources at EFCO Products, Inc. “Today’s supervisor needs to learn to use both technical and soft skills to meet everyday challenges, problem-solve effectively and reach short- and long-term goals. When supervisors bring back what they have learned and apply it, it’s a great return on investment!”

DCC Participates in Educational Pathways Project

The College joined other SUNY community colleges to create and deliver education and career training programs for both military veterans and workers eligible under the Trade Adjustment Assistance for Workers program, which includes those who have lost their jobs, or who are threatened with job loss, due to the impacts of foreign trade. Workers will be able to complete the programs in two years or less.

The primary goal of the collaborative’s Training and Education in Advanced Manufacturing (T.E.A.M.) Educational Pathways project is to help New York’s eligible workers find high-quality, high-wage jobs within the advanced manufacturing industry sector.

DCC will offer students new one-year technical certificate programs in Machining (core area) and/or Certified Production Technician. All curricula will incorporate the National Association of Manufacturers (NAM) Manufacturing Skills Certification System so that upon completion students will have earned their technical certificate, plus one or more of these additional stackable credentials: National Career Readiness Certificate, Manufacturing Skill Standard Council’s Certified Production Technician Certification, OSHA and Six Sigma. Within each of the new certificate programs, courses will be developed in a way that incorporates developmental education resources as needed.
Hundreds of Workers Trained through SUNY Grant
A high-impact training initiative was made possible by a 2012-2013 workforce grant awarded by the State University of New York. More than 600 workers in the business and healthcare fields were served.

The comprehensive series of customized training programs resulted in development and retention of supervisors, increased employee productivity, upgraded skills and enhanced production efficiencies. The goal of this training was to help the participating partners stay competitive and profitable.

Workforce training programs were customized to meet the unique training needs of companies including Williams Lumber and Home Centers, Package Pavement, Adams Fairacre Farms and Bonura Hospitality Group. The programs maximized the employees’ ability to significantly contribute to the overall success of the organizations and growth of the companies, prepared employees with the skills to assume greater responsibility and provided knowledge that could immediately be applied on the job.

Participating organizations reported that new supervisors became proficient in management competencies, internal communications were improved resulting in increased efficiency, professional image and service excellence increased profitability and staff gained skills to identify problems and motivate employees.

“By providing high-quality instructors and instruction space at an affordable price, we were able to accomplish more training in two months than we normally would have been able to in one year,” said Lucas Chyla, director of Human Resources for the Bonura Hospitality Group. “Without the program offered by DCC, this incredibly necessary and beneficial training would not have taken place.”

“DCC is proud to strengthen the local economy by creating customized, multi-client workforce training solutions that allow companies to improve service and efficiency, all at a reduced cost,” said Virginia Stoeffel, dean of the Office of Community Services.

Grant Supports Employee Development Initiatives
Over the past year, DCC has continued to offer companies access to the college’s $100,000 Workforce Training Grant funded by New York state. Under this grant, DCC’s Office of Community Services creates customized training solutions that meet companies’ business objectives at a substantially reduced cost. These training initiatives, critical to the County’s economic development, increase corporate efficiency and productivity, enhance workforce skills and meet the emerging needs of business and industry.

For almost two decades, more than $1 million has been made available under this grant to help an estimated 5,000 workers from more than 150 companies participate in about 200 training programs.

‘Geek Camp’ Joins Teen Lineup
Teens enjoyed new Saturday morning “Geek Camp” classes in gaming design, 3D computer graphics and Android app development. Other programs for teens – including SAT preparation, babysitting and driver education – continue to be popular.

Personal Enrichment Classes
Dog training courses are just some of the personal enrichment programs offered by the Office of Community Services. Other classes include language, digital photography, writing, time management, holistic health and more.

New classes in the pipeline include sculpture, table tennis, jewelry refurbishing and doll making. Watch your mail for the spring brochure that features a full list of available programs. Call (845) 431-8900 for more information.

‘Kids on Campus’ Offers Summer Fun and Learning for Youngsters
DCC’s Office of Community Services brought back the popular Kids on Campus summer program again this past year, offering morning, afternoon and full-day sessions for children ages 6-18. Focuses included arts and crafts, sports, music, computers and other areas. Sessions began in June and ran through mid-August.

The Performing Arts Institute was a success once again, and featured new director Laura Doe, who holds bachelor’s and master’s degrees from SUNY Potsdam’s Crane School of Music.

“The Kids on Campus summer program is always popular, and we were so pleased to be able to once again bring it to the community,” said Virginia Stoeffel, dean of Community Services. “We’re constantly updating our offerings based on feedback we receive from students and parents.”

Grant for 2014 Workforce Training Initiatives
DCC is pleased to announce that the Office of Community Services has received a $100,000 Workforce Training Grant from the New York State Education Department. The grant will fund workforce training initiatives critical to the County’s economic development.

Under this grant, DCC’s Office of Community Services creates customized training solutions that meet companies’ business objectives at a substantially reduced cost. These training initiatives, critical to the County’s economic development, increase corporate efficiency and productivity, enhance workforce skills and meet the emerging needs of business and industry.

For almost two decades, more than $1 million has been made available under this grant to help an estimated 5,000 workers from more than 150 companies participate in about 200 training programs.

‘Art Camp’ Joins Teen Lineup
Teens enjoyed new Saturday morning “Art Camp” classes in painting, photography and sculpture. Other programs for teens – including SAT preparation, babysitting and driver education – continue to be popular.

Kindermusik is just one of the programs offered by the Music School at DCC. The School also holds a Sing-a-Thon/Play-a-Thon event every year to raise funds for the MusicLink Scholarship Program, which provides music lessons for children who otherwise would not be able to afford them.
Two Honored at Gala, Scholarship Funds Raised

The Dutchess Community College Foundation’s annual Gala — Community’s Bridge to the Future — was held in March and drew approximately 300 guests to honor two outstanding individuals and raise funds for student scholarships.

Amelia Martinko, M.D., a 1966 DCC graduate, was inducted into the Alumni Hall of Fame and the Bernard Handel Community Leadership Award was presented to Linda Saland.

“Amelia’s career speaks volumes not only about her work ethic and commitment, but also about how a DCC education can serve as a starting point for many future accomplishments,” said President D. David Conklin. “She is a leader in her field and an outstanding example of a successful DCC graduate.”

Martinko is an internist with Mid Hudson Medical Group and on the medical staff of Vassar Brothers Medical Center. She rose through the ranks of physician leadership to be elected the first female president of the medical staff in 2007, and she currently sits on the board of both VBMC and Mid Hudson Medical Group. VBMC named her Physician of the Year in 2002.

Saland has an impressive resume of community contributions. She has served on the boards of the Mid-Hudson Chapter of the Alzheimer’s Association, the American Heart Association, the Jewish Community Center and the United Way of Dutchess County. In addition, she has chaired events for Mill Street Loft, Family Services and the Center for the Prevention of Child Abuse and has been honored with awards from organizations including the Community Foundation of Dutchess County, Marist College and the Dutchess County Girl Scouts.

“Linda’s contributions have been integral for so many organizations,” said Bernard Handel. “Countless people in the Hudson Valley have benefited from her commitment and service, and I’m pleased to present this award to someone so deserving.” Handel is a longtime supporter of the College and a current member of the DCC Foundation board and has funded an endowed faculty chair, among many other contributions.

Co-chairs for the event were Jim Fedorchak and Kip Bleakley O’Neill. Gala sponsors included Bonura Hospitality Group, Absolute Auctions and Realty, Mid Hudson Medical Group, Rhinebeck Bank and Stop & Shop. The 2014 Gala will be held on March 29.

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**Teeing Off for a Cause**

The Links at Union Vale was packed on May 20 with foursomes hitting the course for a good cause – student scholarships. The Dutchess Community College Foundation’s 23rd Annual Golf Tournament, in memory of Jack Orcutt, raised approximately $50,000. Jack Orcutt was DCC’s first director of student activities and a founding member of the College staff.

At this year’s event, the team of Kirk Imperati, Tom D’Ottavio, Paul Tartaglia and Mike Altieri took first place. The longest drive competition was won by Frank Perkins, while closest-to-the-pin was won by Paul Tartaglia.

The Event sponsor was Llelanie Orcutt and Family, the Ace sponsor was Marshall & Sterling, the Giveaway sponsor was The Chazen Companies, the Hole-in-One sponsor was Mercedes-Benz of Wappingers Falls, the Double Eagle Sponsor was O’Connor Davies, and the Eagle sponsors were Meyer Contracting Corp., Shirley Brereton, Liscum McCormack VanVoorhis LLP and Roemer Wallens Gold and Mineaux LLP, Counsellors at Law. The Media Sponsor was 92.1 Lite-FM.

**Memorialize Loved Ones on New Remembrance Tree**

In response to inquiries from community members wishing to honor loved ones in a meaningful and lasting way, the DCC Foundation has created a beautiful glass and metallic foil Remembrance Tree that was recently installed at the North end of Hudson Hall, fourth floor.

Those wishing to honor a deceased friend, family member or colleague may purchase a leaf that will be inscribed “In Memory of” with the person’s name and year of passing. Funds raised will support Foundation initiatives, including student scholarships.

A gold leaf is $1,000, a silver leaf is $500 and a bronze leaf is $250. Leaves may be ordered online by visiting sunydutchess.edu and clicking on “Make a Gift.” Please complete the form, selecting “Other” and entering the date he or she passed away under “About Your Gift” and entering the name of the person you wish to memorialize. For more information about the Remembrance Tree, call (845) 431-8400.

**More Than 3,000 Attend Craft Fair**

The Foundation hosted its 41st Annual Craft Fair on Thanksgiving weekend, drawing more than 3,000 visitors and 100-plus artisans and specialty food makers. Some vendors traveled from across New York state, Connecticut, Pennsylvania and New Jersey to offer their unique items to local residents looking to kick off the holiday shopping season.

Items for sale included jewelry, fiber arts, clothing, candles, soaps and oils, decorative painting, photographs, toys, collectibles, ceramics, porcelain, floral arrangements and works in glass, metal, leather and wood.

**More Than $100,000 in Scholarships Awarded**

At the Honors Convocation in May, 150 students either starting their second year at DCC or graduating and entering four-year colleges in the fall, were recognized for outstanding achievements and received scholarships totaling more than $110,000. More than $1.2 million in scholarships has been awarded by the DCC Foundation in the Convocation ceremonies since they began 17 years ago.

The scholarships are funded by individuals and organizations to reward academic excellence. To learn more about establishing a scholarship, contact the DCC Foundation at (845) 431-8400.

**DCC’s new Remembrance Tree is located in Hudson Hall.**