

THE EXCHANGE

GERMANNA COMMUNITY COLLEGE
INFORMATION BULLETIN



Brenda Dixon, angel of mercy for wounded vets

It doesn't matter to the 47-year-old former Germanna Community College student, Fredericksburg nurse, GCC nursing instructor and U.S. Army Reserve Lieutenant Colonel how that mission is realized.

Dixon decided to go into nursing in 1978 when she heard about the important work her sister in law, another GCC graduate, was doing as an emergency room nurse in Fredericksburg. She was recruited to the adjunct faculty at Germanna in 1984 and became a full-time instructor in 1986.

She joined the reserve 25 years ago after hearing exciting tales of Army nursing from Dale Featherstone, who was then the director of nursing at Germanna and had served in Korea.

Dixon was activated in 1991 during the first Gulf War, and later returned to teaching at Germanna. The war in Iraq led to a return to active duty four years ago at Fort Eustis, VA, over 100 miles from her home in the Fredericksburg area. She must leave her husband and 6-year-old daughter every Monday morning and doesn't see them again until Friday



Brenda Dixon, shown above at her Spotsylvania home, has devoted her life to helping others.

evening. Her husband Theodore, another Germanna graduate, is a retired nurse.

She says it's worth it for her job as case manager at McDonald Army Hospital and her work caring for wounded Iraq War soldiers and helping younger Army nurses learn their trade.

"I feel we do a good job with our soldiers," she said. She typically oversees care for about 60 wounded soldiers at a time. "If I was wounded in theater, I'd like to think I'd get medical care as good as the care we provide," Dixon said.

Source: Michael Zitz Beckham

Please submit items for publication to Cynthia Hill:

• chill@gcc.vccs.edu
- electronic submission,
PREFERRED;

— OR —

• LGC mailbox - please include your name as the source should there be questions pertaining to your submittal.

HAPPY HOLIDAYS
from GERMANNA COMMUNITY COLLEGE



Pictured from left to right: Kaela Way, Carolyn Bynum, Brayon DeLeon, Erick DeLeon, Kristen Jones and Ashley Hoffman.

Middle College students give back to the community

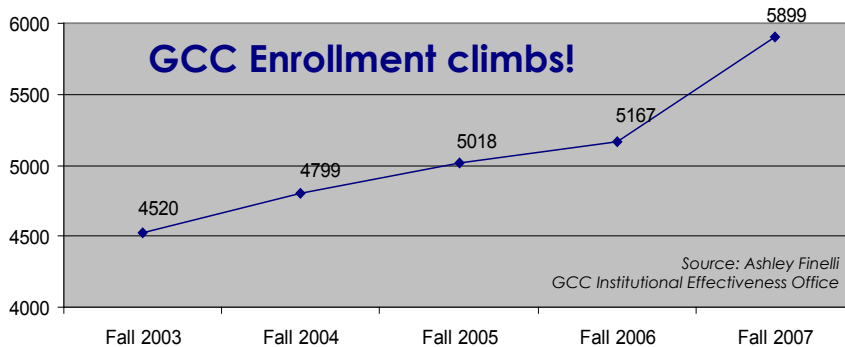
On November 14, Middle College student representatives traveled to Fredericksburg to deliver 516 pounds of food and \$36 to the Fredericksburg Area Food Bank.

In October, morning and evening Middle College classes organized and staged a collection for the food bank by putting up flyers and setting up boxes at all three GCC locations and in area businesses. In addition, several Middle College students worked with Student Activities to collect nonperishable food items and raise funds during the Halloween celebration held at the Locust Grove Campus.

Each semester, Middle College students participate in an activity to benefit area non-profit organizations. Some past activities include a beautification project at the Parent Resource Center in Spotsylvania and a school supply drive to benefit the Bragg Hill Family Life Center's after-school program.

Middle College students and staff extend their deepest appreciation to all who participated and donated to this worthy cause. Your generous contributions made this effort a great success!

Source: Carolyn Bynum



Thank You

I wish to thank everyone at Germanna for all their support, prayers and expressions of sympathy during this very difficult time.

Dianne Condon

It's a boy!

Congratulations to C. J. Bracken, Instructional Technologist, and wife Kati on the birth of their son, Tyler, on Friday, December 14, at 10:54 p.m. Baby boy Bracken was 6 lbs 11.5 oz and 20" long.

C. J. reports that mother and baby are both doing great.



Grizzlies win 2 games in overtime

Germanna Community College's basketball club recently claimed its second overtime victory in two days, coming from behind to defeat Southside Community College - Alberta 108 to 100 at Regency Park Sports in Spotsylvania.

Jamelle Williams led Germanna with 32 points Sunday and Quinton Aldridge added 28.

The Grizzlies downed Southside - Keysville Community College 70-68 in overtime Saturday after coming back from a 40-24 halftime deficit.

The two stirring victories came after the Grizzlies had opened the season 0-4.

Source: Michael Zitz Beckham

Congratulations!

Sharee Robinson,

Administrative Assistant to the Vice President of Academic Services, for achieving the status of Professional in Human Resources (PHR). Ms. Robinson was awarded this designation after many hours of classes, study, and successfully passing an intensive examination. The exam and certification are given by the Society for Human Resource Management. Ms. Robinson continues to work on her degree and will be taking another certification examination soon.

Dr. Miguel Lechuga

who wrote from Spain to let us know that on December 14, after four hours of reading and questioning, he became "Doctor Lechuga" with a note of Excellent and "Cum Laude". He states that the University of Madrid wants to publish his work. He extends his thanks to all for their support during his years of working toward this accomplishment.

J. Gayle Wolfe who has been selected a finalist for the Chancellor's Award for Teaching Excellence. Best wishes, Gayle!

Source: Deborah Wilson

SACS update

We received good news from the SACS Commission meeting this month in New Orleans.

Dr. Cheryl Cardell, Germanna Community College's SACS liaison, informed us of the Commission approving our substantive changes for extension centers as submitted. Because we had not had a procedure that would guarantee timely notification, they also accepted our new policy and procedure. A follow up visit of all sites mentioned will be required within eight months, but no sanctions were applied by the Commission because Germanna admitted the errors and developed a policy and took corrective action.

Thanks to all who worked on this. We will ensure that the Commission is properly notified of future extension sites.

Source: David A. Sam

Employee health benefits

Routine Wellness & Preventive Care Benefits for COVA Care & COVA HDHP Participants

The routine wellness and preventive care benefits listed below are covered (one each per plan year) at 100% of the allowable charge under the COVA Care and COVA HDHP plans. There is no deductible, copayment or coinsurance for these services.

- Routine Wellness: annual check-up plus immunizations, labs, and x-rays
- Preventive Care: gynecological exam and Pap test; routine mammogram (35+); prostate/digital rectal exam and PSA test (40+); colorectal cancer screening/ colonoscopy (40+)
- Dental Preventive & Diagnostic Visits: two per plan year

All employees and their immediate family members, whether covered under the State's health insurance or not, have access to the Employee Assistance Program (EAP) for up to four free visits for any of the following:

- Marital and family concerns
- Child and elder care issues
- Stress, anxiety and other emotional health topics
- workplace concerns
- financial issues
- alcohol & substance abuse
- legal issues (one free 1/2 hour consultation)

To talk with an experienced counselor, simply call the toll-free number (866-725-0602). ValueOptions confidential help line is staffed 24 hours a day, seven days a week. Help is just a phone Call away!

Coming January 2008!

Weight Watchers discount/ reimbursement for State employees who *participate* in or are *eligible* for the State COVA Care, COVA HDHP and Kaiser Permanente HMO health plans. Additional details coming soon.

Source: Christina Dennis

Distance learning leadership

In January, faculty members **Delois McCormick** and **Cheryl Huff** will be taking a more prominent leadership role with the Distance Learning (DL) area.

As we search for a Dean of Distance Learning, these two faculty members will be providing daily oversight to the operations for DL.

They will continue to co-chair the Distance Learning Faculty Advisory Committee, which is intertwined with the DL area, and make sure that services are running smoothly for students and faculty alike.

They are looking forward to this new challenge and to working with all involved in the area.

Source: Deborah Wilson

Grand opening: Virginia Workforce Center

On December 10, Middle College Director, Carolyn Bynum, and VCCS Vice Chancellor of Workforce, Peter Blake, attended the Grand Opening of the new Virginia Workforce Center in Charlottesville.

The prototypical One Stop Center houses several different service organizations that serve job seekers and businesses in the region from one central location.

Some of the partners in this center include Virginia Department of Rehabilitative Services, Virginia Employment Commission, Piedmont Community College Office of Veteran Affairs, Workforce Investment Act (WIA) program, and the Charlottesville Department of Social Services.

The Piedmont Workforce Network and Virginia Local Workforce Investment Area VI worked directly with the Governor's Office for Workforce Development and the Virginia Department of General Services.

Source: Carolyn Bynum; also cited www.governor.virginia.gov

Workforce & Community Education news

FREE community series classes. Germanna's Center for Workforce and Community Education, in collaboration with community leaders in education, business and health care, will offer six free courses to the community during February and March of 2008: Anger Management, Stress Management, Communication and Psychological Type, Girl Power! Girls Really ARE Good at Math and Science, Taking Anxiety Out of Tests, and Homework Without Hassles.

These classes are excellent resources for families and most suitable for parents, high school students, and teachers. Kevin Handley, Abigail James, Sarah Neilson and Gayle Wolfe from Germanna's Psychology department will lead the classes on Monday nights from 7 to 8 p.m.

All six of these one-hour classes will be held in Sealy Auditorium at the Fredericksburg Area Campus in Spotsylvania on Monday nights from 7 PM to 8 PM. Please register at least a week in advance to reserve your seats through the Workforce office at 540-891-3012.

View the [linked brochure](#) for more details about these free classes.

Source: Leigh Morris

Statewide high-tech testing success. Workforce has expanded its high tech testing capabilities at the Fredericksburg Area Campus in Spotsylvania and successfully provided high-tech testing for a large Virginia Department of Education Cisco training event in October. The Department of Education was very pleased with the results.

Through the leadership of Christy Davis, project coordinator and high-tech test administrator, we were able to expand the number of test stations from 3 to 24.

Katie Brown provided additional support on testing day. Thanks also go to our college's IT department for their assistance and technical support.

These are high-stakes tests and the cooperative efforts of all involved are to be commended. This was a big project that came together beautifully.

We now have the ability to test large groups here, to more effectively and efficiently serve the community.

Source: Martha O'Keefe

Bond proposal an exciting step forward

A higher education bond proposal Gov. Tim Kaine unveiled Dec. 13 includes \$23.3 million for construction of a third building at Germanna's Fredericksburg Campus in Spotsylvania.

Germanna President, Dr. David A. Sam, called it "an exciting step forward." He said the new building will allow Germanna to better support science and health occupations.

Gov. Kaine will introduce legislation authorizing a \$1.65 billion General Obligation Bond package during the 2008 General Assembly Session. Proposals include approximately \$338.9 million for 31 new construction, renovation, and major mechanical projects at VCCS schools.

The third building at the Fredericksburg Area Campus in Spotsylvania would provide space for classrooms, offices, science labs and additional library space with improved technology.

Germanna must raise \$2.6 million from local sources before ground can be broken in 2009. The 40,000-square-foot wing would take about three years to finish.

Source: Michael Zitz-Beckham



On a recent evening, members of local Cub Scout Pack 225 practiced proper handling of the American flag at GCC's Locust Grove Campus.

Participants included Jose Daniel Bencomo, Aaron Raymond, Blake Harris, Cale Hughes, Nathan Lose, Parker Rudd, Mathew Goodsell, Daniel R. Amburn, and McKay Rudd.

Source: Frank Ransom

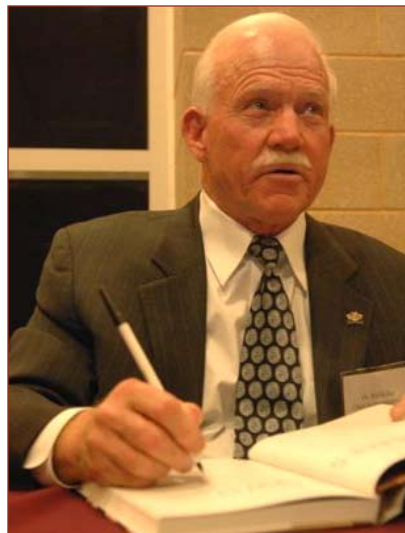
Germanna hosts world-renowned archeologist

To dig or not to dig? That is the question the Memorial Foundation of the Germanna Colonies in Virginia wants to answer regarding another potential archeological dig near Germanna Community College's Locust Grove Campus.

On December 6, world-renowned Jamestown archeologist Bill Kelso told a crowd of 350 at Germanna Community College's Joseph R. Daniel Technology Center in Culpeper that a dig at the Fort Germanna site closed 20 years ago for lack of funds should be reopened.

"We want to see the story unfold," Kelso said.

"I will be a cheerleader for Germanna because I want to see what's there," he said. "I'd be interested to see how the Germans were able to build in the wilderness and how they were able to cope with the environment as compared to the English a hundred years earlier."



The Germanna Education Foundation funded the Kelso event, which included a reception and book signing.

Rob Sherwood, an English instructor at Germanna, was the driving force behind bringing Kelso to the Daniel Center. Sherwood has been working for years to focus attention on Germanna history and to spark interest in reopening the dig.

Source: Michael Zitz Beckham and 5 December 2007
Culpeper Star-Exponent

League for Innovation in the Community College

Germanna has purchased an organization membership in the League for Innovation. One of the member benefits is access to iStream which is a portal-based, multimedia resource that brings the best of the League's conferences, publications, services, partnerships and networking to everyone on campus.

To create an account— go to www.league.org/istream. Click on "Create Your Account" button on the upper right side of the screen. Select "Germanna Community College" and enter in your information.

Some of the available features are:

- Thoughtful Topics - Focusing on monthly themes and targeting community college and higher

education issues. The streaming videos include Keynotes from League conferences, special sessions from national presentations, and webinars from international experts and leaders.

- LEN's - The Learning Exchange Networks include six online training modules along with facilitator resources, workshop guides and ancillary materials.
- TLT - The Teaching, Learning and Technology (TLT) Group and the League has partnered to provide iStream subscribers front-row, free seating to practical and thought-provoking professional development workshops and webcasts.

Watch for more information about this organization and the many benefits.

Source: Victoria Waldron

Popular title collection

We are now leasing popular titles from Baker & Taylor to satisfy a need for recreational reading. Although this is not intended to be a substitute for your local public library, many interesting best sellers can be acquired this way without exhausting shelf space. Books may be returned and replaced with other titles. The collection will always be small, but it will grow over the coming months to about 120 titles.

Lynn Brown has tackled this new selection task with enthusiasm and is rearranging the library to make these materials and our reference materials more visible to the public. Remember that we have a courier service available, so the items can be delivered to the campus of your choice. Just e-mail one of the library staff and request the item, or request the item online within the catalog, VCCSlinc. The library staff monitors automated requests and gets them to the appropriate branch as soon as possible. (With you're "my GCC" user id and password, you may place holds on any print or AV materials in our online catalog, including those in the Popular Title collection. If you have trouble with this, contact the library to add this capability to your patron record.) The key word "leased" will give you a list of our leased books to date. This list will change as we return and acquire new items.

Happy Reading everyone! We are all excited about this new service.

Source: Karen Bowers

Need TECHNICAL Help?

Germanna's on-line technical helpdesk is now available at:

www.germanna.edu/helpdesk

Additional information is provided in the [linked 2-page brochure](#).

Source: Jacque Hirsch

Back to school

They say you're never too old to learn. And Locust Grove resident Claire Ducker is proof of that.

The 94-year-old practicing lawyer headed back to college this semester for the first time since earning a law degree seven decades ago.

Ducker just completed Information Technology, an entry-level computer class, at Germanna Community College's Locust Grove Campus last week.

Recently, Ducker—sporting an orange button-up shirt and wool-lined vest—sat in the student lounge flipping through his Practical PC booklet before a tutoring session.

"If you don't learn computers, then you're behind the times," he said. "There are so many things that can be done with them."

For years, Ducker wanted to learn more about computers; however, what pushed him to finally take a class was when his firm's suburban Maryland office purchased new computers with Microsoft Vista.

Ducker has been a lawyer in the Washington area for more than a half century.

He is currently acting counsel for a number of companies, usually conducting most of his work by telecommuting.

As a lawyer, Ducker said he must be able to access the United States Code. Access costs \$3600 and an additional \$3000 annually to keep it up. "If you can get that online, you can save lots of money," said Ducker, who was born in 1913, the same year the 16th Amendment was ratified allowing the federal government to impose and collect income taxes. "Plus you can do a great deal of research on computers."

Ducker earned a bachelor's degree in law from National University in Washington, DC, in 1937 and a doctorate in law from George Washington University in Washington, DC, in 1938.

Ducker said he might even venture into taking a few online courses.



Germanna Community College student Claire Ducker heads home after a tutoring session. Culpeper Star-Exponent staff photo, Rhonda Simmons

To a passerby, Ducker might have seemed like the instructor as he carried his laptop toward room 210 on a recent evening.

Instead he bypassed the front of the classroom and headed toward one of the 20 computers and sat beside the other students in class.

However, this pupil is nearly three times as old as the professor and almost five times older than the students.

His professor, Karey Sayre, says Ducker is "an inspiration" and sets an example.

"There's no question he motivates others," he said. "He's a great person who has a lot of knowledge."

His tutor, Eric Carr, helps Ducker learn the mechanics of using programs such as Microsoft Excel and Word.

GCC nursing student Stacey Berube, 34, says she was worried about returning to college after taking several years off. "I think it's amazing," she said. "I think he's a testament to keeping the mind and body active." "I admire that," she added.

GCC student and classmate Aseel Ross, 23, agreed. "I just want to be like him," she said

Source: extracted from Culpeper Star-Exponent 9 December 2007

Leave Share Thank You

"I wanted to thank you for including me in the leave share donations. The last month/year has been very stressful for me. Germanna has been so good to me. I appreciate everything you have done for me and my family during these hard times. Thank you for helping me out with leave and thank you for all your kind words and thoughts."

Signed: A Germanna Employee