ON THE CUTTING EDGE OF RESEARCH
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The world’s revolutionary gene editing technology is coming to Delaware Tech, thanks to a $1 million National Science Foundation grant.

On the Cover
Christiana Care’s Graham Cancer Center Medical Director Nicholas Petrelli, M.D.; Delaware Tech Instructor John McDowell, Ph.D.; Delaware Tech alumna Kristen Pisarcik; and Christiana Care’s Gene Editing Institute Director Eric Kmiec, Ph.D.
MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Dear Alumni and Friends,

Our mission states that Delaware Tech is committed to providing affordable, open admission, post-secondary education that is responsive to the market and community needs. We understand that tuition can be an overwhelming factor when it comes to college. With a focus on affordability and meeting the market needs, we continuously evaluate our programs and offer clear and accessible pathways for students to obtain a degree.

For the past 12 years, Delaware Tech has offered not only affordable, but tuition-free programs to students through the SEED (Student Excellence Equals Degree) Scholarship. At the core, any student who attends a Delaware high school, maintains good grades, and stays out of trouble can go to Delaware Tech tuition free. SEED scholars begin Delaware Tech courses in the fall following their high school graduation with access to more than 120 academic programs of study. I’m proud to report as of 2018, more than 10,000 students have benefitted from the SEED program. Our graduates are then ready to enter the workforce or transfer to a four-year institution to continue their education.

As the market changes, Delaware Tech adapts and offers pathways to earn advanced degrees. When a student wishes to further his/her education, the process is seamless as the College maintains more than 260 program-to-program transfer agreements (often referred to as connected degrees) with 23 different senior institutions. Offering a wide variety of majors, students are guaranteed admission as a junior, lessening their coursework to only two additional years, before earning a bachelor’s degree. For example, we recently signed an agreement with Widener University for our students to earn a Bachelor of Science in Legal Studies following completion of a Criminal Justice Associate Degree at Delaware Tech. I encourage you to learn more about our connected degrees in this issue of Delaware Tech magazine.

With affordability and a changing market always at the forefront, I assure you our Delaware Tech graduates are ready for the next step in their educational journeys.

Mark T. Brainard, President

Follow President Brainard on Twitter and Instagram.
MESSAGE FROM ALUMNI PRESIDENTS

MESSAGE FROM ALUMNI PRESIDENTS

Nancy K. Broadhurst
Alumni President
Owens Campus

Gary W. Pippin
Alumni President
Terry Campus

Sharon L. Mossman
Alumni President
Stanton and George Campuses

Life gets busy. And in the era of self-driving cars, virtual reality, and face-recognition passwords, technology can seem to pass us by. But behind every new app or piece of technology is human connection – rooted in education. As an alumnus, your education at Delaware Tech may have fueled your career path, furthered your education, or even generated a new passion. For Corie Priest, he inspires the lives of Delawareans as inreach coordinator at the Wilmington Hope Commission. For Nicole Sherry, she made a fulfilling career as head groundskeeper at Oriole Park at Camden Yards after graduating from Delaware Tech. And for Paul Egnor, he saw his name next to “Best Chef in Delaware” and continues to excite taste buds as executive chef and brewmaster at Pizza by Elizabeths.

Just as these alumni use their education to inspire the world around them – we know you are making an impact. If you graduated with a Delaware Tech degree, diploma, or academic certificate, we invite you to visit our new alumni website, www.dtcc.edu/alumni, to stay connected. The page includes alumni news, benefits, and events, as well as distinguished alumni, information about the Alumni Association, success stories, and more! We encourage you to update your contact information, learn about Delaware Tech’s initiatives, and consider volunteering at a College event. In addition, make sure to follow us on LinkedIn and update your education history to include Delaware Tech.

What continues to connect us? Our Delaware Tech degrees.

We look forward to connecting with you in 2018! Visit www.dtcc.edu/alumni.
Lisa Blunt Rochester visits Delaware Tech

Delaware Tech welcomed Congresswoman Lisa Blunt Rochester to the Dover Campus on Jan. 23 to meet with Advanced Manufacturing students from Dover High School. The seniors are enrolled through Delaware Tech’s Workforce Development and Community Education Division, which allows high school students to gain college credits during their junior and senior years. During the visit, students demonstrated several activities using motor and electrical control modules for Congresswoman Blunt Rochester.

Sitting (left to right): Dover High School students Anastasia Rodriguez, Yves-Schneida Toussaint, and Dariel Garcia. Second row (left to right): Special Programs Director Lisa Falconetti, Educational Training Specialist Joseph Mullaney, Student Enrichment Coordinator Danielle Craig, Congresswoman Lisa Blunt Rochester, Dover High School student Emilie Gorajewski, and Delaware Tech President Dr. Mark Brainard. Third row (left to right): Assistant Vice President for Workforce Development and Community Education Paul Morris, Director of Workforce Development and Community Education Lisa Strusowski, Academic Support Assistant Michael Valeus, and Dover High School students Joshua Cummings-Lagrave, Azim Opare, and Emilio Velasquez-Escalante.
Students enrolled in Delaware Tech’s Chemical Process Operator (CPO) program had an opportunity to learn outside of the classroom recently. On Nov. 29, 2017, a group of CPO students embarked on an exclusive tour of the Delaware City Refinery alongside Jerry Geimer and Estebon Gonzalez, operations training coordinators for the refinery.

Chemistry/CPO Instructor Heather Bashford, Adjunct Chemistry and CPO Instructor Betty Piovoso, and Career Services Counselor Kathy Linsner accompanied the students.

The annual tour is an opportunity for students in the CPO program to observe and ask questions in a refinery or chemical plant environment. The tour included a walkthrough of one of the process areas and the central control room.

The Delaware City Refinery also sponsors an internship program where students gain hands-on experience at the refinery during their final semester of the CPO program. Students in the program learn and perform the duties of the process operator in the Hydrogen Unit. And many times, student interns gain employment at the refinery through the internship program.

For more information about the Chemical Process Operations program, visit go.dtcc.edu/cpot.
George Cognet
Shares a Lifetime of IT Experience

Computer Technology Department Chairperson George Cognet was born and raised in San Juan, Puerto Rico. He is the youngest of three children and says he and his two sisters still have a very close relationship to this day. When he was growing up, Cognet’s mother taught at an elementary school, and his father taught at a vocational school.

His interest in computers began when he took an introduction to programming course in college. “At the time, computers and math were lumped together as one major,” he said. After talking to his parents and academic counselor, he decided to pursue math and computers. “I am so thankful I had parents and a counselor that took the time to explain the options to me.” The help he received from them inspired him to help others in an academic setting.

While still in high school, Cognet applied to the Coast Guard Academy. He was accepted, and after he graduated in 1978, he served 12 years in the Coast Guard. In 1991, he left active duty to join the Coast Guard Reserves as a reserve officer and later completed 23 years of civilian service for the Coast Guard until his retirement in 2014. During his time as a civilian employee with the Coast Guard, Cognet led a computer center, where he served as the senior IT manager to six Coast Guard Commands, where he was responsible for the procurement, re-procurement, and maintenance of over 1,000 computers with a value in excess of 2.5 million dollars, as well as the multi-million-dollar Local Area Network infrastructure. In this position, he learned about all aspects of information technology (IT).

When Cognet began as an adjunct instructor over 30 years ago at two Baltimore-area technology-based schools and the University of Phoenix, he aspired to teach full time. His parents were teachers, and his two nephews are professors, so teaching runs in the family. “I enjoy seeing others learn, passing on my knowledge, and helping them grow their careers,” he said.

When the position opened for a department chairperson in the Computer Technology Department in 2014, Cognet was excited to apply. “I have always loved Delaware Tech’s mission,” he said.

Cognet said his favorite part of his job is working with students to help them accomplish and surpass their academic goals,” he said. To encourage collaboration, he worked with his colleagues to make improvements to their server room and classrooms so students had a designated area to work together and study between classes.

According to Cognet, “Seeing them graduate is what it’s all about. It’s especially great seeing them choosing to continue their education at four-year institutions or landing jobs in the IT field.”

With George’s 20+ years in the IT field, he knows just how quickly this industry is changing, and along with his collegewide counterparts, is presently redesigning the computer technologies program to provide students with three concentration options: information security, programming, and networking. In addition, a general program will be available for students who do not want to specialize in one area. “With this new program, they will be able to pick and choose courses to create their own custom degree,” Cognet said. “They will be able to build their credentials depending on the type of job they want to get once they have their degree.”

Cognet has been with his partner for 36 years, and they got married four years ago. “We raised and adopted my husband’s niece, now our daughter, when she was three months old, and she will be 24 years old this July,” he said. Cognet and his partner love animals and have four amazing dogs - two Chihuahuas and two boxers. After completing the redesign of the new ITN program, Cognet hopes to start working on a Ph.D. He is also looking forward to having grandchildren someday.

For more information about the Computer Technology Department, visit www.dtcc.edu/programs.
MALTA Club students touring the National Institutes of Health in Bethesda, Md. From left, advisor Shirley Murray, Georges Odaris, Juanita Harris, Viki Nitsch, Rebecca Sharkey, Alba Ferrer, Shelby Timko, Ciara Collins, Ashley Keith, and advisor Linda Collins.

Occupational Therapy Assistant Club students attending the 2017 American Occupational Therapist Assistant Conference in Philadelphia, Pa. Pictured are advisor Elaine Smith with the entire OTA Class of 2018.

Physical Therapy Assistant Club students and advisors at the 2017 Delaware Tech Distinguished Lecture Series event, which the club helps plan, organize, and staff. From left, advisor Dr. Marcia Kile, Regan Hemstetter, Kaitlyn Willin, Jerry Felipe, Colleen Gaitano, Kaylee Bastianelli, Mark Bogle, and advisor Patricia Bird.

Allied Health and Nursing Student Clubs Work Hard to Gain Valuable Real-World Knowledge

Just learning from a textbook isn’t enough to prepare Delaware Tech’s allied health and nursing students for careers as health professionals. That is why each program has state-of-the-art labs for students to gain hands-on learning and offers clinical rotations for students to experience life working at a hospital or lab. But it’s also beneficial for students to hear from industry professionals and network with people in their field. So it’s important for them to attend conferences, lectures, and seminars. To do that, they need to raise money – and that’s when our Delaware Tech students use their creativity and energy to raise funds to enable them to attend these important conferences, lectures, and seminars.

MALTA (Medical Assistant Laboratory Technician) Club

MALTA is the oldest allied health student club at Delaware Tech. Students regularly attend the American Society of Clinical Pathologists conference, as well as the American Society of Clinical Laboratory Scientists dinner. Students also have the opportunity to tour Bayhealth’s Kent General Hospital in Dover, Siemens Diagnostics in Glasgow, the Blood Bank of Delmarva in Newark, and the National Institutes of Health in Bethesda, Md.

Throughout the academic year, the club raises funds to attend these conferences. They also volunteer at the blood drive in Georgetown in the fall and spring, participate in Toys for Tots, volunteer at the annual STEM Expo, and participate in road cleanup for the Adopt-A-Highway campaign.

Occupational Therapy Assistant Club

The Occupational Therapy Assistant Club serves as the inspiration for the College’s participation in the annual Rock Your Socks campaign for the Delaware Down Syndrome Awareness Association. In 2017, the club raised $1,949 for the campaign. They also support Special Olympics Delaware by participating in the Polar Bear Plunge and the Buddy Walk.

Additionally, club members have the opportunity to attend educational conferences, such as the National Occupational Therapy Conference, which was held in Philadelphia in 2017.

Physical Therapy Assistant Club

After graduating from the physical therapist assistant program, students must take a licensure review course, which costs $3,500 - a steep price for any student. During their two years in the program, students raise funds in a variety of ways to be able to pay for the licensure review course.

The club’s biggest fundraiser is the annual Distinguished Lecture Series, a full-day event that brings together industry professionals to discuss current topics within the field of physical therapy. By helping to coordinate and plan the event, students get to meet alumni, potential clinical instructors, and potential employers. They also have the opportunity to network with area physical therapists, occupational therapists, physical therapist assistants, and occupational therapist assistants. The added benefit for physical therapists, occupational therapists, physical therapist assistants, and occupational therapist assistants is that they earn continuing education credits toward renewing their professional license and enhancing their professional clinical skills.

Note: Due to editorial deadlines, not all student clubs associated with Delaware Tech allied health programs are represented in this story.
Radiologic Technology Club students attend the annual Maryland Society of Radiologic Technologists Conference. From left, Matt Bowers, Lyndsey Sabold, Emily Buyer, Olga Elton, Meredith Lee, Erin O’Conner, Ron Werner, Celeste Jones, and Liz Kimball.

Radiologic Technology Club

Students in the Radiologic Technology Club participate in the Maryland Society of Radiologic Technologists annual conference. For the past three years, they have also hosted a Kettering National Seminar to help prepare them for the national certification exam administered by the American Association of Radiologic Technologists. To help cover the expenses associated with these events, the students hold a quarter auction and several other smaller fundraisers throughout the academic year.

Rad Tech Club students also give back to the community by volunteering for Habitat for Humanity, the campus 5k, and the Mountaire Farms Thanksgiving for Thousands program, which includes packing boxes with Thanksgiving dinner items for local families.

Respiratory Care Club

Respiratory Care Club students attend the annual Conference by the Sea in Ocean City, Md. From left, back row, Morgan Slavin, Ian Dobie, Megan Hodges, Timur Astanov, Jennifer Hoopes, and Casey Gralewski. Front row, Jessica Rohlman, Brittany Burgard, Andrea Davis, Shaeen Cadenas-Dominguez, and Amiee Kelly.

Respiratory Care Club

Respiratory Care Club students have the opportunity to attend conferences and seminars at Christiana Care Hospital, Nemours/AI duPont Children’s Hospital, and Salisbury University. Additionally, they participate in seminars conducted by Vapotherm, Coviden, the Delaware Society for Respiratory Care, and the Maryland-DC Society for Respiratory Care.

While attending all of the conferences and seminars are important, Respiratory Care Club students are very active in community outreach, community service, and patient education. They regularly participate in the Apple Scapple Health and Safety Fair, the Beebe Healthcare Health Fair, the American Lung Association Lung Force Walk, Adopt-A-Highway, the campus 5k, and the Polar Bear Plunge. Students assist in the Health Care Exploration and Breathing Buddies summer camps for kids.

Student Nurses Association

Students in the Student Nurses Association plan fundraisers each year to support the costs of attending the National Student Nurses Association membership and annual conference. The conference is held each spring and was in Orlando in 2016 and Dallas in 2017. Students are able to attend three days’ worth of topics that range from specializing in their field, to how to build a resume, to meeting with vendors. The conference is also a valuable opportunity to network with more than 5,000 nursing students from across the country.

Students are also members of the Delaware Student Nurses Association, which hosts two conferences a year to allow attendees to obtain information on topics such as homelessness, the opioid crisis, and state board/regulatory issues.

To support the community, the club participates in one service project per semester. Past efforts have included a coat, scarf, and glove drive and collections of items such as non-perishable food and warm clothing and blankets for local charities. In addition, the club holds a food drive competition between all of the nursing classes to benefit the food bank at the Wesley United Methodist Church in Georgetown.

Student Nurses Association

Student Nurses Association students attend the annual National Student Nurses Association Conference in Dallas, Texas. From left, Scott Kunkowski, advisor Cheryl Horst, Patience Whaley, Beverly Bush, and Scott Martz.

Veterinary Technology Club

Students in the Veterinary Technology Club attend at least two conferences each year – the Delaware Veterinary Medical Association continuing education meeting in the winter and the American Veterinary Medical Association national conference in the summer. They have also attended the Central Veterinary Conference. Those events specifically provide students with education in a variety of disciplines, from regulatory medicine to zoo animal treatment, and allow them to network with technicians from across the country and explore job opportunities from national organizations.

In an effort to give back within their field of study, students support deployed K-9 soldiers twice a year by collecting donations for the Stockings for Soldiers program and donating handmade fleece dog beds. Students also assist in testing local cats for the feline leukemia virus and the feline immunodeficiency virus. Last year they tested over 20 cats.

To learn more about our campus clubs and organizations, please visit go.dtcc.edu/clubs.
A children's book created by College faculty, staff, and an alumna is helping school-age students discuss their future, learn about the opportunity to attend college, and discover careers related to programs available at Delaware Tech. The book also introduces the SEED (Student Excellence Equals Degree) Scholarship program, which allows eligible Delaware high school graduates to attend Delaware Tech tuition free.

The book, titled Whooo Will I Be?, focuses on a young owl facing the age-old question of what she would like to be when she grows up. But it’s not your traditional college promotional or marketing piece – and that was intentional.

“One of the great things about the book is that it’s a keepsake, too,” said Tammy Watkins, instructional coordinator, who came up with the initial concept. “The College is always trying to reach different audiences to share information about the SEED Scholarship program, so with that in mind, I thought, ‘Why don’t we write a book that can be read to kids in elementary school that conveys a message of stay in school, get good grades, and you can go to college?’”

Watkins, viewing the book as a potential entry into the College’s Innovation in Action initiative, shared the idea with colleagues and was quickly joined by marketing and public relations team members Allison Hayes, Vassili Kormalos, and John Painter, as well as Education Department Instructional Directors Bob Kime, Kim Krzanowski, and Lisa Peel. Liz Taylor, a visual communications graduate, joined the team to create the illustrations.

Hayes provided a script that set the foundation, relying on an in-house test audience to make certain she had an engaging narrative.

“It knew I was onto something when my two daughters said they loved the story.”

“It was a privilege and an honor to be selected to illustrate such a great children’s book, and it was a wonderful opportunity to be able to give back to Delaware Tech - my community college.” - Liz Taylor

Hayes shared. “I have always wanted to write a book, and a children's book seemed like a great way to start. It was such a fun experience. It’s very rewarding to know that...
we can help give a younger audience hope about going to college.”

Taylor, who used Adobe Illustrator to create the book’s colorful animal characters, echoed Hayes’ sentiment.

“I hope that the kids who read it are inspired to be whatever they wish to be,” said Taylor. “It was a privilege and an honor to be selected to illustrate such a great children’s book, and it was a wonderful opportunity to be able to give back to Delaware Tech - my community college.”

The book went through several versions, with the Education Department instructional directors reviewing for age-appropriate content, language, and imagery and overseeing focus groups in the College’s Child Development Centers that provided feedback on the story and illustrations.

Once finalized, a run of 1,000 books was printed, with costs covered by an Innovation in Action grant.

Students in Delaware Tech’s education program are the primary distributors, giving copies to local schools and early learning centers during the fieldwork portion of their studies.

In addition to a tremendous amount of positive feedback provided by students and educators, the book has also received some prominent accolades. It claimed the College’s 2017 Innovation in Action “Top Idea” Award, won a Medallion Award at a National Council for Marketing & Public Relations (NCMPR) regional competition, and recently won a bronze award at the national level.

“I’m very proud of it,” Watkins said of the book and the experience. “It was a cool project, and everyone truly contributed.”

“Who will I be?”
The word grit is defined as one’s “courage and resolve” or “strength of character.” In her 2016 New York Times bestselling book “Grit: The Power of Passion and Perseverance,” psychologist Angela Duckworth gives several examples of individuals who show, “a combination of passion and perseverance for a singularly important goal.” Delaware Tech has formed a Collegewide committee tasked with studying grit and how the College can help bring out those qualities and characteristics among staff, faculty, and students. However, there are already shining examples of grit on Delaware Tech campuses every year. Here are just a few stories about how our students show grit.

Golda Duncan Exudes Dedication and Determination

With aspirations to be a clinical psychologist, Golda Duncan understands there is a long educational journey ahead of her. She also knows the journey will not be an easy one, and this was confirmed when she took her first college courses after enrolling at Delaware Tech.

“So many nights I cried and wanted to just give up,” recalled Duncan, “But I kept telling myself that if my passion is to help others from giving up on their goals—no matter the circumstance—then quitting wouldn’t help my cause. I want to be able to show my future clientele that no matter your background, circumstance, social stance, gender, whatever, they can pursue anything they put their mind to.”

Exemplifying the truest traits of grit, Duncan overcame that difficult start and evolved into an active campus community member and well-rounded student. She co-founded an LGBT club called LGBTQ+ ALLIES and, in December 2017, completed her graduation requirements for a double major in Human Services and Drug & Alcohol Counseling.

Duncan’s initial struggles weren’t simply the traditional bumps in the road that many students face as they transition into college life - increased workload, shorter turnaround times, more independent work required outside the classroom, and a greater demand of one’s time. She certainly was dealing with those issues, but was doing so with a learning disability that causes her to need more time to retain information. It made the rigor of college an even more difficult adjustment.

Duncan also has Spastic Diplegia Cerebral Palsy, which has affected some areas of her speech, as well as her legs and arms. It requires her to use a wheelchair. None of that, however, kept her from obtaining the first degree needed in her educational endeavor.

“Even though I do not walk and have difficulties in other areas, I still make it through each day and learn to adapt. I am self-motivated and constantly inspired to learn,” she stated. “I often say that I am not DISABLED, I am DIFF-ABLED. Although I might not be able to do the same things as some people, I have overcome my disabilities and am differently abled. I still have purpose, and I have different gifts to offer the world.”

Duncan believes her purpose in life is to help others, and her self-professed passion for drug and alcohol counseling stems from a very personal and life-altering experience.

“My birth parents were both addicted to drugs, so at two months old I was part of a court-mandated adoption,” she shared. “I want to be able to help people like my birth parents because they didn’t have the resources to get help.”

Duncan’s birth parents passed away while she was very young, so she did not get to know them fully and does not have many memories, although she does have a few photos. Despite her lack of a full relationship with her birth parents, it is her dedication, determination, and a compassion for similar people in need that keeps Duncan going through any tough times she may endure, including her rough start at Delaware Tech.

Math was one subject that caused major consternation, so, ironically, that is where Duncan found a great mentor - Adjunct Instructor Elizabeth Stephens.

“Ms. Stephens was the greatest teacher,” Duncan stated. “She was very patient and showed me a way to more easily learn and retain what was being taught to me.”

With a better understanding on how to learn and what it takes to succeed in college, Duncan secured her associate degree and plans to celebrate that accomplishment by participating in commencement this May.

Staying on track to follow her dream of ultimately obtaining a Ph.D. in psychology, Duncan is currently pursuing a bachelor’s degree in psychology at Wilmington University.
Casey Gralewski Balances Parenthood, Work, and School to Achieve Goals

Casey Gralewski knew she wanted to help provide a better future for her new family, and she knew she wanted to have a career in the medical field. Her husband, Ryan, served in the National Guard for 10 years and worked as an electrician. They had just had their first daughter, Maddie. After working as a certified nursing assistant for nearly six years, Gralewski decided to enroll at Delaware Tech in the respiratory care program in the summer of 2013.

“I graduated high school in 2007, so I really didn’t remember anything,” Gralewski said. “I had to start from scratch. I worked night shift and got off work at 7 a.m., had classes starting at 9 a.m., and then came home to a four-week-old.”

Gralewski balanced things pretty well for the first few years, taking a few classes while continuing to work as a CNA. She kept her grades high and was accepted into the respiratory care program where she was on track to graduate in May 2018. However, a curveball came her way when she became pregnant with her second child. Her due date was roughly the start of the fall semester, and if she withdrew from her classes, she would have had to wait a year to reapply to the program.

Instead, Gralewski saw the light at the end of the tunnel and pushed on. She didn’t miss any classes in the spring 2017 semester, and only missed two days of her summer 2017 classes due to doctor’s appointments. She gave birth to her son, Owen, a month early - coincidentally during the break between summer and fall classes. Two weeks after giving birth, Gralewski was back in school and at her clinical rotation for the fall semester.

“My family has taken care of the kids so I haven’t needed daycare,” Gralewski said. “They have all been nothing but supportive, and my husband has been my biggest supporter.”

Despite juggling her pregnancy, family, working as a CNA on the weekends, and completing a demanding major, Gralewski has also attended all functions and special events that the respiratory care program and club have participated in, usually with both of her kids and her husband in tow.

“I figure if I can do everything I’ve been able to do, I think anyone can. We are a club, and we are a class, and I like to be active and a part of everything,” Gralewski said.

As she gets closer to graduation, Gralewski knows life is going to change again, but for the better.

“The hardest thing for the past two years has been not spending time with my friends and family or adequate time with my kids,” she said. “I’m probably going to cry a lot at graduation, but it’s going to be an awesome feeling because I know I will be done.”

Bankole Onamusi Shows Promise and Perseverance

Bankole Onamusi has criss-crossed the world in pursuit of his dream to one day become a doctor. He is originally from Nigeria in West Africa, but his family moved to Delaware after he completed middle school in pursuit of better opportunities. Onamusi attended William Penn High School in New Castle and then came to Delaware Tech for the affordable education and self-improvement opportunities the College provides.

Although he had a passion for his studies and embraced the college culture, he faced challenges in his personal life as his support system became unstable. He also struggled financially and was unsure how he would continue to pay for college.

The connections he had made and his determination led him to find solutions. Working with Academic Counselor Mike McCloskey, Onamusi was able to find the support he needed – and a second family. With McCloskey’s assistance, Onamusi was able to secure scholarships and work study opportunities to help him stay in school. The support brought him much-needed peace of mind that helped him to focus on his goals.

Onamusi also took advantage of the opportunities the College has provided to him. He works as a Student Government Association executive officer and is a member of the cross country team. Meanwhile, he continues to work on his studies, hoping to transfer to the University of Delaware.

To his fellow students, Onamusi gives this advice: “Always communicate with your instructors, and get involved with the campus community. There are so many opportunities available if you search for them.”
Lux and Stoeckel are Stars On and Off the Field for Delaware Tech

If you are ever in need of helping to define the term “student-athlete,” look no further than Delaware Tech’s own Kyle Lux and Brooke Stoeckel.

Lux, a second-year player on the baseball team, and Stoeckel, a second-year player on the softball team, were two of six athletes who received All-Academic honors from the National Junior College Athletic Association last year. To receive that recognition, a student-athlete must have a grade point average of 3.6 or higher.

“At Delaware Tech we want a well-rounded individual,” said Tom Lemon, collegewide athletics coordinator. “We value the student side and the athlete side equally, and Kyle and Brooke are definitely shining examples of both.”

Lux, 19, plays outfield and is a criminal justice major. He started playing baseball in Little League and hasn’t stopped since. Last year he ranked 14th in the nation in batting average, which also earned him Second Team All-Region honors.

“It was an honor to [receive all-academic and all-region] honors,” Lux said. “It was nice to know that other teams from the region noticed me.”

After this season, Lux will take his game to the next level. He has signed to play baseball at McPherson College in McPherson, Kansas, where he will major in health and physical education. Lux said it was always his goal to play baseball in college and play at the highest level possible.

“Kyle is the type of kid you want the whole team to be like,” said Curtis Brock, head baseball coach. “He’s a special student and has been a huge asset for Delaware Tech. McPherson is getting a dedicated athlete, who is a very competitive player. They’ll definitely get some good results.” In the future, Lux would like to work in law enforcement or as a physical education teacher.

Stoeckel, 19, plays outfield and is a physical therapist assistant major who has also played softball since she started in Little League.

“Softball was fun, and it helped connect me to a lot of my friends that I still have today,” she said.

Besides her all-academic honors, Stoeckel was named First Team All-Region last year, thanks to her tough play throughout the season.

“I didn’t expect that at all,” Stoeckel said. “I was just a freshman, and all of our hardest games were region games.”

Stoeckel plans to pursue a career as a physical therapist assistant.

For more information on Delaware Tech athletics, visit www.dtcc.edu/athletics.
Fall Sports Bring Big Success for Delaware Tech Athletics

Delaware Tech’s outstanding fall athletes brought home more trophies and accolades for the College in 2017, thanks to the women’s volleyball team taking second place in the Region XIX championship tournament and the men’s cross country team finishing second at the Region XIX championship meet.

In addition, the women’s cross country team placed third at the Region XIX championship meet, and the women’s volleyball team continued on after the region meet to place third overall in the district. The cross country team is coached by Leah-Kate Lounsbury and Ray Parker, while the volleyball team is led by coach Kris McGlothlin and assistant coach Renee McGlothlin.

“Our fall sports season was incredibly successful,” said Tom Lemon, collegewide athletics coordinator. “As a College we are extremely proud of what our athletes achieved as a team and as individuals. They did an excellent job representing Delaware Tech in athletic competitions, while continuing to excel in the classroom.”

While the team results were great, several individual athletes hit high marks as well. Five athletes received All-Region honors from the National Junior College Athletic Association at the conclusion of the season.

From the cross country team, freshmen Sean Saxton and Dyce Bailey and sophomore Katelyn Jensen were named All-Region based on their individual efforts at the region championship meet. Saxton finished the men’s 8K race in second place with a time of 28:22, while Bailey finished fourth with a time of 29:46. Jensen finished the women’s 5K race in seventh place with a time of 22:45.

Saxton, from Dover, is a graduate of Dover High School and a human services major. Bailey, also from Dover, is a graduate of Polytech High School and an occupational therapy major. Jensen, from Selbyville, is a graduate of Indian River High School and a nursing major. All three are eligible to return to the team in 2018.

From the volleyball team, sophomores Hayley Hudson and MaryBeth O’Hanlon earned All-Region honors due to their outstanding play in the 2017 NJCAA Region XIX Women’s Volleyball Tournament. Hudson and O’Hanlon led Delaware Tech to a runner-up finish in the tournament and a berth in the district tournament.

Hudson, from Newark, is an Appoquinimink High School graduate and a visual communications major and Aquinas Academy graduate. Both have completed their athletic eligibility for Delaware Tech, but will remember their time on the volleyball team fondly.

“I was surprised with the skills of everyone on the team,” O’Hanlon said. “And the teams we played this year were a lot better than last year. Overall it was a good two years.”

For more information on Delaware Tech athletics, visit www.dtcc.edu/athletics.
Lifelong learning has many benefits, some obvious (it’s fun!) and others less obvious, but still important. Committing to learn during your entire life has both economic and social benefits.

It is increasingly important to be well rounded and to bring a variety of experiences into your professional life. Jobs are changing rapidly, and creative thinkers are in demand to keep up with these changes.

Lifelong learning can also improve general cognition – the group of mental processes that includes attention, memory, producing and understanding language, solving problems, and making decisions. Scientific and anecdotal evidence prove that actively learning is beneficial for all of these processes.

Finally, lifelong learning has social benefits – learning sparks social engagement and people with strong social connections tend to be happier and live longer.

So how can you become a lifelong learner? Delaware Tech’s Personal Enrichment classes offer varied opportunities to do just that. Offered at each of Delaware Tech’s campuses in areas such as culinary arts, languages, mindfulness, art, and photography, there is a class to meet any special interest – or spark a new one.

On a recent Thursday night, 12 nervous students gathered in a classroom at the Stanton Campus, each holding a guitar – some were relics of the past, others were shiny new holiday presents. The common thread among the students – they all wanted to learn something new.

Rose Izzo said she always wanted to play and received a guitar for Christmas from her husband. Her goal for the 12-week course is to learn to play chords…and maybe a song for her husband.

Instructor Jordan Demarest has been teaching guitar for 14 years and currently plays in local band Kristen and the Noise. His former band, Octane, played with bands such as KISS and Disturbed and recorded an album. He brings this experience to his students at Delaware Tech. Demarest shared, “My music teachers made a point to say it’s your duty to give back and continue the craft.”

Ready to learn something new from a seasoned professional? There is no time like the present to keep on learning. Explore classes online at go.dtcc.edu/enrichment.
Over 200 Delaware Tech alumni and guests attended a special Alumni Reception at Oriole Park at Camden Yards in Baltimore, Md. on Nov. 8, 2017. President Mark Brainard, Delaware Tech class of 1981, and Nicole Sherry, class of 2000 and the head groundskeeper for the Baltimore Orioles, hosted the event. Guests experienced a complimentary tour of the ballpark and facilities and enjoyed hors d’oeuvres and the opportunity to connect with fellow alumni.

If you’re an alum of Delaware Tech, reconnect with us at www.dtcc.edu/alumni.
The world’s revolutionary gene editing technology is coming to college classrooms in Delaware and around the country, thanks to a $1 million National Science Foundation (NSF) grant awarded to Delaware Technical Community College in partnership with the Gene Editing Institute of Christiana Care’s Helen F. Graham Cancer Center & Research Institute.

The NSF Advanced Technical Education (ATE) grant supports development of gene editing curriculum for community college students. They will learn how to use leading-edge biomedical research tools that are transforming our understanding of human genetics and accelerating development of genetically-based therapies for human diseases, including cancer. Only a select few schools in the country teach gene editing techniques in the laboratory to undergraduates.

Leading the grant are Christiana Care’s Gene Editing Institute Director Eric Kmiec, Ph.D., and Delaware Tech faculty member John McDowell, Ph.D. Dr. McDowell teaches biology and biotechnology. “The NSF award clearly places us at the forefront of gene editing education,” said Dr. Kmiec. “I believe we are among the first ever to transform a research tool used for years in our laboratory into a teaching tool that can be used in the undergraduate curriculum.”

According to Delaware Tech President Mark T. Brainard, “The partnership between the Gene Editing Institute and Delaware Tech is an exciting opportunity to combine the talents of the research laboratory headed by Dr. Kmiec with the teaching expertise of instructors at Delaware Tech. Through the network of schools that participate in our workshops,
The curriculum can be expanded to accommodate any level of instruction, and that’s the beauty of it,” Dr. Kmiec explained. At one level, students may practice gene-editing using next-generation CRISPR technology, a technique elucidated and advanced in Dr. Kmiec’s lab that is used to alter and reconstitute genomic material with unprecedented precision. On an advanced level, laboratory and lecture exercises can be expanded to incorporate DNA sequencing and sequence analyses.

The award also enables partners to explore the most effective ways to teach gene editing both in the undergraduate laboratory as well as in workshops to train community college instructors in gene editing techniques and methods for delivering high impact education. The curriculum they develop could ultimately serve as a model for other institutions to follow.

“Initially, we piloted the curriculum and the experimental exercise with community college instructors locally, as well as some student groups,” said Dr. Kmiec. “The feedback and results have been overwhelmingly positive, and we have numerous requests already to share the developed curriculum across the country.”

One Delaware Tech alumna, Kristen Pisarcik, is a vital part of the gene editing grant. Pisarcik was a biotechnology student who conducted undergraduate research at the college. Through her research, she was able to become involved with a project with Dr. Kmiec constructing a gene editing kit in yeast with a major biotechnology company. This experience gave her the knowledge she needed to become a science educator with the Gene Editing Institute on the grant.

As a science educator, Pisarcik keeps up on the latest gene editing techniques and turns that knowledge and experience into workshops and teaching curriculum for community college instructors.

“It is pivotal that community college students are exposed to this technology,” said Pisarcik. “Right now, the majority of research labs are using CRISPR technology in their research, and a large component of technical schools is making the students ready to enter the workforce with at least an introduction to the skills they will be performing. Without CRISPR technology in their repertoire, they are now at a disadvantage in the scientific field.”

Second year biological sciences student Angelica Collins said she is fascinated by the gene editing curriculum she has experienced so far. “I think it is amazing that Delaware Tech gives us the opportunity to experiment with how gene editing works, rather than just reading about it,” Collins said. “Learning about and using gene editing techniques have helped me to realize that this is the field in which I wish to pursue my career.”

The first gene editing workshop for regional community college faculty took place in April 2017, and a longer, more intensive workshop will be available in upcoming years for faculty members from across the country. A “train the trainer” model will allow participants to bring the gene editing curriculum back to their colleges.

“This is an exciting prospect because it increases the impact on students at Delaware Tech and nationally,” said Dr. McDowell.

For more information about the Biotechnology program, visit go.dtcc.edu/biotech.
Delaware Tech Gets in Gear with Newest Advertising Campaign

If you have driven anywhere around the state in the past year, chances are you’ve passed by at least one example of Delaware Tech’s newest advertising campaign – Carvertise.

The College officially partnered with Carvertise to roll out a general brand awareness campaign starting in the fall of 2017. Carvertise is a Wilmington-based company that wraps cars of regular, everyday drivers with a specific design or message from clients – such as Delaware Tech. Carvertise pays the drivers each month of the campaign, and all the drivers have to do is drive their typical daily routes.

Delaware Tech’s campaign consists of 35 cars. The drivers are current students and alumni fostering a widespread sense of pride while driving up and down the state.

“The feedback I’ve heard has been great,” said Greg Star, co-founder of Carvertise. “It sparks a conversation with everyday people, and since the drivers are students or graduates, they can speak authentically about the programs.”

In order to be selected as a driver for the Delaware Tech campaign, applicants had to be a current student or alumni, have a car in good condition, submit to a background check, drive a significant amount of daily miles, have an interesting story to tell, and complete a phone and an in-person interview.

Star said drivers for this campaign come from all three counties, and many of them travel throughout the state for either classes or work. This increases the frequency that other drivers and people see the Delaware Tech campaign.

“The cars look fantastic,” Star said. “They are so visible and bright, and that adds an element of prestige.”

For more information, visit www.carvertise.com.
About 4,000 local middle and high school students will now have the opportunity each year to learn more about Delaware Tech as part of Junior Achievement of Delaware’s Finance Park curriculum. Delaware Tech has joined as a Brand Partner, with a dedicated space that opened in November 2017.

Junior Achievement of Delaware, located in Wilmington, aims to improve and prepare young people to succeed in a global economy by teaching work readiness, entrepreneurship, and financial literacy – as early and as often as possible. Across the country, 10 million students are served by the organization each year.

JA Finance Park® is a month-long program that introduces middle and high school students to personal financial planning and career exploration, including budgeting and planning for higher education. At the culmination of this teacher-led program, students visit Finance Park, a realistic on-site community, to put into practice what they’ve learned by developing and committing to a personal budget.

Delaware Tech’s space showcases some of the College’s top programs, such as culinary arts, aviation maintenance technology, and emergency medical technician paramedic. Students can explore these programs in a hands-on way, as well as interact with touch screens to learn more about paying for college. At the center of the room is an aeronautics conference table constructed on top of jet engine shells.

“We designed our space to be engaging and interactive for students,” said Dr. Mark Brainard, president of Delaware Tech. “We wanted to show students that college is an option for everyone by highlighting the SEED program that provides free college tuition for Delaware high school students.”

Delaware Tech staff worked closely with artist Christian Kanienberg on the design for the room, which also includes a 3D ambulance and paramedic equipment.
Over the past decade, collaborative efforts between animal shelters and veterinary technology programs have increased opportunities to provide outreach teaching initiatives, particularly for teaching medical and surgical nursing skills to its students. Due to this success, the veterinary technology program at Delaware Tech has created a mutually beneficial relationship with the Georgetown and New Castle locations of Brandywine Valley SPCA (BVSPCA).

The program previously had a partnership with the Delaware SPCA in Georgetown. When BVSPCA took over operations of the facility in July 2017, the partnership remained. BVSPCA brings animals from their Georgetown location to Delaware Tech twice a week, and students visit their Georgetown location once a week. In New Castle, students visit the BVSPCA twice a week.

“It’s been a really great partnership,” said Walt Fenstermacher, director of operations for the Brandywine Valley SPCA Georgetown Campus. “The students have been excited to help the shelter animals, and the animals have been really excited coming and going to the school.”

Department Chairperson Dr. Valerie Quillen said working with the shelter animals creates unique experiences for hands-on learning that benefits both the students and the animals. She said students have many opportunities to hone primary nursing skills in a real-world setting and familiarize themselves with shelter medicine and the issue of pet overpopulation. The partnership also highlights the importance of their future role in promoting responsible pet ownership and increases their understanding of the reasons owners
relinquish their pets to shelters.

“It’s really important for the students to work with patients and patients in need,” Fenstermacher said. “And that’s what shelter animals are. We have a great medical staff here, but the more often the animals are under medical care, the better.”

The students are always under the direct supervision of a licensed veterinarian and/or a veterinary technician while performing physical examinations, taking blood for bloodwork, and performing common diagnostic procedures.

Instructor Lisa Garrison said shelter animals are selected based on their need and the skills the students are learning at that time of the semester.

“For example, if the shelter is bringing an animal for our dentistry lab, then it is typically a middle aged or older patient that is in need of dental cleaning,” Garrison said. “During our nursing lab, we receive patients that need exams, vaccinations, and diagnostic testing.”

Fenstermacher said there are times when the exam leads to the students recommending things like changing a diet or bathing the animal with a prescription shampoo.

“Ninety percent of the time, our veterinarian agrees with the treatment,” Fenstermacher said.

The program utilizes animals for teaching purposes and follows strict USDA animal welfare and use guidelines, including detailed animal use protocols.

For more information on the Veterinary Technology program, visit go.dtcc.edu/vettech.
Providing safe campuses for individuals to work and learn is paramount to Delaware Tech’s mission to foster student success, and one way the College is creating that setting is by addressing sexual violence through its Hear it? See it? Voice it! campaign.

A part of Delaware Tech’s commitment to supporting the Sexual Violence Elimination Act (SaVE) and the Violence Against Women Act (VAWA), the multifaceted campaign embeds sexual violence prevention programming throughout the academic year.

“A focus on safety is absolutely critical, so we need to maintain a safe environment for employees and students,” said Dr. Melissa Rakes, associate vice president for academic affairs and a member of the Clery Compliance Committee that oversees the campaign. Additional committee members come from the divisions of student affairs, instruction, legal affairs, public safety, and human resources.

Each month focuses on a sexual violence prevention topic and, whenever possible, connects to a national awareness or prevention campaign. Topics include dating violence, stalking, and sexual harassment, among others.

To share pertinent information about these pressing issues, a variety of avenues are used, including social media, pledge signings, information tables, workshops, campus signage, and campus visits from relevant outside organizations and associations.

While awareness and prevention are key components of the campaign, another major element is connecting victims of sexual violence to a host of internal and external resources designed to provide timely and beneficial assistance.

According to Rakes, the committee found that some students were aware of the availability of these resources, but many other students were not. She added that addressing these types of information gaps is critical and is one reason the committee conducted a comprehensive student survey to gauge the knowledge and needs of Delaware Tech’s students.

“Results of that survey will help guide the direction and scope of Hear it? See it? Voice it!,” said Rakes. “The committee is trying to be very responsive, which is an essential function in a campaign of this nature.”

The efforts of the committee and its campaign have already proven effective, as on-campus awareness events have resulted in individuals seeking and receiving help.

“There have been cases where we’ve responded and provided resources for students and employees to address the situation they were experiencing,” Rakes shared. “Hearing those details is probably the hardest part of an individual’s job, but being able to provide that support in a time of need can change someone’s life. It’s so important to be able to provide that opportunity.”

For more information on reporting and preventing sexual violence at Delaware Tech, visit go.dtcc.edu/gethelp.
President Dr. Mark Brainard signs the #Day1 campaign pledge during Welcome Days activities. #Day1 gives people the information they need to be aware of bullying and take actions within their own lives to put an end to it.

Members of the Delaware Tech community wear teal during a statewide Sexual Assault Awareness Day supported by colleges and universities across Delaware.

Monthly sexual violence prevention topics for Delaware Tech’s ‘Hear it? See it? Voice it’ campaign:

- September: Bystander Intervention
- October: Domestic Violence Awareness
- November: Hate Crime Awareness
- January: Stalking Awareness
- February: Dating Violence & Prevention
- March: Sexual Harassment Awareness
- April: Sexual Assault Awareness

For help or more information, visit go.dtcc.edu/gethelp #dtccvoiceit
Last fall, Delaware Technical Community College celebrated the opening of a new production agriculture facility on the Georgetown campus. The facility, which includes three high tunnel greenhouses, a hydroponic greenhouse, and a production building/packing house, enables students to acquire vital agriculture skills and additional hands-on learning, and serves as a demonstration site for production agriculture methods that lengthen the growing season.

“This facility was made possible by partnerships,” said Owens Campus Vice President and Campus Director Dr. Bobbi Barends. “Now we have an applied experience that is directly connected to our curriculum.” Dr. Barends noted the importance of teaching students that you don’t need to own a lot of real estate to make farming viable. “We are now able to teach our students how to make farming profitable on a small piece of land,” she said. “We are now able to provide the true, hands-on experience our students need to be successful after graduation.”

Prior to the new facility, Delaware Tech could only offer retrofitted hydroponic greenhouses to production agriculture students, which allowed for limited crop production. They also had no area for field production. The new facility allows for sustainable, in-ground production of fruits and vegetables that can be sold to offset operational costs. “With this new facility, students get hands-on training and real-life skills,” said Agriculture Instructor Dr. Daniele Kidd. “From planning, to production, to harvesting, to marketing, to selling, students are now able to learn everything required to operate a successful small farm.”

Funding for the production agriculture facility was the result of donations from: DuPont, Sussex County Council, Discover Bank, Austin F. Okie, Massey’s Landing Park, Delaware Department of Agriculture, Matt Haley, The O.A. Newton Family, The McFarland Family, Advantech, Exelon/Delmarva Power, Floyd A. Megee Motor Company, Morgan Stanley/The Tidwell Group, Susan and Robert Rider, Jr., Sussex County Farm Bureau, Inc., and others.
Walmart Distribution Center, Delaware Farm Bureau’s Young Farmers and Ranchers, and Dr. Anis Saliba & Mrs. Sue Saliba.

Agriculture Department Chairperson Kyle Serman noted, “The Delaware Tech community, and the community at large, have been very supportive of this program. People are supporting agriculture throughout the state, and they are willing to help us train the young farmer, or the person interested in farming.”

Students learn how to grow and sustain crops in various greenhouses and in the fields. “Students grow various fruits and vegetables, including cantaloupe, honeydew, peppers, sweet potatoes, and squash,” said Christel Folke, farm manager and adjunct instructor. “They also learn how to prep the soils and use various types of equipment.”

Agriculture students, under supervision of Folke, operate the Campus Farm Market in the production building. After students grow and harvest the crops, they bring them to market and set them up for sale. “The farm market is a great way to show the community what our students have grown right here at this facility, and it’s also a way to generate revenue,” Barends said. The market is open to the public on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 1 to 5 p.m.

As part of the opening celebration last fall, Delaware Agriculture Secretary Michael Scuse presented the College with a proclamation from Gov. John Carney declaring Oct. 3, 2017 as Agriculture Awareness Day in the State of Delaware.

For more information about the agriculture programs at Delaware Tech, visit www.dtcc.edu/programs.

Keep up with the Delaware Tech Agriculture Department on social media at Facebook.com/dtccag, and @dtccag on Twitter and Instagram.

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Highmark Grant Provides Simulation Equipment to Nursing Students

Delaware Tech received a $100,000 grant from Highmark Delaware’s BluePrints for the Community to purchase equipment to support the College’s diagnostic medical sonography and nursing programs. Through the grant, new software and equipment allow diagnostic medical sonography students to study obstetrical scanning of rare fetal anomalies. For nursing students, the grant also funded the purchase of a new simulation mannequin. The SimMan operates as any human patient would, exposing students to real-life scenarios they will face in their future careers.  

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Pictured Left to Right: Vice President for Institutional Effectiveness and Development Dr. Judi Sciple, Nursing Department Chair and Instructional Director Karen Rollo, Vice President and Campus Director Dr. Kathy Janvier, Nursing Instructor Anne Dunphy, Delaware Tech President Mark Brainard, Nursing students Megan Kulesza, Britney Woerner, Victoria Dowling, Danielle Granger, and Jessica Farley, Highmark Blue Cross Blue Shield Delaware President Tim Constantine, and Assistant Campus Director Dr. Lora Johnson.
Purusha Rivera always knew that babies would be a part of her life – both as a mother and through her studies and career in sonography. In 2000, Rivera graduated from Delaware Tech with a degree in diagnostic medical sonography and pursued a career in pregnancy sonography. She was living her dream with two healthy children and a thriving career providing expecting mothers with a high-quality ultrasound experience.

Then she discovered something that would change her life forever – a teddy bear. The teddy bear was no ordinary stuffed animal, though. It contained a heart-shaped recordable device to capture the sound of a baby’s heartbeat through an ultrasound. The expecting mother could hear this special sound whenever she wanted.

Recognizing the potential of the concept, Rivera began offering the bears for purchase to expecting mothers – and they loved them. Soon, grandparents, family members and friends began purchasing the bears as gifts. Siblings wanted in on the action, too – recording sweet messages for their brother- or sister-to-be. The possibilities were endless, and a business was born.

The My Baby’s Heartbeat Bear is available in many different animals – which Rivera designs herself. Since the business began in 2009, it has grown by leaps and bounds. Although Rivera and her fiancé, Sheldon Thomas, intended to run the business through their garage, they outgrew that space before it was even finished being renovated. Last year, the business earned about $2 million in sales, and sales are increasing – in volume and scope – each day. Along the way, she also experienced some personal growth – adding a baby boy to their family four years ago.

Today, the company’s products include gender reveal kits – bears that come with pink and blue accessories for the ultrasound technologist to personalize and many more styles that Rivera designs herself. Her vintage line of animals are designed to be a child’s keepsake for many years.

Rivera also donates animals to bereavement programs for the families of children with terminal illness. The child’s heartbeat can be an important part of a family’s grieving process. In addition, she recently expanded her line to include dogs and cats that can be used to record a beloved family pet’s heartbeat. “I realized that people were very attached to their animals, and they also grieved when a cherished pet had to be put down,” said Rivera. She tested the product with a local pet groomer who said demand for the product – My Furbaby’s Heartbeat Bear – was high.

Rivera says she is thankful for the journey she is on and credits Delaware Tech for giving her the education and hands-on training she needed to pursue her passion. “Delaware Tech prepared me very well to succeed in my chosen career,” said Rivera. “When I entered the workforce I felt confident and proud of my program. Delaware Tech has a great reputation in the industry.” As a way to pay it forward, she is in her second year of funding a scholarship for a sonography student to pursue his or her dreams, too. “I love what I do, and I am blessed to have found my passion and be able to share it with the world.”

Learn more and explore the products at www.mybabysheartbeatbear.com.
Morgan Russum Internship Leads to a Career in Public Service

As a paralegal student, Morgan Russum had an internship requirement, so she sought a position in U.S. Senator Tom Carper’s office in Georgetown. She knew the experience would be beneficial, but did not expect it to alter her post-Delaware Tech plans of attending Widener University to earn a law degree.

“My internship was phenomenal, and I had a great time. But I didn’t think I would continue working in the office or even in the field of politics once it was completed,” said Russum, the Class of 2017 Outstanding Paralegal Graduate. “It was a very pleasant surprise and happy coincidence that they reached out to me about a full-time position just as I was finishing my degree program.”

Russum accepted the unexpected offer of constituent services representative and now serves as a liaison between constituents and several federal agencies that focus on immigration and social security. Although it is not what she envisioned doing, the job still fits within Russum’s career and life goals.

“My goal in life has always been to help people, but my idea of how I do that has changed,” she shared. “My experience here in Sen. Carper’s office has made me move from thinking about obtaining a law degree to perhaps becoming involved with nonprofit organizations.”

Early on, Russum thought she would help people by becoming a nurse, but once enrolled in a college program she realized it wasn’t the right professional fit. She left the program to focus on family (she and her husband have a blended family of five children, aged 5-15) and says nearly 10 years quickly passed before she made the decision to return to school.

“I decided on Delaware Tech because I heard good things about the College, and once I started the experience and the process of selecting classes, I found the people to be amazing. They were so caring and helpful. One of the things I found unique to Delaware Tech is that the instructors care, and they put in the effort to make certain you are going in the right direction,” said Russum, who extended special acknowledgment to Kathleen Mahoney, a business administration and paralegal studies instructor.

“Delaware Tech prepared me well,” said Russum. “The contacts I made and the experience of the program have been invaluable. I always recommend Delaware Tech.”

Gibbs Strives to Become a Positive Role Model for Kids

Just a few short years after graduating from Delaware Tech, Brandon Gibbs has already made a big impact on the young minds that will shape our future.

Gibbs, a 2015 elementary education graduate, began working at Morris Early Childhood Center in the Milford School District in January 2016 as a paraeducator. Barely a year later, Gibbs was notified that he was named Paraeducator of the Year for Morris, and a few months later was named Paraeducator of the Year for the entire district.

As a special education paraeducator, Gibbs assists teachers with collecting student data, working in small groups with some of the kids, managing the classroom, and helping with lunch and bus duty. At Morris, he has worked with both the pre-k and kindergarten age groups.

Gibbs’ interest in becoming a teacher first started with his senior project in high school. He created a project that he taught to his peers, and he really enjoyed the process of putting together a lesson plan and explaining it to others. He also worked at the Boys & Girls Club in Dagsboro and always enjoyed helping kids learn.

“I thought how great it would be to teach them every day and be a positive role model for them,” he said.

Attending Delaware Tech was an easy decision for Gibbs. Besides being close to home, he knew that he could take advantage of the SEED (Student Excellence Equals Degree) Scholarship program and attend tuition free for his associate degree. He also knew he could seamlessly transfer his credits after graduation to pursue a bachelor’s degree.

Gibbs learned many of the skills he applies to his current position during his time at Delaware Tech, including classroom management, lesson planning, and various state assessments. He said the observation hours each teacher completes at local elementary schools were invaluable.

“Being able to get out and observe and work with kids and other teachers was a big motivator for me,” he said. “It was great to be able to read about things in the classroom and then see them applied in person.”

Gibbs graduates from Wilmington University in May 2018 with his bachelor’s degree in elementary education. After graduation, he hopes to work full-time as a fourth or fifth grade teacher.

“I just want to be a positive role model and share experiences with the kids,” Gibbs said. “Elementary school is where they learn all of the fundamentals, so I would like to continue to have an impact on that.”
Growing up, Olivia (George) Walton and Natalie George always heard great things about Delaware Tech. It’s no wonder, since their father, Dr. Orlando J. George, Jr., worked for the College for decades, beginning as a math teacher and ending with 19 years of service as president. So when each was searching for a path in life, it was only natural that they looked to Delaware Tech for training and education.

For Walton, as a young mother, she knew she needed a skill set or trade to support her daughter. “My dad told me that an education is the one thing that no one could ever take away from you.”

Delaware Tech’s flexible scheduling and small class sizes made it an easy choice. She began as an evening student, but once the Child Development Center opened at the George Campus in Wilmington, she was able to take her classes during the day. She fell in love with accounting while taking a business class, and in 2000, she graduated with her accounting degree. “I had found my purpose,” said Walton. “My instructors made all the difference.”

Receiving her degree from her father on stage at graduation was a moment she described as proud and surreal. “It made it special. He always believed in me,” said Walton.

Since graduation, Walton has pursued a career in accounting, and now works as assistant controller of accounting operations at Hatzel & Buehler, Inc., a local accounting firm. She has also expanded her family, and today her son attends the George Campus Child Development Center, even having some of the same teachers as his big sister.

To future students considering a degree, Walton encourages them to try Delaware Tech. “You will never regret doing it. I am happy with where I am in life and blessed to be able to provide for my family – and that all started at Delaware Tech.”

For Natalie George, a brief stint at a larger university made her realize that she wanted more personalized instruction and a more accommodating schedule for her full-time job as a police dispatcher. Delaware Tech’s criminal justice program was her next move. She graduated with her Associate in Applied Science in Criminal Justice in 1996 and then continued on to Wilmington University for her bachelor’s degree in behavioral science.

Her next step was to apply for a position with the Delaware State Police and enter the academy. “Delaware Tech truly prepared me for this process,” George said. “It made me appreciate teamwork and comradery, both of which are important aspects of my job. I developed a sense of maturity and broadened my perspective on the police profession.”

Today, George is a master corporal with the Delaware State Police in her 19th year of service. She is currently stationed on uniformed patrol at Troop 1, and during her career has been a member of the Delaware State Police Conflict Management Team for 10 years. She has also served as a part-time trooper recruiter and participated in a program to teach high school students about the dangers of driving under the influence, distracted driving, and speeding.

George enjoys working in the community to give law enforcement a more positive public image. “I want to show people that the majority of police officers are there to help people and improve communities.”

George credits Delaware Tech for giving her the confidence and skills to pursue her dream career, citing her many instructors who had first-hand experience in the law enforcement field as state troopers, probation officers, and counselors.

In the future, George hopes to continue to serve the community and use the skills she first learned at Delaware Tech. “I am proud to be a graduate of Delaware Tech and a member of the Delaware State Police.”

“My dad told me that an education is the one thing that no one could ever take away from you.”

- Olivia Walton, Delaware Tech Alumna
The Honorable John F. Van Sant Remembered

The Honorable John Van Sant, a 2009 Delaware Tech Distinguished Alumni Honoree who graduated with an associate degree in Criminal Justice in 1974, passed away in November 2017. Van Sant was a beloved member of the College community, having taught as an instructor in the criminal justice program for more than a quarter century, from 1973-2002.

“Lt. Van Sant was the first person I met when I walked on to the Stanton Campus as a new criminal justice student,” said Delaware Tech President Mark T. Brainard. “As recently as a few months ago, I remained in contact with him as one of my closest mentors and best friends. It always amazed me how many lives he touched – as a state trooper, teacher, coach, mentor, elected official, and friend - and the impact he had on our state in so many ways. He will be missed by many.”

Van Sant received the Distinguished Alumni award for his significant contribution to the community and Delaware Tech. Recipients epitomize what community college graduates can accomplish.

Van Sant was also a graduate of Wilmington High School. Through his success in life, he earned a place on the Wilmington High School Wall of Fame, of which he was very proud. He served as a Delaware State Trooper beginning in 1953 and retired as a lieutenant detective in 1973. He also proudly served as a state representative in the Delaware General Assembly from 1983-2006, in addition to teaching at the College.

Following his passing, Governor John Carney ordered the United States and Delaware flags at state buildings and facilities be flown at half-staff on Dec. 1, 2017 to mark his service to the people of Delaware, stating, “Mr. Van Sant served the people of the Thirteenth District in the Delaware House of Representatives for 24 years. During his time in the House, Mr. Van Sant served as House Minority Whip and also served on the Joint Finance Committee.”

A scholarship has been established at Delaware Tech in Van Sant’s name to benefit students needing assistance in meeting their educational goals. To donate to the scholarship fund, visit go.dtcc.edu/giving and note “Van Sant Scholarship” in the notes section.
EVENTS

Diversity and Inclusion Conference

The College held a Diversity and Inclusion Conference, “Inspiring a Culture of Inclusion,” Nov. 17, 2017 on its Dover campus. The goal of the conference was to educate students, staff and the community so they may promote inclusion and acceptance of diverse groups, cultures, attitudes, and individuals in their classrooms and work environments.

Iva Johnson Ferrell, Esq., chief diversity officer at Widener University and associate professor of legal methods at Widener University Commonwealth Law School and co-director of the trial admissions program, delivered the keynote address. The day also featured opening remarks from President Mark Brainard, an assessment of the College’s current cultural competency, as well as a diversity dialogue panel and two Delaware TECH Talks.

Chocolate 5K Run/Walk

The 6th annual Chocolate 5K Run/Walk, held Feb. 10 to support international education study abroad scholarships, drew more than 600 registered participants. Post-race treats like homemade hot chocolate, home-baked chocolate desserts, and freshly prepared chocolate ganache – all created by culinary arts students – makes it the sweetest 5K in Delaware! Next year’s Chocolate 5K will be Feb. 9, 2019.

Alumni and Friends 5K Run/Walk

Each year, Delaware Tech’s Alumni and Friends 5K brings together the community to race, network, and pay tribute to Delaware Tech’s alumni.

In the event’s 10th year, the College honored a special alumnus, Captain Christopher M. Leach. Capt. Leach graduated from Delaware Tech's fire protection engineering technology program in 1997. He was a 14-year veteran of the City of Wilmington Fire Department who died tragically in the line of duty on Sep. 24, 2016. Proceeds from the event were donated to the Capt. Christopher M. Leach Memorial Fund to support Capt. Leach’s three children.
An Evening of Mardi Gras
This year’s Mardi Gras celebration was the Stanton and Wilmington Campuses’ ninth annual gala, and raised more than $100,000 for student scholarships while providing guests with an exciting night of dancing, food, and entertainment. Next year’s Mardi Gras will be March 2, 2019.

Social Media Conference
The annual social media conference was an amazing opportunity to connect face-to-face with the top social media marketing experts from around the region! Breakout sessions covered social media tactics to content creation to social strategy. Experienced social media experts shared insights into the best social media tools and strategies to help attendees transform their social media marketing. Be sure to attend next year’s Social Media Conference being held March 7, 2019.

UPCOMING EVENTS

September 6 | Run, White and Blue 5K
Owens Campus, Georgetown
Benefits Delaware Tech veterans and first responders scholarships. Stay after the race for a post-race cookout and family friendly activities. Call (302) 259-6086 or visit go.dtcc.edu/run5K.

September 18 | Economic Summit
Terry Campus, Dover
Tenth annual summit where business and education leaders, government officials, and community members focus on improving the economic conditions and quality of life in Kent County. Call (302) 857-1400 or visit dtcc.edu/economicsummit.

September 22 | Tour de Sussex
Owens Campus, Georgetown
The annual bike ride allows participants to see all Sussex County has to offer with ride distances of 25, 50, 62, and 100 miles. Proceeds from the event help provide scholarships for Kids on Campus and professional development courses. Call (302) 259-6342 or visit tourdesussex.com

September 30
Alumni and Friends 5K Run/Walk
George Campus, Wilmington
Proceeds will benefit the Alumni Board Scholarship Fund. Call (302) 453-3763 or visit go.dtcc.edu/5k.

October 20 | Gourmet Gala
Terry Campus, Dover
This annual premier fundraising event for student success is an evening of specialty food items and beverages from Delaware’s finest restaurateurs, brewers, vintners and distillers, as well as live entertainment and a silent auction. Call (302) 857-1122 or visit go.dtcc.edu/gourmetgala.

October 31
Sussex County Today & Tomorrow Conf.
Owens Campus, Georgetown
This annual conference provides an opportunity to connect with local businesses, schools, elected officials, media, and organizations while discussing the current and future trends of the county. Call (302) 259-6316 or visit sussexcountyconference.com.
Dr. Jacquita Wright-Henderson was appointed acting director of planning and institutional effectiveness. Wright-Henderson joined the College in 1998 and has been serving as the director of communication and planning at the Stanton and George Campuses since 2007. Prior to that she served as the assistant director of workforce development and community education. She is a member of the Society for College and University Planning (SCUP), Delaware’s ACE Women’s Network, and the International Leadership Training Committee of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc.

Dr. Sharon Mossman was appointed assistant dean of student affairs at the George Campus. Mossman joined the College in 2004 and has been serving in an acting capacity as assistant dean of student affairs at the George Campus since 2015. Prior to that she was a dental hygiene instructor at the College following a 22-year career as a dental hygienist. Mossman has served as chair of the Collegewide SSC Collaboration Group, the Alumni and Friends 5K Walk/Run, the Mardi Gras Welcome Committee, and the Graduation Ice Cream Social.

Rustyn Stoops appointed by Governor Carney to Recycling Public Advisory Council. Stoops, executive director of the Delaware Manufacturing Extension Partnership, was appointed by Governor Carney to the Recycling Public Advisory Council. In his role he will provide advice and recommendations to DNREC and the Delaware Solid Waste Authority on all aspects of recycling, develop and maintain a methodology for measuring recycling rates, and report to the governor and the General Assembly on the annual status of recycling activities in Delaware.

Dr. June Roux was appointed assistant dean of instruction at the Stanton Campus. Roux joined the College in 2005 and most recently served as instructional director for business programs at the George Campus. She has served as co-chair of the Academic Calendar Redesign Task Force and on the Steering Committee for the Blueprint for the Future Task Force. She served on the Transfer Credit Evaluation Process Review Task Force, the Middle States Self-Study Subcommittee, and the Global Understanding Committee. Prior to her career at Delaware Tech, Roux was an assistant professor of business at Salem Community College and an adjunct instructor at Delaware Tech and Goldey-Beacom College.

John Slank was appointed chief of public safety at the Terry Campus. Slank joined the College in 2015 as a public safety manager at the Stanton Campus and is a Delaware Tech graduate. Prior to his employment at Delaware Tech, Slank served 33 years with the Delaware State Police. During his tenure, he held several leadership positions including deputy troop commander at Troop 6 (Prices Corner), deputy commander of the Internal Affairs Unit, lieutenant in the Criminal Investigation Unit at Troop 2 (Bear), and criminal lieutenant at Troop 9 (Odessa).

Dawn Bonavita was appointed acting director of human resources for the Stanton/George Campus. Bonavita joined the College as an adjunct instructor in 2000 and most recently served as an administrative intern in the Human Resources Division. At the Stanton/George Campus she has served as co-chair for the 2008 Periodic Review Report, Title IX review officer, member of the Criminal Justice Scholarship Review Committee, and advisor for the Criminal Justice Club. Prior to that she was an instructional coordinator for the Social Sciences and Criminal Justice departments, program coordinator for the Criminal Justice Department, and an administrative intern for the dean of instruction.
Good Code, Good Results, and a Good Cause

Last fall, four second-year Delaware Tech students in the Computer Technology program competed in the JPMorgan Chase Code for Good Challenge. In collaboration with non-profit organizations, the Code for Good competition challenges various teams from local colleges and universities to provide a technological solution to a program that the charity faces. Judged by JPMorgan Chase employees, the team that best develops an effective solution receives a prize for themselves and their assigned charity.

Not only was this the first time competing in the challenge, but Delaware Tech’s team was the only one with students pursuing an associate degree. The students proudly represented Delaware Tech and placed third in their portion of the competition among several four-year institutions. Beyond putting their coding skills to the test, the students were introduced to technology careers by networking with several coders from JPMorgan Chase and other organizations.

Kevin Bradshaw is now employed by JP Morgan Chase, and Connor Price is completing an internship with the organization.

Participating students: Joseph Dill, Katheryn Smith, Kevin Bradshaw, and Connor Price.

Computer Technology Chairs: Dr. Tommy Lu, Charles R. Whealton, and George Cognet.

Student Chidinma Emenike Attends International Energy Summit

Chidinma Emenike, a renewable energy solar student, was among more than 600 attendees from 85 countries to attend the 5th International Energy Summit hosted by Student Energy June 13-16, 2017 in Merida, Mexico.

Student Energy is a global charity focused on building the next generation of energy leaders. Its summit, held every two years, is a global forum that brings students together to learn and discuss current trends and issues in energy and define the role students will play in the future of energy development.

The summit consisted of panel discussions, keynote addresses from prominent and influential energy leaders, networking events, and the Innovation Jam, an interactive brainstorming session where groups of students work together to propose and create ideas to benefit the energy industry.

“It was such a tremendous opportunity to meet so many different people with great ideas, develop some contacts, and network,” said Emenike. “I was able to see what people are actually doing in the field and learn what the industry is looking for and needs. The renewable energy field has made some significant strides in the past 10 years, but will need a much larger workforce in order to accomplish the goals set by society and government.”

Among the industry leaders she met and spoke with were David Hochschild, commissioner of the California Energy Commission, and H.R.H. Princess Abze Djigma, the ambassador for renewable energy and energy efficiency of Burkina Faso.

“I encourage anyone with an interest in energy to look into the summit,” Emenike shared. “It is most certainly worth it. I would definitely go again.”

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