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TECH COLLEGIAN

Volume 106, Issue #14

West Virginia University Institute of Technology

February 9, 2005



Members of the Alpha Sigma Tau Sorority worked at their information booth at the Tech Activities Fair last Wednesday.

APO Blood Drive collects 40 units

By Angela Willis

The Tech ballroom was full of volunteers, students, and American Red Cross nurses on Thursday, February 3rd from 10 AM to 4:30 PM. All of these people were taking time out of their busy lives to help out, donating blood at the blood drive. These people gave their services for a great cause.

Every semester, the Tech ballroom plays host to the blood drive. To me, the blood drive is a grand opportunity for students and people from surrounding communities to come together and to play a role for such a good cause, coming up to the ballroom and donating their blood. Having a blood drive in college is very important because exposure to a blood drive creates a good chance of the same donors participating in the future. If you start giving blood when you're young, you create a good habit to keep donating blood for the American Red Cross in the future.

The Alpha Phi Omega service coed fraternity, and Student Nurses were co-sponsors of the project. Yes, these are your fellow students who help set up and volunteer their time to make sure the blood drive is a success. In addition to these student organizations volunteering their time, we also had the lovely ladies from the Montgomery Women's Club. These ladies helped with the registration for the donors.

There is a lot of work that goes into the blood drive. Every

semester, Alpha Phi Omega is put in charge of making sure we have food and drinks for the donors. Without the support from local businesses donating products for the canteen, the blood drive wouldn't run so smoothly. The members of Alpha Phi Omega will like to thank (in no particular order) Family Dollar, Frank's Pizza, Pizza Hut, Wendy's, McDonald's, Tom's Food Fair, and Kroger for their donations to this year's blood drive. Alpha Phi Omega would also like to thank all the people who volunteered, including donating blood, and to all the businesses that let us advertise signs in their business for the blood drive.

For the time I spent in the Tech Ballroom, there seemed to always be a line of people willing to donate their blood. There were students and teachers of all sorts that came over to the Tech ballroom to donate their blood. This semester the blood drive had 49 donors volunteer, coming out with 40 healthy units of blood collected for the American Red Cross. Even though we donated a good amount of blood, I would have liked to see more of my fellow students up, as well as more faculty. Healthy blood is one of the most important gifts a human can give; there is a good chance that one day someone that you love may need a blood transfusion to save his or her life.

The blood drive is usually held in October and February of every year. Keep on the lookout this upcoming October for advertisements for the blood drive.

Department of Accounting and Finance sponsors VITA program for free tax assistance

Free help with income tax returns is available through the Volunteer Income Tax Assistance Program, or VITA. VITA is sponsored locally by the Department of Accounting & Finance of West Virginia University Institute of Technology.

VITA is available to help those with low to moderate incomes, individuals with disabilities, resident students, and the elderly with federal and state tax returns. The volunteers prepare returns and answer questions, and also alert taxpayers to credits and deductions for which they may be eligible.

The VITA volunteers are WVU Tech senior-level accounting students who have successfully completed an IRS training program and a college level tax course. This year's volunteers are Georgie Holcomb, Kesa Morrison, and Jeremy Morrison.

Volunteers will be available on Wednesdays beginning February 9, 2005 through April 13, 2005 (except March 16) at the Montgomery Public Library located at 507 Ferry Street between the hours of 12:30 – 6:00 p.m.

Taxpayers visiting the VITA center should bring a photo ID, all wage and earning statements (Forms W-2), all interest, dividend, social security, and pension statements (Forms 1099), a copy of last year's tax return (if available), social security numbers of all dependents, and other relevant information concerning income and expenses.

All assistance through the VITA Program is **free of charge**. For more information contact the VITA Coordinator, Madhuri Sarin, at 442-3483 or 442-3483.

Volunteers will not prepare:

- Schedule C (*Profit or Loss from Business*)
- Complicated & Advanced Schedule D (*Capital Gains and Losses*)
- Schedule E (*Rents and Royalties*)
- Form SS-5 (*Request for social Security Number*)
- Form 2106 (*Employee Business Expenses*)
- Form 3903 (*Moving*)
- Form 8606 (*Non-deductible IRA*)
- Form 8615 (*Minor's Investment Income*)

Katherine Cox drawings at Pierce Art Gallery

From Monday, February 7th through March 4th, a display of Katherine Cox's drawings is going to be presented at the Pierce Art Gallery. The reception is to open on Tuesday the 15th from 6:00 - 8:00 PM. Also at 6:00 PM the Artists Gallery Discussion begins. I encourage you to come and see some wonderful artworks and also meet Katherine Cox.



From the desk of: Tech President Lanny Janeksela

Academic and Student Support Services

This week I am writing to you to elaborate on the academic and student support services which were mentioned in previous articles. To assist you, **contact information is included in this article.**

The **Academic Enrichment Center (AEC)**, located in the library and directed by Sid Cooper (phone: 3224; e-mail: Sid.Cooper@mail.wvu.edu), provides a wide range of services dedicated to academic performance. Available to all students is assistance including: creating an academic plan, on- and off-campus support service referrals, study skills development, help connecting with academic advisors, career research assistance, problem-solving assistance, time management planning, and individual personalized assistance. For first-time, first-year students you can get information on orientation classes, get feedback on your College Student Inventory, enter into the Parent Partnership Program, learn about long range academic planning, receive individualized tutoring and obtain referrals to personal counseling. Students on academic probation or waived suspension can work with the AEC staff to create an academic recovery plan, receive skills training in a variety of areas and will be helped to learn more effective study skills and habits. As you can see, the AEC is the place to go for academic success and personal help.

Student Support Services (SSS) is another place that can be a tremendous asset for many students. This office is directed by Nila Ervin and is located on the first floor of the Tech Center (phone: 3477; e-mail: rhuddleston@mail.wvu.edu). This federally funded program (US Department of Education) provides learning services for qualified students (qualifying circumstances are any one of first-generation student, low income student and/or learning disabled or physically disabled student) at no cost. SSS provides personal and academic counseling, tutoring in most subjects, a professional math tutor and workshops on a wide variety of subjects such as stress management, time management, test taking skills, and study skills. I encourage you to visit Student Support Services to learn more.

If you are struggling to succeed and can not put a finger on the cause, you may find a great deal of help by visiting the **Counseling Center**. This office is located on the first floor of the Tech Center and is directed by Ann Neese (phone: 3096; e-mail: ann.neese@mail.wvu.edu). In this office, you can receive personal and academic counseling, interest testing, identification and assistance with learning and physical disability issues, and career planning. Also available is personalized help with improving test taking skills, test anxiety management,

and referrals to a broad range of area social service agencies.

If you have a PROMISE Scholarship, it is extremely important that you realize how to keep your scholarship throughout your four-year career as a student. You must pass 30 credit hours of academic work each year. Your freshman year, you must achieve a 2.75 overall GPA for a minimum of 30 hours, and by the end of your sophomore year and every year thereafter you must have an overall 3.0 GPA for a minimum of 30 hours each academic year. Summer school courses can be used to bolster your GPA, but is not paid for by the PROMISE scholarship. For complete details on the scholarship and all other scholarships at WVU Tech, contact the Financial Aid Office located at 322 Old Main. This office is directed by Nina Morton (phone: 3032; e-mail: nina.morton@mail.wvu.edu).

For all students receiving financial aid, it is important to understand that you must maintain **“satisfactory progress” to continue to be eligible for aid.** Please contact the Financial Aid Office for details on meeting this requirement. As I mentioned last week, many students throughout the USA drop out of college due to financial reasons. In many of these cases, **solutions could have been found if the student would have worked with the Financial Aid Office.**

A new program available this spring is the **Big Bear Mentoring Program**. This program has been implemented by the Student Activities Office (directed by Jim Kerrigan - phone: 442-3100; or e-mail: james.kerrigan@mail.wvu.edu) with significant assistance from the Student Government Association. It is designed to help incoming freshmen to adapt to college by providing them with an upper-class student mentor who can provide advice, assistance and friendship. The program promotes interaction with upperclassmen who are seeking to help new students succeed. Sophomores, juniors and seniors can volunteer to be a part of this important peer assistance group by contacting the Student Activities Office (3100). Freshman who would like to take advantage of the program should do the same.

For help with math classes, visit the **Math Tutorial Lab** in Engineering Lab Room 107. This program is directed by Dr. Fred Cavalier (phone: 442-3197; or e-mail: Fred.Cavalier@mail.wvu.edu) and offers direct tutoring with math faculty daily Monday through Friday at a variety of times.

If you need to earn some money, contact the **Career Services Office** (directed by Cantrell Miller —phone: 3185; e-mail: cantrell.miller@mail.wvu.edu). You can get ...please see “Student Support” on page 4



From the desk of: CTC President Jo Harris

Educational Partnerships

As mentioned in the last two articles, the Community and Technical College will begin a new “compact” with the state, setting goals and activities that will guide the college through 2010. The previous columns focused on two major goals of community colleges: providing greater access to higher education and offering workforce development programming through customized training and professional development seminars. In our new Compact, educational partnerships or collaborations are also emphasized.

As in any partnership, parties work together for a common purpose. To make sure that there is a seamless educational system, colleges must work more closely with area high schools as well as other colleges. What does that mean?

It means that high schools and colleges align their courses to avoid duplication. West Virginia has been a leader in the federal Tech Prep project, bringing about a model program known as Earn a Degree and Graduate Early, or EDGE. High school teachers and college instructors have examined course outcomes, prepared test banks, and matched up curriculum in many technical courses. Upon passing a comprehensive final examination, a student enrolled in an EDGE course can have course credits sent to participating colleges. Upon enrollment at the college, the credits will be placed on the student’s transcript. Some of you may have attended a career-technical center that had entered into an articulation agreement with the CTC. This is another type of partnership that avoids your having to repeat a foundation skills course, such as computer applications, computer repair, drafting, or electronics, in your program of study.

After completing associate degree course work, seamless transition to a bachelor’s program is also important. Tech has been a model for other colleges across the state in designing associate degree (A.S.) transfer programs with corresponding plus-two baccalaureate program opportunities. All A.S. degrees in the community college have B.S. opportunities right here on the Montgomery campus (see the notations on the A.S. programs of study in the catalog).

As you may surmise by reading all this, the focus of state leadership is to increase the college-going rate and the percentage of state residents earning an associate or baccalaureate degree. By providing the opportunity for high school students to earn college credits while in high school, at little or no cost, through EDGE, articulation, or dual credit courses, it is more likely that they will transition to an associate degree program and complete it in less than two years—earning a highly marketable technical degree. Individuals may elect to seek employment immediately and return to college later for a bachelor’s degree if needed in their work, or they may elect to continue immediately into a four-year program.

Why is there all this attention to educational partnerships or collaborations? It is to ensure that there is a qualified technical workforce in West Virginia—a major selling point for prospective employers. These collaborative efforts also let students experience educational successes one step at a time. This “laddering” approach to higher education is working—there has been a steady increase in both the college-going rate and the number of college degrees awarded to West Virginians over the past three years!

A Tech student has lost his cellphone and we need help finding it. He frequents the athletic facilities, attends the Tuesday evening devotions, and resides in HiRise and uses cafeteria daily. He has retraced some of his steps for four days to no avail. If found please contact: bball8486@hotmail.com or vajim@cox.net. Thanks.

TECH COLLEGIAN

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Printed by the Tech Printing Web Press Class,
James “Moon” Dickerson and Gary Potter, instructors

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Out of My Head:

Films of the Future!

By Dave McBrayer

This week's long-awaited column on playing card architecture has been cancelled; I have breaking news! Those still interested in card houses can attend my seminar next week.

As you may know, this is the season when the upper echelon of the entertainment industry gathers together the fruits of their labors and proceeds to pick one another apart in the name of artistic competition. Far be it for me to miss such a spectacle; I set my VCR to record the Oscars, just in case I'm busy that night, be it romancing an Italian marchioness, or, more likely, playing with Legos. In setting my VCR, however, I made a horrible mistake. Although I got the date and time correct, I was off by 24 years. I accidentally taped the 2029 Academy Awards.

Call it fate, call it luck, call it what you will, but I will tell you that in the next 24 years, movies will suck beyond belief. I believe that the reason is that there are only a finite number of good ideas, but an ever-increasing demand for new movies. Whatever the reason, there are some painfully bad movies in store for us in the future.

For example: the Disney production of "Othello." I am led to believe that they've managed to cut out about 90% of the story, and replaced the rest with anthropomorphic gophers.

Also, in the tradition of books that get adapted into movies, we have "Unabridged,"

based on a future edition of the dictionary. Cameron Diaz won (will win?) a Best Supporting Actress award for her performance as The.

From the mind of Kenneth Branagh comes "Sonnets." Presumably, he'll have run out of actual plays to direct by 2029, and will have to worship Shakespeare in another fashion: reciting the Bard's collected sonnets onscreen for hours.

Brace yourself for "Halloween 84: Michael Reborn!" It seems somewhat appropriate that this particular franchise can't be killed.

In the spirit of software turned into movies, in the footsteps of such fine cinema as "Super Mario Brothers" and "House of the Dead," comes the undisputed champion of bad ideas in 2029: "Excel." I can't imagine how many people were (will be?) actually bored to death in the theaters.

Finally, and unfortunately, is "Sword of Glory," the tale of a handsome young knight who, with the help of his leprechaun pal and his enchanted talking shield, must rescue a unicorn from an evil dragon in order to win the love of a fairy princess. I foresee that after its first box office weekend, the Society for Creative Anachronism will disband forever, "EverQuest" will be banned outright, and there will be widespread burning of Piers Anthony books for reasons other than bad puns.

This is the future of cinema. Be afraid. Be very afraid.

Card Houses in the Tech Ballroom

By Kate Reich

He sat a good deal of the time alone with his cards. First came the games of solitaire, then it turned to house building. The first house he was proud of was only one story, but it was wide, almost taking up half the table. He was proud of it, but then he got ambitious. He destroyed the card house with a swipe of his hand, and began again. One story was completed, then he started on the second. Midway in its construction, it fell apart. However, he was a man of patience. The card house architect continued in his quest.

He was representing three groups that day, while building card houses. The paper signs were lined up on the table in front of him: Tech Players, Tech Choir, and the Tech Collegian. He was there that grey Montgomery day to encourage his fellow students to join one of his groups. He had put considerable time into each of the three endeavors, and he was more than happy to share the joy with the student body, but the question remained on his mind, while building small houses this time, of where interested students were.

He had copies of the Collegian stacked up neatly on the table, even though he knew that those who came by the table had probably

already read the paper. His thoughts wandered from his cards to next week's edition. With his most prolific writer gone, the paper was looking meager. Sure, he could throw in a few press releases, maybe a blurb about the presidential or football coach search, and an announcement from one of the many clubs on campus, but it just didn't satisfy him. He longed for something of substance, something beyond student whining or copy released from an office. His piece for that week, on fortune cookie fortunes ("Expect partly cloudy weather, with highs in the upper 50s") was, in his opinion, one of his best works of the semester so far. What could he write for his next column? He looked at the table. The cards, askew in piles over the plastic tabletop, told him: "Tech's Newest Major: Card Architecture." The school could bring in all those poker players that are all over television nowadays. They could teach what to look for in cards; what size card would produce the best results in multi-story card houses. Rabid rocks from Mars would come and attack these houses, but HA! to the rocks, these card houses would provide safe shelter to the students living on campus. Yeah, that sounded good.

After deciding upon his column, he looked around. There was a good turnout from other clubs on campus, ranging from Greeks to

Notes from the WVU Tech Career Services Office

The Career Services Office is starting to assemble student credentials for distribution to employers seeking Cooperative Education candidates. While definitions of Co-op change from one employer to another, employers starting to request credentials are interested in having students complete rotating terms – that is, rotate semesters at school with semesters at work.

One free service the office offers to students is the formulation of Co-op Work/School Plans. These plans illustrate the sequence of courses for students considering co-op positions and are approved by the student's academic department chairperson.

Employers seeking co-op candidates at this time are:

Mitre (Comp Sci, Comp Eng, Electrical Eng), **CSX** (Mechanical Eng & Tech), **Dominion** (Electrical and Mechanical Eng & Tech); **AK Steel** (Chemical, Electrical, & Mechanical Eng), **Rockwell** (Electrical and Mechanical Eng & Tech), **Pechiney** (Electrical, Chemical, and Mechanical Eng), **Federal Department of Highways** (Civil Eng & Tech), **NSWC**, and **Toyota of WV** (Electrical and Mechanical Eng & Tech).

The Naval Surface Warfare Center (NSWC) has also announced their Summer 2005 Student Temporary Employment Program. Students majoring in Aerospace, Chemical, Civil, Electrical, Mechanical Engineering as well as Chemistry or Biology who meet citizenship and gpa requirements may apply. This STEP program is similar in scope to the NSWC Co-op program, however, without the associated benefits. The first application deadline for the STEP program is February 14, 2005.

Not interested in the Cooperative Education program? All students need to open and complete a WVU Tech eRecruiting account because referrals are made to employers for summer employment long after the close of spring semester classes. Visit OM 326 or telephone (304) 442-3185 for additional information.

Part-Time Concurrent & Full-Time Summer Office Aide Position US Army Corps of Engineers Belle, WV

WVU Tech has just been contacted by a project engineer with the US Army Corps of Engineers regarding an **immediate** "Office Engineering Aide" opening at the Belle, WV, location. The Corps is seeking a college student to work 25 hours each week (flexible) during the semester and up to 40 hours per week during breaks and summer vacation.

Duties will include maintaining office engineering files and records, using MS Excel, and using MS Word. All students with these skills will be considered regardless of academic major, however, sophomore status candidates are preferred.

The candidate selected for this position must maintain at least a 2.0 gpa, must be enrolled as a full-time student during academic semesters, and must be a US citizen.

To apply for consideration, candidates are to forward a copy of their resume to Mr. Beau Corbett, Project Engineer either by fax (304) 949-1937 or send an email to: beau.j.corbett@lrh01.usace.army.mil

Please feel free to contact the WVU Tech Career Services Office at (304) 442-3185 if you have any questions regarding this immediate opening.

engineering societies that could certainly build much better card houses than he could. He had been sitting in the ballroom for nearly three hours. Hardly anyone had stopped to talk to him about the Players, or the Collegian. From his understanding, there had even been a dorm storm, hopefully to bring out the unaware to the Student Activities Fair. It had hardly produced any unaffiliated populace to the room. He sighed, and shook his head. It was upsetting that so many people had taken the time to set up their respective table booths, to share pamphlets and fliers advertising meeting times and other information, yet there had been a small crowd to receive them.

He started again on his card houses. This time, he used the entire deck and made a village of small houses that covered the table. If people wanted to look back on their college days and only remember drab white walls, that was their business.

Nursing Applications Deadline Extended

The deadline for applications for the WVU Tech Nursing Department has been extended until February 15. Please contact Julie Wood at 442-3346 for an application and information.

Student Health Clinic Open

The WVU Tech Student Health Clinic and Family Planning Clinic is open for all Tech students. The number is 442-2613 for an appointment or any questions. Walk-ins are welcomed but an appointment is requested to best serve the numbers of patients. Please bring a Tech ID. Acute services are provided; however, if a condition occurs that involves a life-threatening condition, a possible broken bone, or any respiratory distress, please go immediately to the Emergency Room.

President's column:**Academic and Student Support Services**

...continued from page 2
information on a variety of part-time and summer jobs as well as important information on the Cooperative Education Program that combines full-time work experience and attendance at Tech. This program enables you to gain valuable work experience, earn a salary, and obtain a leg-up at graduation in your search for a job.

If you find that you cannot master a particular class, I recommend you visit **your academic advisor** and the class instructor as soon as you realize that you may need to drop a class. The earlier you make this decision, the better your chances of minimizing the effect on your grade point average. It may be possible that you can pick up a mid-semester class to maintain full-time status. It is also important to get assistance from your academic advisor in making the decision to drop a class. The advisor may have suggestions that would enable you to complete the class successfully.

Another important asset is **your instructor**. Get to know your faculty members and ask for their help when you need it. Ask questions in class — do not let a concept get by you that you don't understand. Be sure you understand the

course requirements and expectations and focus your studies on meeting them. If you find a concept or particular subject matter puzzles you seek additional help by visiting your instructor during their office hours, and take advantage of our tutoring services (see AEC and SSS above). Faculty members want you to succeed and will help you to learn the subject matter in their classes.

As you can see by this article, there are a wealth of individuals and offices on the Tech campus, which are committed to your success. Across the campus, there are helpful, willing, knowledgeable people who are anxious to help each of you succeed in your classes. WVU Tech is highly dedicated to going the extra mile to help you fulfill your dreams. We are here and anxious to help you meet your goals and we are all just a short walk, a call or a click away.

For **information regarding other campus services**, contact Mike Neese, the Dean of Students (phone: 3158; e-mail: mneese@mail.wvu.edu).

Footnote: Thanks to all of the offices that provided information for this article. And thanks to Mike Neese who regularly assists me in the preparation of the President's Collegian weekly article.

Questions about the HiRise Cafeteria menu update are answered on the web page:
http://www.wvutech.edu/studentservices/dining_service_menu.htm

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