Volunteer trailblazers beautify DSC

by Carol Jackson

For the past few years, students have been almost as likely to find one DSC professor in the woods as in the classroom.

Professor of Biology John Lugthart first began thinking about a hiking trail through the back of campus in 2007. He and his wife Gretchen, who also teaches biology at Dalton State, spent a lot of their spare time hiking in the woods behind the main campus.

“My motivation to construct the hiking trails was really twofold,” Lugthart said. “I wanted to preserve the pristine nature of Dalton State’s property but at the same time I wanted to share it with everyone on campus and in the community. Hiking trails are the perfect solution.”

Together with colleague Kerry Dunbar, also a professor of biology, Lugthart approached Dr. James Burran, then the DSC president, for approval, and conception soon became reality.

Construction began during the winter of 2008. Three years later, the connected Main Loop and Park Canyon trails run 2.2 miles. The South Trail, which will soon join the first two, will run .7 miles, for a total of nearly 3 miles.

“We should have the last of the trails finished by the end of this semester,” Lugthart said. “It should only take three or four more workdays, and we will have created something truly special for our community.”

Construction has been possible only through the combined efforts of approximately 225 volunteers, many of them DSC students, who have put in more than 2000 hours of work on more than 50 workdays. Rocky Face Boy Scout Troop #96 even assisted construction by building two bridges and a pair of benches.

Dr. Walt Cook, a retired UGA forestry professor and noted hiking trail designer, planned the first two trails in the fall of 2007. Dalton resident and trail builder Eric Eades also contributed significant help, Lugthart said. Eades volunteered on most of the trail workdays, executed most of the chainsaw work, and designed Park Canyon Trail.

“Eades was the only one of us who had any actual trail building experience,” Lugthart said. “He helped work on the Benton Mackaye Trail in Fannin County, and his expertise was invaluable in the construction of our trails.”

Now nearly finished, DSC’s hiking trails are not just for students to enjoy.

Dalton resident Zane Nagel, who often takes her dogs there for walks, said the trails are “beautiful.” The path is “nicely marked and easy to follow,” Nagel said. “There are benches at scenic spots along the way and bridges over the creeks.”

Katie Sickler, now a student at Georgia Tech, worked on the trails while a Dalton State student and often returns to campus to walk them on her trips home. “The work on the trail and the trail itself are symbolic of my journey at Dalton State College,” Sickler said. “I always look forward to hiking it when I get back home from Atlanta.”

Associate Professor of Chemistry Dean Turner said, “I like using the trails for an occasional walk. It's good fun, I enjoy the woods, I enjoy the company, it's good exercise, and ... I would encourage others to come on out.”

Upcoming workdays are March 17 and 30 and April 13, from 8:30 a.m. until noon. Take work gloves, sturdy shoes, and drinking water. For more information, contact Dr. John Lugthart at jlugthart@daltonstate.edu.

Students, faculty, and other members of the community enjoy the fresh air and exercise while carving new paths at Dalton State College’s growing network of hiking trails.

For a map of the DSC hiking trail system, see pg. 4
New theatre course is more than just drama

by Ashlee Swilling
contributor

Students with a dramatic flair now have a new creative outlet thanks to a recent addition to the Dalton State course catalog. THEA 2100, Theatre Production, is tailored to students interested in acting, set design, and costume design, even advertising.

Jackie Daniels, assistant professor of communication and theatre, said that “the course goes beyond what most would consider theatre production.” Students will not only design and produce a play—the first mainstage production in Dalton State history—but promote it to make sure students and the community come to campus to fill seats.

The play for spring semester 2012 is Mary Zimmerman’s The Arabian Nights, Daniels said, chosen because of its improvisational movement, music, and dance. “It’s truly a creative undertaking to turn Memorial Auditorium into ancient Baghdad,” she said.

The play tells the story of Scheherezade, a beautiful princess married to King Shahryar.

Unfortunately, the king has a nasty habit of taking a new wife each day, beheading the previous day’s spouse.

Over 1,000 nights, Scheherezade tells the king stories to postpone her imminent murder. Eventually, the king falls in love with her and makes her his queen.

“The class will be involved in every aspect of the production,” Daniels explained.

After students have designed and constructed the set, designed and sewed their costumes, and learned all their lines, students interested in marketing will promote the production by designing posters. The Arabian Nights will feature more than 20 students in onstage roles. They include:

- Scott Reese as Shahryar, Boy, Mock Khalifah (Aziz)
- Wes Whiddon as Wazir, Clarinetist, Thief, Old Boatman, Farmer
- Brittany Wade as Scheherezade
- Jennifer Wade as Dunyazade, Second Child, Little Foot
- Brandon Kuntz as Harun-Al-Rashid, Sheikh-Al-Islam, Kings
- James Troxler as Jafar, Thief, Third Sage, Prince 2, Sheikh-Al-Fa’ad
- Octavio Mingura as Chief of Keys, Butcher, Man in the Dream, Persian, First Sage, Prince
- Michael Reynolds as Madman, Chief of Police, Robber, Second Sage, Sleeper
- Neha Patel as Slave Girl, First Child, First Sister-In-Law, First Girl, Little Girl
- Heather Kimsey as Perfect Love, Other Woman, Tortoise
- Thomas Bolanos as Prince of Fools, Jester, Kurd, Second Genie
- Ashley Newberry as Woman 1, Mother, Sympathy the Learned
- Diana Rodriguez as Woman 2, Aziz’s Mother, Experienced Woman 1, Mother, First Woman by the River
- Vanessa Presswood as Woman, Experienced Woman 2, Woman by the River
- Kenneth Rhudy, Justin Newsome, Trevor Moss, Ariel Ackerly as musicians

Daniels will have the play ready for an audience by the end of March. Performances will take place March 29 and 30 at 7 p.m. and March 31 at 2 p.m. and 7 p.m.

“We are very excited about the play,” she said.

“Creative ideas have been abundant, and students will get to experience true ownership of their designs.”
Studying abroad opens the world to DSC

by Rayah Henderson
staff writer

Have you ever wanted to travel outside the United States? What if you could earn college credit at the same time? Dalton State’s Study Abroad Program offers students the opportunity to do both.

Dr. Baogang Guo, professor of political science and director of DSC’s Center for International Education, says that summer 2012 programs will deliver nothing short of life-changing experiences.

Available destinations include Spain, England, France, Germany, Russia, Ireland, China, Taiwan, and India. Guo knows of what he speaks. A native of Zhengzhou, China, he says he could easily have stayed and studied in his home country, but “I took the opportunity to study in the U.S., and it has changed my life.”

“I hope more students will do the same,” he says. Studying abroad “allows students a chance to see how others live, and they become more grateful for what they have.”

Another appeal of the program is career benefits, Guo says. Study abroad experience lets employers know that job applicants are willing to take risks, can think on their feet, and can handle potentially awkward situations.

Of the nine programs now offered, Guo is most enthusiastic about the China program, which he has directed since 2005. He says the summer 2012 program, centered at Zhengzhou University, will run from May 7 through June 5 and will feature trips to historical and educational sites in Beijing, Xi’an, Luoyang, and Shanghai.

Its academic theme will be “Fostering Global Citizenship through Cultural Exploration.” According to the program’s brochure, its goal is “to help students acquire a general grasp of the social, economic, and political systems of a different society and further a comparative worldview that can enhance competence in their careers.” Students will earn six credit hours in four weeks by choosing from among eleven courses in art, economics, history, music, political science, and psychology. Classroom instruction—all delivered in English—will be supplemented by field trips, excursions, and visits with host families, among other activities.

The program costs $3,850, which includes roundtrip airfare from Atlanta to Beijing, all local transportation, accommodations, most meals, all group excursions, visa processing, and group medical insurance.

Though some are surprised by the price—which does not include tuition or textbooks—Guo assures students that the program is a bargain.

“We are not making money,” he says. “The program is non-profit, and the benefits are priceless.”

Guo also explains that scholarships, among them the DSC Foundation Study Abroad Scholarship and the Asia Council Summer Study in China Scholarship, can cover many of the associated costs. If students are still apprehensive about traveling to a foreign country, Guo assures them that they will not be alone there.

Guo is only one among many DSC professors who oversee study abroad programs, and their classes and dormitories will be filled with students from other Georgia colleges and universities.

In the end, Guo says, the only real difficulty in studying abroad is filling out the application and searching for grants and scholarships to fund the trip. So if you want to test your boundaries, learn something about yourself and the world in the process, and earn college credit for doing it, Guo can lead you in the right direction.

For more information, email him at bguo@daltonstate.edu, visit his faculty webpage at http://www.daltonstate.edu/faculty-staff/bguo/index.html, or visit the DSC Study Abroad webpage at http://www.daltonstate.edu/study-abroad/.

With the photo above, DSC senior Gray Bartlett won first place in the photo contest held during International Education Week 2011. Bartlett took part in the summer 2008 study abroad program in China and returned to China for extended travel in 2009 and 2010. He shot the photo in a minority village near Pingan County. “When I was little boy,” Bartlett said, “the rice terraces of Pingan were exactly what I imagined China was alike—a place so vastly different from anything I have seen in the United States. This place was recommended by my travel book, and I knew once I looked at the pictures I would be headed there.”
Gold Plated Gold brings the Midas touch to rock

by Courtney Harris
staff writer

It’s 8:50 p.m. in downtown Chattanooga, Tennessee. Nerves run high as DSC sophomore Casey Lovain and Blake Callahan wander outside J.J.’s Bohemia for a cigarette.

By this time, Callahan has already smoked almost a pack, and yet nothing can calm his nerves. Meanwhile, Adam Ayers sets up his drums and scans the drunken and anxious crowd waiting to be entertained.

At 8:55, Lovain and Callahan return to the stage. A silence falls as they collect their thoughts and mentally prepare for an intense night.

As Lovain takes off his glasses, Callahan tunes up his guitar and approaches the mike.

It’s 9:00. They are Gold Plated Gold, and this is what they love to do.

Lovain says that GPG began as three friends playing music together in Chatsworth. At their first practice, a mutual friend had been watching and drinking. By the time they took a smoke break, their friend was drunk.

Lovain recalls the friend shouting, “YOU GUYS COULD HAVE ANYTHING IN THE WORLD! YOU COULD HAVE MONEY, WOMEN, GOLD-PLATED RECORDS!” Of course he meant to say ‘records’ but said ‘gold’ in his drunken ramblings, and it just stuck.

The most unique attribute of GPG is that each member comes from a different musical background.

According to Lovain, “I had started out playing basic pop punk music for about three years. Blake has more of a metal/experimental background. Adam has more of a contemporary background.”

However, these different backgrounds do not matter because “the music that we play now is incredibly different from what any of us had ever played [before].” Somehow, the combination of three different playing styles melds into catchy songs like “Turn Out the Lights” and “Hey/Only Lonely.”

Lovain hates to label the band, but he said, “If you had to call us anything, call us ‘Experimental garage rock.’”

Some of their influences include Red Hot Chili Peppers, Modest Mouse, The Strokes, and Kings of Leon.

GPG is currently working on an EP. It will have six or seven tracks, and they hope to have it out by April. Unlike most bands’ recordings, this record is not for profit.

Lovain explained “We want to give this one away. We love playing music and we just want to get our names out there for now.”

Lovain says that, despite the type of music they play, their live shows are incredibly intense.

“Every time we play live, we make sure it counts,” he says. “If people pay to see us, or even if they just happen to watch us, we are giving it our all for everyone to see and hear.”

“The Dalton State College Trail System features three trails: Big Rock Trail, College Creek Trail, and Cascade Trail. Each trail has characteristics that make it unique. The trails wind through an oak-hickory forest with rock outcrops, stream crossings, and cascades. Great views and drifts of native ferns will take your mind off school or work.”
ROADKILL

Plant Operations has done a great job with all the beautiful flowers and trees, and the benches and places to sit and talk are very welcoming. Thank you!

If we take online classes, why do we have to come to school to take tests? Doesn’t that defeat the purpose of taking classes ONLINE?

We’re here for an education, not a handout. Stop whining and get to work!

If you are released for online class registration one semester, you should be released for every semester.

I am not a fan of people taking up a study room in the library to check facebook.

I love that we have free concerts at the college!

The upper parking lot needs better lighting.

Every time I go to the admissions office there’s a line all the way out the door.

Proper hygiene should be a requirement to attend class.

Why do we still have only one Higher One ATM?

Construction outside Pope has taken over my study spot. I’m not happy.

Students: spend more time in the library than in the student center and maybe your grades will improve! Stop complaining and ruining my day!

Whoever said there are no stupid questions should come sit in my Psych 1101 class.

The campus Internet is a pain in the butt! Why does it ask for a login EVERY TIME I use it? Even my home router recognizes a computer that has connected before.

Why are the computers in the Technical Building so outdated?

We need a map for our library.

There need to be more classes of technical Building so outdated?

The upper parking lot needs trashcans.

Have something to gripe about? Email us at roadrunnernews@daltonstate.edu

Campus Café

SOPA: smothering online privileges actively

by Paul J. Barry
editor-in-chief

No doubt many of you kind readers saw a number of your favorite websites go dark on January 18th in protest of the Stop Online Piracy Act and bills like it.

Before I go any further, I must clarify that this column will in no way be a political soapbox on which I have been given the power to stand. Both Republicots and Democrats have authored and supported these bills throughout the various stages of lawmaking. The question is “How could our government possibly control something as enormous and global as the Internet?”

Without getting into the technological nitty gritty, the Internet as we see it is transmitted to us through a series of servers that give each particular site its name. Through these servers, we are able to access youtube.com through its name instead of its complicated numeric address.

Think about trying to find the White House. Now imagine that the White House is invisible. The only possible way to find it is to know the street address.

10 worrisome habits of highly ineffective students

Roschelle L. Bautista
assistant professor of Spanish

Last year was rough. I was Exhausted—with a capital “E.”

Some days I felt like I was being dragged or drugged or both. Dragged to and drugged at work, church, the grocery store, the gas station, the pharmacy, even the bed.

I was so tired I felt like I’d given birth or something. Really. That’s how tired I was.

In the midst of all that exhaustion, I was thinking that even while the majority of my students amaze me with their academic acumen, study ethic, hard work, sensitivity, and genuine intelligence, some of them manage to shock, exasperate, and even startle me with behaviors I—as diplomatically as possible—can only call worrisome.

And those behaviors only compound the daily exhaustion I’ve felt recently.

Hoping that the latter group of students will begin to think twice and maybe even muster enough self-control to not repeat these behaviors, I’ve documented the ten most worrisome ones, all of which, unfortunately, I’ve suffered personally.

1. Asking “Are we doing anything important in class today?” or “Did we do anything important in class today?” These aren’t questions you want to ask if you want me to see you as a conscientious student. Plus, you leave me with only two options, neither of them appealing.

If I Just Say No, as Nancy Reagann suggested in the mid-’80s, my career might be at stake. After all, we don’t go to class and just stare at each other. Good grief. What would my dean say if we did?

But if I answer yes, I have to recapture the whole 75-minute class for you in the three remaining minutes of office hours I have scheduled.

So how about this? Check the syllabus, find out what we’re doing, and if you still have to ask, whatever you do, don’t even suggest that what we do in every class might not be important.

2. Wearing flip flops, sandals, or anything similar to a professor’s office when you know you haven’t washed your feet in three days.

I mean, really. If you know you have a problem with foot odor, don’t come in my office with those things uncovered to go over your last test or homework assignment. That horrid odor just might be the reason I rush you out the door.

3. Backing your SUV into the parking spot. And leaving it there. The cleaning lady must have moved your car to make space for you. That’s the only possible way to find it.

4. Using flatulence as an excuse to walk out of class and talk to your boyfriend on your cell phone.

5. Blaming the maintenance staff for your “lost” homework.

(see Worrisome page 6)

(see SOPA, page 6)
SOPA (continued from page 5)

At this juncture, your brows should be furrowed, at the very least. On what grounds could the government effectively eradicate entire chunks of the Internet? SOPA gives the government the power to shut down websites if they host copyrighted content.

I am not just talking about downloading movies from freeflix4me.com. I am talking about a video you upload to YouTube in which you are singing your favorite Adele song.

Under SOPA, YouTube would be shut down because of vast amounts of copyrighted content. Websites that use, contain or link copyrighted content without express permission of the artist are subject to eradication. As a consumer, you would be criminally prosecuted and forced to pay a hefty fine, and repeated offenses could even earn you jail time.

SOPA and bills like it affect the entire Internet. From funny comics incorporating screenshots from a movie to slide shows with musical soundtracks to, yes, ladies, even Pinterest, no soundtracks to, yes, ladies, even Pinterest, no site is safe from these abhorrent bills.

Oh, how I wish the sinister hand of Uncle Sam stopped there. Because of the protests that “blackened out” sites to spread awareness, SOPA may have been killed, and PIPA is losing supporters every day. Unfortunately, the concept of government control of the Internet is far from defunct.

SOPA and PIPA are mere decoys. The exact language of these bills over which I hope you are fuming is being incorporated into a bill entitled so nobly that no one in their right mind would dare oppose it.

The Protect Children from Internet Pornographers Act gives the government almost identical powers as SOPA and PIPA under the guise of protecting innocent children from the horrible perverts who lurk the seedy underbelly of the World Wide Web.

Do children need protection? Of course they do. But that is what family filters and responsible parenting are for.

I hope you do not fall for this sickening ruse, by which a noble cause is tainted by the subtle stench of censorship.

The United Nations recently declared free access to the Internet an inalienable right in that it is one of the freest forms of communications and expression.

The censorship and dismantlement of the Internet as we know it in the United States would have global ramifications. SOPA, PIPA, and any bills like them need to be killed and only remembered as another governmental blunder.

Artists need protection from piracy, and I will not argue that point. However, there are mechanisms in place to protect artists and their copyrighted material.

Do these mechanisms need improvement? Of course they do.

However, these recent bills are the equivalent of a nuclear bomb. Sure, the target will be eliminated, but any sensible person would agree the cost is much too high.

I implore you to research these bills and others like it, sign petitions, voice your opinions, and contact your government representatives. I still believe in the efficacy of the masses, and I feel our government will listen if people scream loudly enough.

Wo…rrisome

(continued from page 5)

it” excuse expired when I was in grad school. Seriously: just take the zero and salvage your integrity.

6. Leaving an assignment in your professor’s mailbox or on your professor’s front door step or kitchen table.

When you do this, the secret’s out that you and one of his or her children are . . . well, studying together.

7. Lying about a death, a birth, or a car accident.

Look, you guys: if you don’t want to go to class for some ridiculous reason, Just Don’t Go! (It even rhymes with “Just Say No!”)

Higher education is not obligatory. In fact, we faculty exist only because you exist.

How about if we just establish a rule that if you don’t want to go to class, it’s cancelled? Would that help some of you finish those long-sought-after degrees?

8. Telling your professor that you will lose your financial aid if you don’t get an “A” in the class.

Is that the best you can do for sympathy? Remember, your GPA or HOPE scholarship doesn’t depend on just one class. What about those other classes you could have done better in?

9. Criticizing professors in front of their colleagues.

This one may need to be addressed in FYE. Don’t—under any circumstances—think that disrespecting, criticizing, or insulting professors who aren’t present will get you on their colleagues’ good side.

Hearing students criticize our colleagues does not make us feel better about ourselves. We don’t take it as an indirect complement. This will not make us give you a better grade.

In fact, it will make you sound like a slippery, sneaky, talking worm!

10. Not zipping your pants up when you have no underwear on, wearing low-rise jeans with a short blouse when you do have underwear on, or wearing your pajamas to class right after you’ve rolled out of bed in them.

These behaviors are particularly worrisome because they distract students all around you. I mean, really: do you need THAT much attention?

We poor professors don’t typically comment on this behavior, but that’s usually out of embarrassment for you.

But we do make mental notes, and if your final grade is borderline, we might just record the lower grade.

With all those low-rise jeans and low-cut blouses, how could we help it?

So, there they are: exhausting, worrisome behaviors in a nutshell. These worrisome behaviors have caused me much grief over the past few months. But really, I have to admit, I’ve also secretly chuckled at some of them. Who wouldn’t?

Want to write a guest column? Let The Roadrunner be your soapbox!

Email us at roadrunnernews@daltonstate.edu

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