

Spring 2025 DVCRA Newsletter

Description

Enjoy reading it here, or download the pdf [here](#).

default watermark

DVC Retirees Association Newsletter



COME TO DVCRA's 2025 SPRING LUNCHEON! Please join your friends and former colleagues over a hot buffet lunch in DVCRA's

DATE: April 25, 2025

TIME: 11:30am-2pm

LOCATION: Diablo Room, HSF Building, 3rd floor, Elevator Lobby

COST: \$20 per person cash or check (guests welcome) \$21 (includes \$1 service fee) if paying by credit card

FOOD: Hot Buffet-Choose regular (r), gluten-free (gf), or vegetarian (v)

PARKING: Lots 7 and 8, with a free daily permit or permanent permit.

PROGRAM: **Kelly Schelin, CCCCD Executive Vice President of Operations and Technology**, will join us from the District of Columbia on the district's direction in the face of COVID-19.

Akeem Ajani, DVC Umoja Program Counselor, will join us with students in the program about how the program assists and supports students to achieve their educational goals.

RESERVE: **Reservations and payments must be received by April 15, 2025.** At the time of payment, please specify your dietary preferences.

QUESTIONS: Concerning Lunch Contact
Irene Menegas, imenegas@comcast.net or
Concerning Payments Contact
Karen Castle, castlekq@gmail.com or 925-

PARKING: As always, Parking Lots 7 and 8 have the most space for the event – Student Ambassadors will be on site to help you find the Diablo Room.

A parking permit is required. If you have a permanent DV permit with no expiration date on your vehicle, you are good to go. If not, get a (free) daily permit by going to MyCampusPermit.com and completing the event. Click on Daily Permits, choose Diablo Valley College, and provide requested information, including a special code which we will provide. You must also enter the license plate number of the vehicle. We will complete the process in advance.

GETTING TO THE DIABLO ROOM: Lawrence Orme has graciously agreed to be available to provide transportation from the BFL Community Conference Center, for those who would like.

IMPORTANT: Much as we would miss your presence, if you are experiencing any COVID symptoms, or have tested positive within a week before April 25, please help us to keep everyone safe by not coming some time after you have paid, but before the event, if the COVID situation leaves you no longer comfortable about attending. Contact Irene or Karen, and let them know if you would like a refund. We will apply your payment toward the scholarship fund.

We are looking forward to seeing you on April 25!

If you prefer to send a check or money order, please mail

DVC Retirees Association
321 Golf Club Dr
Pleasant Hill, CA 94523

Make the check payable to DVC Retirees Association.
On the check note whether it is for

- Membership, indicate for whom and identify any address
- Lunch, specify for whom and whether Regular(R), Vegetarian(V), or GF (GF) (\$20 each)
- Scholarship (not tax deductible)

If you want the scholarship to possibly be tax deductible,
Write a **Separate Check** to the DVC Foundation and note
DVC Retirees Association Scholarship F

Do All You Can Do

By Nancy Zink

"Volunteers do not necessarily have the time; they just
(Elizabeth Andrew, American author)

The DVC Retirees Association would like to extend to you t
your insights, expertise and time by volunteering to ser
DVCRA.

We need people who are willing to spend a small amount o
can operate at the most effective level, to keep the orga
ensure our goals of supporting students and to enable
connected.

We especially need someone to become the Scholars
description of the position from our By-laws follows:

Scholarship Coordinator: The scholarship coordinator le
with the DVC Foundation and Scholarship offices annual

Diablo Valley College Retirees Association Financial Report
For the Period January 1, 2024, to December 31, 2024
By Tim Murphy, DVCRA Treasurer

The following DVCRA financial information is for the period January 1, 2024, to December 31, 2024:

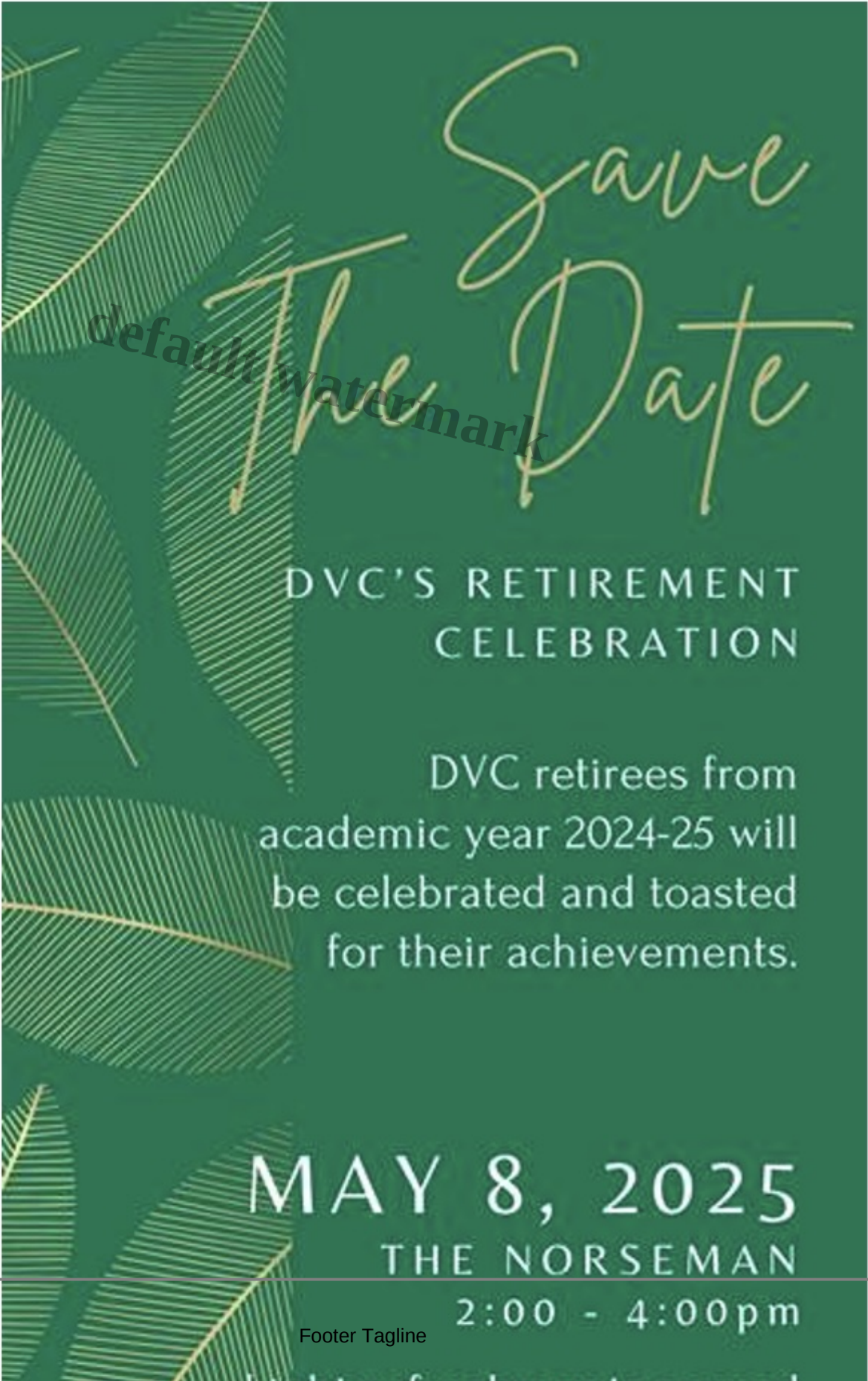
- ✓ \$27,875 in total assets as of December 31, 2024, of which \$14,972 is available for future operations and scholarships
- ✓ Fundraising activities for 2024 (including donations, luncheon net income) has generated \$14,972 available for scholarships.

The DVCRA Board has tentatively approved ten scholarships for the school year 2025-2026. Five scholarships will go to community college students and three scholarships will go to DVC transferring students. Two transfer scholarships will go to a DVC Puente transferring student and one Umoja transferring student.

Scholarship donations can be made by check or credit card (tax-deductible) by designating the donation to the DVCRA Fund 751 or by credit card through the new DVCRA payment site (tax-deductible). The DVCRA payment site will also take credit card payments for luncheons and membership dues.

Your Board wants to thank our membership for attending luncheons, Zoom online gatherings, and for their continuing support of the students of DVC.

default watermark



Save
The Date

default watermark

DVC'S RETIREMENT
CELEBRATION

DVC retirees from
academic year 2024-25 will
be celebrated and toasted
for their achievements.

MAY 8, 2025
THE NORSEMAN
2:00 - 4:00 pm

As
pe
pro
an
giv
ret
ye
sa
ret
Ma
we
ho
to
su
co
we
of

Re
Ma
Be
An
To
Ric
We
Wi
Ke
Te
Ch
Re
Ma
Je

default watermark

Information for the 2025 Diablo Valley College Scholarship Awards Ceremony and Donor Reception

By Thom Martin, Development Officer, DVC

Date: May 9, 2025

Time: 9:30 AM - 10:45 AM

Location: Performing Arts Center, followed by a reception at the DVC Foundation

Host: Diablo Valley College Foundation

Join us for the annual Scholarship Awards Ceremony at DVC, a cornerstone event celebrating academic excellence and the achievements of our scholarship recipients from diverse academic disciplines. On May 9, 2025, we will gather at the Performing Arts Center to honor the achievements of our scholarship recipients from diverse academic disciplines.

This year, we continue to build on the success of our program, with a significant increase in both the number and amount of scholarships awarded in the past years. With 198 scholarships awarded last year, DVC is proud to support a student body that exemplifies dedication, diversity. Our recipients, many of whom are from households earning less than \$49,999 annually and represent a wide age range, reflect the commitment of DVC.

Following the awards presentation, a reception will be held at the DVC Foundation where donors will have the opportunity to meet with the students they supported. This interaction not only allows donors to see the impact of their contributions but also provides our scholars a chance to thank them personally, sharing their goals and the difference the scholarship has made in their lives.

We invite all our donors and community members to join us in celebrating our commitment, community, and student success. Your continued support of our students and enriches our collective future.

default watermark

Do You Know What This Is?

By Nancy Zink

If you attended the the March 7 DVC Dinner Theater, like these folks and many of their friends, you know the answer. For those of you who did not go, you missed an excellent dinner and a thought-provoking show, both reflecting the wonderful talents of students in the Culinary Arts Program and Drama Program.



The pi
appeti
like so
is—a
reflect
play, "

The id
hidden
letter.
fall di
last
academ

**"Blythe Spirit" -- May 2-18 Tickets from
the DVC Cashier (925) 969-2358**

It's summertime in Kent and Charles Condomine is working on his latest novel, *The Unseen*. As part of his research, he and his wife Ruth host a

Footer Tagline

Bli
A FRIGHTENINGLY

default watermark

Building The DVCRA Membership

By Nancy Zink

The DVCRA would like to increase its membership. Can you help to do this?

As you know, a major focus of this organization is support scholarships. We fund those scholarships through member donations mainly made by our current members. Since 2018 more than \$188,000 to returning and transferring students.

This academic year, 2024-2025, the DVCRA will offer 10 scholarships each in May. Last academic year, 2023-2024, we offered 15. Over the years, we have had a decline in membership. With this decline we have had less income to support scholarships so each year fewer scholarships. At a high point, we offered 20 scholarships.

So how can you help the DVCRA expand its membership? Ask DVC retirees who have not renewed their memberships? Ask those who are about to retire or who have retired who have not joined. They can join if they are looking at retirement in the next five years.

You can tell these individuals that as new members, they can attend their first luncheon. You can also tell them the DVCRA has two luncheons a year, one in April and one in October. We share a meal, hear speakers, and stay connected to colleagues, individuals who are friends. In addition to the luncheons, we offer Zoom socials where we can talk about topics that interest and inform us, presenters, "rooms" where colleagues host discussions and/or provide information that affect our retirement.

Membership is only \$20 and is payable by July 1 annually. Members are being listed in and receiving a hard copy of the Member Directory, emailed newsletters annually as well as other emails that inform about the organization, upcoming events and general news of interest. The DVC Retirees Association is open to all

default watermark

Faculty Lecturer By John Freytag

On behalf of the Academic Senate Council, I am pleased to announce that Dr. James Wilson, Professor of English and Co-Coordinator of the LGBTQ+ Center, has been selected as the 2025 Academic Senate Faculty Lecturer.

Congratulations, James!

Dr. Wilson will present their talk,

"Who We Are When We Teach: What we bring to our students and our classrooms, and why it matters now," on both

April 23 12:45-2:10 pm, BWL-CCC

April 24 6:30-8:30 pm, Diablo Room

Everyone is welcome to attend.

In their lecture proposal, Dr. Wilson wrote,

"In this moment characterized by attacks on DEI efforts accompanied by the politicization and marginalization of queer and especially trans identities, I hope my talk will make a case for the value of visibility and encourage everyone to consider the role of faculty in creating safe spaces for our LGBTQ+ community. I have a special place at the front of the classroom, and I believe I am vulnerable enough to share ourselves with our students, even if it means sharing our struggles."

As part of their deliberation, Senate Council members considered the importance of the topic and themes they wanted to convey with their selected 2025 Faculty Lecturer. The members appreciated the timeliness of James's proposal, which resonated with the current climate on campus and in the broader community.

THE ACADEMIC SENATE OF DIABLO VALLEY COLLEGE

Who Are We When We Teach?

What we bring to our students and our classrooms, and why it matters now.

Featuring Professor of English and Co-Coordinator of Pride Learning Community

WED - April 23
12:45 PM - 2:10 PM (BWL-CCC)

THURS - April 24
6:30 PM - 8:30 PM (Diablo Room)

What parts of ourselves do we bring with us to class? What do we leave at the door?

A teacher's explorations around the place of gender, self, and identity on campus, in classes, and in the classroom.

Look Who is Graduating!

You are invited to join us to celebrate

Susan Lamb

as she retires after serving as

College President for 7.5 years and serving 4CD for 31 years

Light refreshments will be served.

We hope to see you on May 14th to wish her well in

To help us plan, please rsvp here if you are able to

For more information, please contact Marta Gillen [m](#)



SUSAN LAMB'S
RETIREMENT CELEBRATION

Wednesday, May 14

2:00 - 4:00 Diablo Room, Pleasant Hill Campus



Speakers and Podcasts By Charley Daly

We are excited to introduce two enriching initiatives from **Diablo Valley College Alumni Association**: the **DVC Alumni Speakers Bureau** and the **DVC Alumni Podcast**.

The **Speakers Bureau** serves as a dynamic platform that connects accomplished alumni with current students and faculty, fostering mentorship and knowledge sharing. Participating alumni can share their expertise through guest lectures, workshops, and panel discussions, providing students with real-world insights and career development opportunities. This initiative enriches academic experience but also strengthens the college community.

You can find the DVC Alumni Speakers Bureau here:

<https://www.dvcalumnismpeakersbureau.com>

Complementing this effort is the DVC Alumni Podcast, titled **"Every Story Inspires the Next!"** This podcast showcases the stories of our alumni, highlighting their diverse paths and achievements after graduating. Each episode features engaging interviews with graduates, entrepreneurs, educators, and leaders who share their challenges and successes. Together, these initiatives celebrate the legacy of DVC and encourage ongoing connections among alumni and faculty. We invite you to tune in and consider joining the Speakers Bureau to give back to the DVC community!

default watermark

Effects of the Social Security Fairness Act

By Karen Castle

Good News

On Jan 5, 2025, President Biden signed the Social Security Fairness Act. This legislation removes two limits on Social Security payments: the Windfall Elimination Provision (WEP) and the Government Payroll Offset (GPO), effective retroactively to 2021.

Who could benefit?

People receiving a pension from a job where they didn't pay Social Security taxes, including some:

- Public sector employees, state, federal or local;
- Teachers;
- Students employed by the educational institution that they attended;
- Employees who receive Social Security from other countries;
- Members of some religious groups

What - Windfall Elimination Provision (WEP)

If a person receives a pension for work where Social Security taxes were not paid, they had their Social Security payment reduced by up to \$587 per month in 2024, depending on the number of years that the person paid Social Security taxes. Without the WEP, the reduction could be much higher.

Everyone will now be eligible to receive their full earned Social Security benefit.

What - Government Pension Offset (GPO)

Usually, spouses can benefit from each other's Social Security payments. Spouses 62 or older can receive half the benefit their spouse is collecting on Social Security, whichever is more money. Divorced spouses from marriages lasting at least 10 years, have a similar option once the former spouse is eligible for Social Security payments. Surviving spouses (and ex's from marriages lasting at least 10 years) can receive up to 100% of the deceased spouse's Social Security, if the surviving spouse is 60 or older.

The Government Pension Offset (GPO) reduced the Social Security benefit of a spouse by **2/3 of their pension due to employment not covered by Social Security** the GPO.

default watermark

benefit automatically. You should be paid a lump sum for the amount since Jan 1, 2024, since the **Social Security Fairness Act** affects

Apply now if you delayed applying for Social Security benefits because your situation has changed.

If you want to wait to apply for Social Security payments when you have your worries. New applications for Social Security benefits are being accepted by the GPO. Just apply when you are ready.

To find out more about the Social Security Fairness Act and its impact, visit <https://www.ssa.gov/benefits/retirement/social-security-fairness-act>

Ways to Help

Informational Zoom, Wednesday, April 30, 2024

By James Blair, JD

Ever find yourself wanting to help our DVC students financially? The simplest, most cost-effective way to do this? How can you help your or your family's name? When and where exactly do you want to help?

On Wednesday, April 30th at 2 PM, you are invited to attend the college's head of donations, scholarships, and over-18 students will head up an event on those very topics. Those who want to hear Jim Blair, hear his brief presentation, access power point for the event, spend most of the 90 minutes answering the specific questions, and have a great opportunity to engage and find out about the many ways to help what each entails!

Don't miss out. Don't forget.

Wednesday, April 30th at 2-3:30 PM

Zoom Link

default watermark



The Ups and Downs of It

By Rob Peters and Nancy Zink

At the DVCRA Zoom Social, attendees identified two areas of interest to focus their attention: books to recommend and observations about the DVCRA.

During the first part of the social, several of the attendees shared books to read. Here are just some of the titles/authors shared: by Daniel Mason, Demon Copperhead by Barbara Kingsolver, My Beginnings by Bill Gates, Everything She Touched: The Story of Marilyn Chase, The Day the World Came to Town by Jim Henson. (Lisa suggested more titles, Lisa Orta reminded people about the Zoom social (see more about this in Lisa's article about joining.)

The second topic, curated by Rob Peters, asked attendees to share what they enjoyed currently within the DVCRA or to share recommendations for what might be added, modified or removed from the organization-- activities, opportunities to engage in beyond the Zoom social.

Below are the highlights of this discussion:

1. Likes identified:

- Great affection for the opportunity to lunch, with colleagues at the bi-annual luncheons
- Enjoy the flexibility of the Zoom events, when they can join spontaneously
- Interest in and willingness to help our students
 - a. donating to on-campus programs for students (e.g., supported Career Closet (see larger article about this))
 - b. supporting horticulture sales
 - c. attending events on campus like plays, concerts, etc. (see DVC Facebook pages)
 - d. fundraising by the Alamo Women's Group

default watermark

3. Recommendations for the future:

- Inform folks through a variety of venues, luncheons and Zoom events, of “connected”
 - a. Joining the long-standing DVC book club
 - b. Connecting with Charley Daly from the Association for a series of podcasts on students
 - c. Develop activities like a walking group, outing, meeting at a local eatery before ideas.
- Consider spreading the good word about the DVC join a year or two *before* they retire.

If you have other thoughts you would like to share, let us hear from me, Nancy Zink at ndzink@jps.net or Karen Castle at castle

Read Along With The DVC Book Group

By Lisa Orta



Staff, faculty and managers, employees have been reading one book a month together and meet in the Staff Development Center on the first Wednesday of the month from 12-1pm. For our current book, share suggestions for books to read during the month, and pick out books we have read books by colleagues, and attend a DVC Drama performance of a book we read. The description on our goodreads group page is “a fantastic and fabulous book group of DVC faculty and staff - meet to discuss chosen books and all things literary.”

Through a Looking

By Nancy Zink and Kumar

I look in the mirror, put the final touches on my outfit, looking and feeling my best. I have selected the right outfit knowing I look right, I can dismiss one set of nagging thoughts about my performance. I have that luxury. Many others do not have full of clothes choices, nor do they have the funds to

Kumar Krishan, Senior Program Coordinator for Career Development Center (DVC), is trying to provide DVC students with that closet. They can find those well-fitting appropriate clothes that make them the students who are trying to make that right impression when they present themselves to a larger community.

I heard about this program from a fellow retiree and was interested in the information Kumar Krishan provided to me. I want to know what the program is, what it provides and how you

*"Suit Up for Success" was an event designed to help students with their **Closet**, which provides professional attire for students for interviews, formal events, or starting a new job. We encourage donations to ensure students have access to*

*Students utilize the Career Closet throughout each semester. Last semester alone, we provided students with **professional attire**, and we regularly have students come in on a **weekly basis** for career clothing....*

*We accept donations **year-round**, including donations from the community. We gladly take **gently used, clean professional attire** such as blazers, dress shirts, slacks, skirts, dresses,*

In Memoria

The Diablo Valley College Retirees Association wishes to recognize those members of our community who have passed since our last published Newsletter.

For tributes and more complete obituaries, please go to the DVCRA website: <http://uf4cdretired.org> or click on the name to go to their In Memoriam page on the DVCRA website.

[Harry Byrne](#)

[Sandy Williams](#)

DVCRA webpage | [uf4cdretired.org]

Association Coordinator - Kare

Treasurer -Tim Murphy

Secretary - Irene Meneg

Date Created
March 25, 2025
Author
uf4retired

default watermark