

What's happening

Ongoing

■ **Girls ages 14 to 17 who volunteer** in their community or school are eligible to apply for the Violet Richardson Award, an annual \$1,000 grant given by Soroptimist International of Davis.

The award, named after the founder of Soroptimist International, is not a scholarship. It's intended to reward and encourage volunteerism. Recipients are those who show initiative, identify a problem and try to solve it. Priority is given to applicants whose work focuses on one project that wasn't undertaken to earn a different award.

To apply, download an application from the SI Davis website at www.sidavis.org/awards. Applicants should provide photos, news clippings and other supporting documents in their digital file when submitting. Direct questions and submissions to Wendy Weitzel at wendyedit@gmail.com. All submissions must be electronic and are due no later than Dec. 1.

Wednesday, Dec. 10

■ Tickets to the "Davis Children's Nutcracker," a local holiday tradition, will go on sale to the general public beginning today at the city of Davis Community Services Office, 600 A St., Suite C. Business hours are 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Mondays through Fridays. Tickets are \$15 for all performances, and buyers are limited to six tickets.

Performances will be at 7 p.m. Dec. 17, 18, 19 and 20 and 2 p.m. Dec. 20 and 21. For more information, call 530-757-5626 or email csweb@cityofdavis.org.

Saturday, Dec. 13

■ Tickets are on sale now for the annual **Breakfast with Santa** in downtown Davis. This year's event, sponsored by the Davis Odd Fellows Lodge, will take place at the Odd Fellows Hall, 415 Second St.

Three seatings are planned, at 8, 9:30 and 11 a.m. Santa and his elves will be on hand to spend time with each child, and pose for photos. Parents are reminded to bring their cameras. The menu includes pancakes, sausages and orange slices, and each child also will receive a goodie bag.

Tickets are \$9 each, for children and adults, and are available at Avid Reader Active, 605 Second St., and Common Grounds Coffee House, 2171 Cowell Blvd. Purchases must be made by cash or check only. Tickets will not be sold at the door.

Friday, Dec. 19

■ The city of Davis will hold an **Open Gym** from 5:30 to 6:30 p.m. for gymnastics and dance students who have missed a class. The gym, at 23 Russell Blvd., is also open to children ages 1-17 who may want to try out gymnastics for the first time.

Children ages 1-4 will need to have a parent or guardian supervise them on the gym floor. The fee is \$5 unless the participant is doing a make-up class and gymnastics and dance staff will be available for coaching questions, supervision and fun.

Tuesday, Jan. 6

■ Nominate a local junior high or high school student for a **Golden Heart award**. The awards recognize teens who have contributed service to their community or who have overcome a significant personal challenge.

Awards will be presented during a ceremony in the Community Chambers at City Hall on Tuesday, Feb. 17, at 6:30 p.m. Nominations are due by 5 p.m. Tuesday, Jan. 6, in the Community Services Office at 600 A St.

For more information, call 530-757-5626 or visit <http://cityofdavis.org>.

DHS teacher puts beard on the line for fundraiser

By Anne Ternus-Bellamy
ENTERPRISE STAFF WRITER

It's November, and everyone at Davis High School knows what that means: Teacher Kevin Williams is growing out his beard and raising money for the school's Race and Social Justice Program at the same time.

Over the past four years, Williams has raised more than \$3,500 for classroom supplies, a video library and even a guest speaker, all because he's willing to submit to the sort of creative humiliation that only high school students can dream up: When pledging money for the fundraiser, donors get to choose from among a list of "shave styles," with the style that brings in the most money being the one Williams will adopt at the beginning of December.

Last year, Williams was sporting the "wave" look; before that, there was the monkey tail beard, the batstache and the epic question mark.

A "tennis ball" beard which incorporated his entire head into the look — requiring that he shave his head and dye it green — was a frontrunner for a while last year and led to a new rule: "Only the beard and sideburns can be used to request a sculpt," Williams said on his wiki website. "As cool as it seems, my actual head hair and eyebrows are not part of my beard."

In any case, the wave style carried the day, sparing Williams the conundrum of how to dye his entire head green for a day. But an even worse humiliation looms this year: The leading style right now is the San Francisco Giants logo, and Williams is a Los Angeles Dodgers fan. In second place: A dollar sign.

Last year's No-Shave November fundraiser brought in the most money yet — \$1,018 — and helped bring

civil rights icon Melba Beals — one of the Little Rock Nine who integrated Central High School — to Davis High School earlier this year.

Beals' presentation in the Brunelle Performance Hall — attended by a standing-room-only weekend audience of students, teachers and community members — was impactful for his students, Williams said.

"I think students saw themselves in history," he explained, describing one student who told him Beals was her new idol, because hearing what she went through and the wonder-

ful person she turned into lent enormous perspective about how she deals with her own life trials. In addition to helping fund Beals' visit — also financed through money

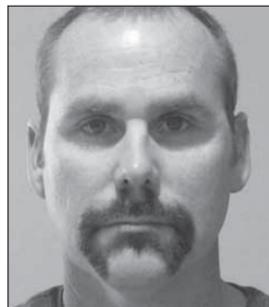
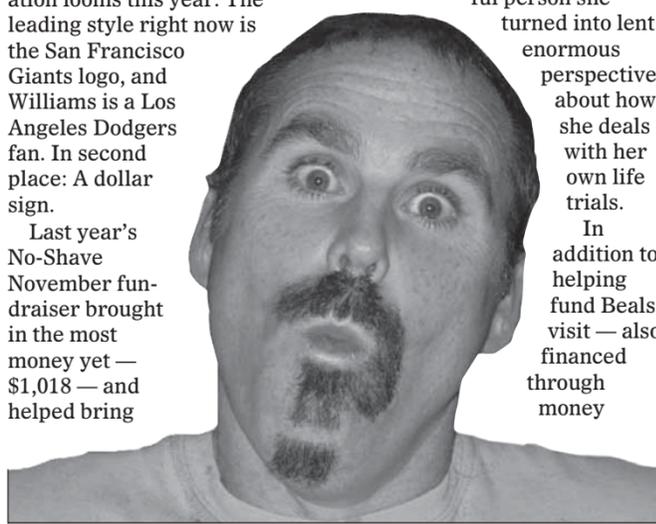
raised by Jann Murray-García — Williams has also used No-Shave November donations over the years to purchase clickers — electronic handheld devices that enable students to answer questions quickly and anonymously in class — as well as batteries for the clickers, videos and even pizza for students attending after-school movie presentations.

In the future, given the popularity of Beals' visit, Williams would like to fund additional guest speakers. At the top of his list: Betty Soskin, a docent at the Rosie the Riveter National Monument in Richmond and "so much more," Williams said.

"I think she'll be an amazing role model for everyone," he added.

The fundraiser runs through the end of the month and Williams will shave his new look on the evening of Dec. 1. Learn more, see photos of the possible looks, pledge and vote for a shave style at <http://noshavenovember.wikispaces.com>.

— Reach Anne Ternus-Bellamy at aternus@davisenterprise.net or 530-747-8051. Follow her on Twitter at @ATernusBellamy



The many faces of Mr. Williams: From left, the Monkey Tail, 2011; the Wave, 2013; and the Batstache, 2012. Above, the Question Mark was the answer in 2010.

COURTESY PHOTOS

Want work experience? Try a co-op

As Thanksgiving approaches and we celebrate the hard work the Pilgrims endured, it is only fitting that we take a look at colleges that promote this same kind of can-do spirit. And, by this I mean colleges and universities that offer a co-op program.

Co-op? What does this have to do with college? I'm glad you asked.

What is a co-op program?

Colleges that have co-op programs blend practical work experience with more traditional classroom learning. Similar to an internship or a practicum, but more structured, co-op programs require students to alternate between classroom studies and full-time work in career-related jobs, usually for three to six months at a time.

Students gain meaningful work experience while in school, and many believe these students are better prepared to enter the competitive job market after graduation. Although it often takes longer than four years to graduate from such a program (and, let's face it, many students nowadays take longer than four years to graduate anyway), a co-op student leaves campus not just with a bachelor's degree, but with real-world job experience and connections and, of course, the additional income earned from time working.

Students can do co-ops in a variety of fields, such as business, communications, architecture, engineering, information technology and health sciences.

What are the benefits from a co-op program?

There are many reasons why a co-op program may make sense for you. Take a look:

■ **Connection to employers.** Most co-op programs partner with domestic and global employers to provide these job opportunities. Drexel University, for example, has 1,600 co-op employers in 33 states and 48 international locations. Of course, a student is also welcome to do his or her own independent search for employment as well.

From large multinational



companies to smaller, locally owned businesses, students are connected with a vast array of potential jobs.

■ **Work experience.** Co-op programs are a great way to get a foot in the door and beef up a résumé with valuable real-world experience. And many times, these experiences lead to job offers after college.

■ **Pay.** Many co-op programs pay students an average of \$11,000 to \$18,000 over their six months of employment. (<http://www.forbes.com/sites/troy-onink/2012/02/27/why-college-co-op-programs-totally-rock/?optimizely=a>). In addition, many co-op programs boast that their graduates have higher starting salaries than students at other universities. (<http://www.drexel.edu/undergrad/co-op/overview>).

It is important to keep in mind though that not all students have paid employment in co-op programs, but more than the majority do.

■ **Financial aid.** With all the additional income, you might start to wonder how this affects eligibility for need-based financial aid. Well, student earnings through co-op programs do not count as part of the expected family contribution for financial aid purposes. Thus, there is no reduction in eligibility for need-based aid as a result of these additional earnings.

See a column from December 2012 on my website for more info about expected family contribution and financial aid eligibility.

So there must be a downside, right?

Yes, certain aspects of a co-op program may make it less desirable for some students. First, it feels less like a traditional college experience where freshmen bond their first year and go forward in lockstep to make it

to senior year together.

In a co-op program, there are students coming and going into and out of the classroom and into and out of the workplace. For a student who appreciates a less fluid environment with a more solid sense of community and fewer transitions, a co-op program would not be a good fit. It may be harder to make and maintain friendships and juggle the changing locations and expectations.

Which colleges offer co-op programs?

Co-op programs are not monolithic and each program has its own attributes and levels of participation. Some colleges have as much as 90-percent participation while others may have only a small portion of the student population participating in the co-op program.

Some colleges have students wait to until their second year to have a co-op experience, such as University of Cincinnati. Others, like Drexel University, allow students to start in their first year and then offer two programs to choose from: the five-year program with three co-op experiences and the four-year with one co-op experience.

Co-op programs are offered at both public and private colleges and universities, and application and degree requirements will depend on the intended major. So check each schools' website for more complete details.

Until next time

For those of you who are really focused on making a smooth transition from college life to the working world, check out co-op programs and see if there is one that is right for you.

As you probably know by now, there is always a right college out there for you.

— Jennifer Borenstein is an independent college adviser in Davis and owner of *The Right College For You*. Her column is published monthly. She lives in Davis with her family. Reach her at jenniferborenstein@therightcollegeforyou.org, or visit www.therightcollegeforyou.org.

Top-rated co-op programs

- Cornell
- Drexel
- Elon
- Georgia Tech
- Northeastern
- Rochester Institute of Technology
- University of Cincinnati

Source: US News World Report Education from spring 2014 — <http://colleges.usnews.rankingsandreviews.com/best-colleges/rankings/internship-programs>