

## Game Room Getting New Look

Photo and story by  
Vincenzo Sebastiano

From 2016 through 2017, a new club committee for the Gamer's Chalice has looked over the Sussex County Community College game room and saw nothing but opportunity to make things more excited for anyone that walks in the door. The game room is open to all students, not just club members to join in on the fun.

The Gamer's Chalice is a club dedicated to playing all types of games and making friends through different activities. The club plays games ranging from video games like Super Smash bros. to Call of



*Something's always going on in the Game Room.*

Duty Zombies to Rock Band. They have Dungeons and Dragons, a pool table, and a ping pong table also ready to play. On certain days there is a movie playing in the morn-

ing for all to enjoy and on other days they bring in party games like Quiplash. The club consists roughly of 20-plus members, four officers, and the club committee.

The new Gamer's Chalice club committee consists of: President Nick Voegele, Vice President Emily Mercado, Secretary Trevor Harris, and Treasurer Thane Kull.

Voegele said "What made me want to take on the role as president is that I've always wished for an awesome gaming environment that students can fall back to when stress from college or personal conflicts."

Voegele was vice president last year for the Gamer's Chalice and has made his way to the top bringing new ideas and events with the help of current vice president and his good friend, Emily Mercado.

The group is planning to

See *Game*, Page 5

## Students Offer Cafeteria Recipe for Improvement

By Amanda Fantasia

There are many places in the college where students enjoy spending their downtime. Some will go to the library to study, others would go work out at the gym, and others would rather just play video games in the game room. At these times, our college's cafeteria is a great place to eat food, hang out with friends, and do some homework. Many students enjoy what the caf-

eteria has to offer. However, there is always room for change. Some randomly selected students were asked what they would to improve about the cafeteria.

Emily Mercado, Newton, said there should be healthier and cheaper food choices. "Right now, the cheapest lunch options are French Fries, chicken fingers and just fried unhealthy food

See *Cafeteria*, Page 7

### INSIDE

SCCC PRESIDENT  
ADVOCATES  
FREE SPEECH  
FOR ALL Page  
2

SNAPSHOT OF  
STUDENT  
DEMOGRAPHICS Page  
3

SPRING SPORTS Page  
4

ANNUAL REPORT  
ON  
CAMPUS SAFETY Page  
6

COLLEGE RADIO  
IN THE WORKS Page  
8

CRIMINAL  
JUSTICE  
CLOTHING DRIVE Page  
8

## Free Speech Important At SCCC

By Vincenzo Sebastiano

At Sussex County Community College, freedom of speech is a huge topic on which almost everyone has an opinion.

When asked about the issue at the Student Center, a number of students offered thoughts on the question:

"How important is free speech on a college campus, and should there be a limit?" Here's what they had to say:

See *Speech*, Page 6

# Students Say They Feel Safe On Campus

By Richard Veen

Always.  
Literally never.  
All the time.  
Haven't seen one.  
Can't go two feet  
without seeing one.

These are some responses that you would get if you asked students at Sussex County Community College how often they see security guards. It seems that to the average student the security guards of SCCC are either everywhere or never seen.

Connor Phillips a student from Newton said "They're crawling all over the place, I see them often." While Brian Downs from Vernon said "I sometimes see the guy in the little booth every so often, but that's about it."

How often students see security was split, but something they all agreed on was that they all, for the most part, feel safe.

Eric Phillips from Pennsylvania said "Yes, I feel safe, but mostly because I don't think anything too terrible happens in Sussex county that would make me worry." It was a general consensus that students felt safe because of SCCC's location.

Brian Downs also said "I'm not scared at all; Newton cops could be here in 10 minutes." Garrett Stein from Sparta joked "I rarely see any suspicious characters around Sussex... none that I couldn't handle anyway."

No student had any major security concerns aside from the shootings that have been occurring around the country.



SCCC security keeps an eye on campus.

"It's a public place, if someone is going to do something they're gonna do it. No amount of security can stop that." said Eric Phillips.

Other students were more optimistic. Jessica Sinfield from Vernon described Sussex as a warm environment saying, "I trust the people at SCCC. I feel comfortable around them. Plus we do have cell phones and the blue emergency stations if we truly needed them."

Another student from

Vernon Ania Chorzepa had this to say "I've never felt unsafe. I've been to two other colleges and since I started attending Sussex I have always felt like the security and the people here just care about each other." She went on to say that that's not a luxury you have everywhere.

So don't feel like you ever need to look over your shoulder. Your fellow students have your back, and so does security, whether you see them or not.

# College President Backs Free Speech For All

By Samara Filep

The First Amendment states: "Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof; or abridging the freedom of speech, or of the press; or the right of the people peaceably to assemble, and to petition the government for a redress of grievances".

In a narrowed-down explanation, the U.S Constitution protects our freedom of religion, speech, press, assembly and petition.

In discussing the First Amendment, consider its place on a college campus. Right off the bat it is important to state the First Amendment is the



SCCC President Dr. Jon Connolly constitutional right of Americans.

President of Sussex County Community College, Doctor Jon Connolly, was able to sit

down recently to discuss the issue and explain his views regarding our campus specifically.

The First Amendment was created to protect freedom, but there have been debates on its meaning since the founding of the Republic.

In a recent turn of events, courts have started designating "free speech zones" on college campuses nationwide.

Free speech zones are designated areas, mostly on college campus, but also in other public places, that are set aside with the purpose of protesting. Some question the need to designate specific areas to express opin-

ions? This is where much debate comes in; Should these restrictions exist?

In a perfect world there would be intelligent debate about any number of topics, but this approach often runs into problems.

To work towards developing an environment, that is safe and accepting towards free speech there are a few things understand.

As in any part of life be reasonable and use common sense.

Carrying a soap box into a closed meeting, will only

See **President**, Page 5

# Student Demographics: A Snapshot in Stats

By Amanda Fantasia

Sussex County Community College has completed a statistical report for the Spring 2017 semester. This semi-annual report is used in tracking the performance of the college, as well as the student body.

“The college uses this information for planning reasons, prioritizing resources, and for continuous quality improvement.” said Cory Homer, Director of Institutional Research, Planning, Assessment, and Distance Learning.

## 2017 Enrollment Status:

Full time - 1,209 (50.71%)

Part time - 1,175 (49.29%)

## 2016 Attendance Status

Full time - 1,276 (49.69%)

Part time - 1,292 (50.31%)

With the full time-part time ratio about 50/50, Homer said “This type of ratio is pretty normal for us, although we would like to see more students pursuing their educational goals full-time vs. part-time.

“But because of the increased pressures on these students for work, etc., it’s a good ratio to have at this particular moment.”

The report also addresses the degree vs. non-degree seeking ratio.

## 2017 Matriculation Status by Enrollment:

### Degree-seeking:

Full time - 1,183 (49.62%)

Part time - 903 (37.88%)

### Non-degree seeking:

Full time - 26 (1.09%)

Part time - 272 (11.41%)

“We would like to improve the numbers for degree-seeking versus non-degree seeking in regards to having more students degree-seeking.” he said.

“When a student is degree-seeking, he/she is eligible for Title IV financial aid, and can get on an academic path sooner to complete in a more timely manner.”

Following here is a breakdown of other statistics in the report:

## 2017 Class Level:

Freshman - 1,177 (49.37%)

Sophomore - 909 (38.13%)

Unclassified - 298 (12.50%)

## Enrollment by Age Grouping:

Less than 18 years old - 92 (3.86%)

18-22 years old - 1,478 (62.0%)

23-29 years old - 484 (20.30%)

30-39 years old - 165 (6.92%)

40-49 years old - 88 (3.69%)

50+ years old - 75 (3.15%)

Unknown - 2 (0.08%)

## Sex:

Female - 1,221 (51.22%)

Male - 1,105 (46.35%)

Not Reported - 58 (2.43%)

Below are ethnicity rates of SCCC, compared to the same rates of Sussex County as a whole. These categories are those used by U.S. Census.

## SCCC Ethnicity vs. Sussex County

RACE	SCCC Population	Sussex County
White	2,011 (84.35%)	93.9%
2 or more races	181 (7.59%)	1.5%
Hispanic/Latino	89 (3.73%)	7.5%
Asian	39 (1.64%)	2.0%
Black	38 (1.59%)	2.4%
American Indian/Alaskan Native	9 (0.38%)	0.2%
Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander	3 (0.13%)	N/A
Unknown	14 (0.59%)	N/A

# Barbershop Quartet: Old Souls With Fresh Talent Hit Stage

By Vincenzo Sebastiano

Sussex County Community College has a new men’s barbershop choir and it are open to new male singing voices.

Directing the choir is Nathan Stillings, with Joe Borowic as assistant director.

Nathan is a student ambassador and he had the idea to do the barbershop choir as a service learning project.

He said “Joe and I have grown up together attending school together since kindergarten. He and I have always been involved in music, whether it was choir,

band, theatre, or even dance. We became good friends at high school when he and I were the only students at the time to be a part of every music opportunity at High Point Regional High School.

“By the end of high school, he and I were a part of at least three different bands (Jazz, Marching, and Concert), five different choirs (Concert, Chambers, Men’s, A Capella, and of course Barbershop), along with the Fall Play and the Spring Musical”.

The Choir sings barbershop style songs and rehearsals are on Mondays from 5–

7:30 p.m. in room A227. The eight-member choir recently gave its first public performance.”

Nathan said, “Our goal is to show students at SCCC it isn’t difficult to make music groups on campus.

“We are sticking with this one at the moment, but are encouraging other students to put themselves out there to make music groups they may be interested in”.

# A Team Environment for Softball



*Sussex County Softball Skylanders run practice drills.*

By Edan Oliver

Upon approaching the dugout of the SCCC Skylanders Girls Softball Team the family environ-

ment is apparent.

This environment has become a culture for the girls that has been developed by their highly

praised Coach, AJ Agnor.

It is a strong point to remain upbeat and maintain a positive mental attitude under the leadership of Coach AJ and he stresses the importance of talking and discussing mistakes made, instead of yelling and become irate.

When Coach AJ was asked what trait he finds most important in a coach he stated "As a coach I feel it is most important to maintain a

level of respect with the girls".

Coach AJ also said he feels most valuable and invested as coach during the team's recruiting process, something all the girls are excited about considering the ten-girl roster.

With recruits from colleges afar including an incoming prospect from Australia, the Skylander Girls have a lot to look forward too as they look at the season ahead in hopes to finish strong.

## Sky's the Limit for Skylanders Baseball

*With Young Team, Coach Eyeing Playoffs*

By Loretta Visconti

With an overall record of 15 wins and 23 losses, as of April, the Skylanders Baseball team has been working hard to make it to the playoffs this year.

Just like any team they would like to progress through the playoffs, but winning a regional title, would be satisfying enough.

"Our sport (baseball) hasn't won a region title yet in the sixteen years, so even if we win the region that'd be something that would be pretty great," Coach Ramadan Mehmedi

said.

With twelve games left in the season, there is still time to make the required score to make the playoffs.

Some of the strengths of the team include their hitting and defensive abilities and Coach Ramadan is confident that if the team continues exercising these strengths, they should be able to make it to the playoffs.

Another strength is the youth of the team, as

there are nineteen freshmen who will be returning next year.

Among the sophomores of the team is third baseman Peter Ferony who is about to reach 100 hits in two years, which will be the first accomplishment of its kind in the 16 years that SCCC has had a baseball team.

Playoffs begin May 6th with a best of three series. If the Skylanders win two out of three of those games, they will advance to the finals for our region.

Next would be a best

of three Maryland region series, and following that would be a series in Oklahoma. The coach said that would be a great experience if the team could be fortunate enough to make it that far.

Following the playoffs, many players continue playing throughout the summer, while coach Ramadan's priorities include coaching in Myrtle Beach and recruiting players for next year.

Coach said he hopes to bring in forty-five students to play next season.



*Students Playing Wii Sports Tennis in the Game Room*

## Game

*From Page 1*

bring in new games, atmosphere, and HD televisions to the room to expand to the different variety of gamers.

## President

*From Page 2*

lead to someone getting annoyed and most likely a misunderstanding. There is a difference between being an aggressive advocate and bullying your advocate. There are plenty of ways to stand up for your cause passionately without being nasty just because you are passionate, keep the peace. Lastly, *'argumentum ad hominem'*.

Loosely translated this means abusive and circumstantial. Dr. Connolly used this saying as a way to explain another important component of how to maintain a safe and open place of

Voegele said "I plan on upgrading the game room to satisfy the demands of all forms of gamers such as PC gamers. One thing we got in the works is the room being painted to red. A color that is psychologically noted to invoke energy in people."

free speech. This idea *'argumentum ad hominem'* talks about separating the person and the argument they are making. Don't resort to attacking the person making the opposing argument, but instead let your argument stand for itself. These are all ways in which we can disagree, and still respect each other's opposing viewpoints.

Students aren't the only ones who have a responsibility towards the First Amendment. College campuses everywhere must also uphold a certain standard. The first responsibility that colleges must embrace, they are incubators for democra-

The group has already done some fundraisers to raise money so said goals and some televisions were donated to the room for more variety of games and gamers. The club has a group fund for special events and have already helped out bring new stuff like lockers, couches, and HDTVs into the room.

Vice President Emily Mercado plans on bringing attention to the Gamer's Chalice by planning a lock-in event for the students of Sussex County Community College. A lock-in is an all-nighter event that involves different activities, food, and fun that take place inside a building over the course of the night with no sleeping.

Emily said "Our plan to reach a larger group is with events like the lock in. These big events help people that would never get into games to get them interested. The

lock in provides a fun safe environment where students can mingle and learn about not only game club but other clubs that would be helping too."

Emily is not only the Vice President of the Gamer's Chalice, but is working for the school to be the one in charge of the game room to make sure it's run in a neat, civil, and organized matter. She controls games to be played, conflicts that may occur, and takes ideas for new events to happen in the room, such as the movie day.

The whole Gamer's Chalice crew is work very hard to raise money with all these special events so the club and game room can improve. The lock in is scheduled for next semester, so keep your eyes out for that on the events papers in the cafeteria.

cy. Colleges are one of the last places where one can to fully express oneself. High schools have rules and regulations, and when entering the corporate world, one will represent a company and its standpoint. Secondly, college is a place where ideas can be challenged.

Students are fortunate that the Sussex County Community College, and its many Faculty and Staff are supportive of opinions, views, and ideas.

In meeting with Dr. Connolly he expressed the importance of embracing the right to free speech, and not shutting down

anyone's right. Not all colleges are this way, as can be seen in free speech zones some colleges have in place.

Following the idea of free speech zones, advocate groups such as the Foundation for Individual Rights in Education have emerged. Such groups to defend individuals rights on colleges and universities, particularly how the "free speech zones" are unconstitutional.

The group FIRE rates college campuses red, yellow or green depending on the rights they believe are being denied. It is Dr. Connolly's goal to someday have SCCC's campus rated green on FIRE's website.

# SCCC Safety Report Shows Few Incidents

By Edan Oliver

When it comes to knowing about an educational institution, nothing is more important than student safety. To help students and parents across the country know about safety issues, the Jeanne Clery Act requires colleges and universities to issue an annual safety report.

On April 5, 1986, Jeanne Clery, 19, was raped and murdered in the Stoughton Hall dormitory at Lehigh University by Joseph M. Henry, also a university student. Henry was convicted of the crime and is serving a life sentence.

This tragic incident sparked the parents of Jeanne to bring awareness about campus safety, leading to such requirements.

As a result, the Clery Act was passed, requiring all colleges and universities that accept federal financial aid, to file an An-

## Speech

From Page 1

Frankie Rios, Newton, said "If you come to a public place, you have to expect feedback whether it supports you or not".

He agreed that freedom of speech is very important and there shouldn't be a limit.

Megan Glasser, Blainstown, said "Students have the right to say what they want to say and what they believe in, they don't always have to agree with what you say but they should respect that you have an opinion".

Brittany Schroeder, Newton, was really into the question and had a lot to say, "There shouldn't be a limit as long as it doesn't infringe on other people. You don't have to agree, but be able to consider both sides of the argument and draw a conclusion. Everyone thinks they're always right all the

nual Safety Report on crime on or near campus. The report is to be filed by October 1 each year, and there are fines for failing to do so. The website of the Clery Center

states: "The Clery Act is a consumer protection law that aims to provide transparency around campus crime policy and statistics."

Sussex County Community College's Annual Safety Report is found on the school's website. It provides records of crimes committed on campus or school property. It reports on incidents during the most recent three years.

The reports states the college has "received top honors from the School Alliance

time, but they don't respect other peoples' opinions". She also was asked what her response or actions would be if she saw a person come into the cafeteria being openly racist towards someone and offending them. She said "I would stand up for the person being attacked, and reason with the person to try and understand their point of view. Try to figure out what caused them psychologically to think that way".

Liam Hasselmann, Patterson, agrees that there should never be a limit and that freedom of speech is super important. Liam said, "Free speech can be sensitive, but never should be limited." Liam had a lot to say about this topic because he has strong opinions himself and believes that his voice mat-



Lehigh University student Jeanne Clery, slain in 1986

Insurance Fund for commitment to student safety" seven consecutive years.

Because SCCC does not have on-campus residences for students, reports of incidents are relatively infrequent compared to schools with dormitories.

There have been three incidents reported on campus in the last three years, a forcible entry in 2014, and a case of domestic violence, along with a case of unacceptable destruction of property influenced by race in 2015.

The report notes that the Campus Security Officers are not armed and do not have police powers, but assist as needed, and SCCC has a cooperative working relation-

ters. "If we can never hold onto anything else, we should be able to hold onto free speech"

Garrett Stein, Sparta, said that "Free speech is the most important thing we have, but shouldn't be limited apart from the discrimination of others as far as having a hand in our education."

Nicole Shepard, Ogdensburg, said "A good amount of free speech is important, but it should be limited to point. If people start getting physically hurt or abused then it needs to be stopped.

"Other peoples' opinions shouldn't be considered hate speech if it is not actually hate speech". She was also asked the question Brittany Schroeder was asked before

ship with the Newton Police Department.

County College of Morris has a similar reporting profile to SCCC. But other institutions, such as Ramapo, with dormitory living, are more likely to report incidents of on-campus sexual assault, drug and alcohol abuse, and weapon charges, a trend reflected in the Safety Reports.

Rutgers University, where some 16,000 of the school's 50,000 students live on campus, issues an extensive Annual Safety Report called "Safety Matters."

The SCCC report encourages students, faculty and staff to report crimes to campus security. Crimes in progress should be reported to law enforcement immediately by calling 9-1-1. Campus security will respond to all complaints.

which was, what her response or actions would be if she saw a person come into the cafeteria being openly racist towards someone and offending them. She said, "I'd see if they were going to stand up for themselves or not, but I would verbally back them up."

Many of the students agreed of the thought that free speech is very important on a college campus. 4 out of 6 thought there should be no limit on the free speech and 2 thought there shouldn't be a limit apart from the discrimination of others.

Students Brittany Schroeder and Nicole Shepard both agreed that they would back up a person being attacked or offended by a person being openly racist.

# Cafeteria,

*From Page 1*

in general, and although they do offer healthier options such as salads, they often cost way more”, says Mercado. “We, as college students, shouldn’t have to be forced to choose affordable choices over our own health.”

Nick Sudano from Milford, Pennsylvania has a different view on the matter, his regarding the broken television located on the right side of the cafeteria. “I believe that the college should fix that broken television in the cafeteria, so that people would be able to watch their favorite shows and be entertained while enjoying their food.”

Courtney Doerner, of Andover, said that the cafeteria should stay open later than 3pm. “I have a night class, and I and a lot of other people who also have night classes would love to be able to eat something fresh and warm rather than from a vending machine during that time.” she said on the matter.

Chris Ng, from Hopatcong, said the cafeteria should have a broader variety of food, as well as a little more comfort. “Food such as sushi and possibly even a tiki bar would be really nice. I also think that there should be couches in the cafeteria as well, so that way people who want to be a little more comfortable while eating, studying, etc would have the option to do so.”

---

## The survey lets students suggest changes for the cafeteria, asking such questions as:

*How often do you visit the cafeteria? What do you look for in terms of selection? What can be done to make the experience better?*

---

George Weber from Hamburg, had quite a lot to say on the matter.

“They need to stay open later than 3 p.m. My one class on Tuesday gets out at 3:05 and I have to wait until 6 for my next class, so their closing at three kills me and they are losing a good chunk of profitability by doing that because I’m definitely not the only one.”

George then went on to say that they



*Photo by Vin Sebastiano*

*Students head to cafeteria to socialize, relax, recharge, and eat.*

need to make basic foods available every day, such as the rancho.

“They need to bring back the rancho; it’s my favorite thing and I know they could just make it every day since they always have the material to make it with. But because it’s not the ‘special’ for the day they don’t even make it for me since they are using the chicken for other things that just sit on display and end up being thrown out at the end of the day.”

Lastly, he touched on the lack of carrying change. “If you are going to redirect everyone who wants a drink to the vending machines when the soda machines don’t work, you can’t tell anyone who needs to break a \$5 bill to get a drink to break it at the bookstore.” Weber said. “It’s infuriating and it makes me miss the old cafeteria.”

The college’s food vendor is run by Canteen.

Terri Carpenter, one of SCCC’s cafeteria workers, when asked her about the student’s requests, said, “We do have a salad bar for the more health-conscious.

And although it’s more expensive to pick salad over French Fries, it’s more of a pay now, pay later for health insurance. We also, unfortunately, cannot add sushi

to the menu.”

Asked if the cafeteria has taken requests from students before, Carpenter said that they do so once a year.

She said the annual survey recently went out, adding it is often used to determine what improvements can be made.

This survey asks things such as how often do you visit the cafeteria, what do you look for in terms of selection, and what can they do to make the experience better.

Judging by these students’ point of views, and after talking to the staff, it is seems the school’s cafeteria could make changes.

Students say they would appreciate it if the cafeteria would stay open later for those with night classes, as well as offer a wider variety of lunches and to lower the prices of certain foods.

Others would like to just add a few extra things, such as a fixed television or even couches in the cafe.

It is interesting to see the differing opinions on this matter, for these are all very good ideas, however, only time will tell if any of these recommendations become reality.

# Students Spring to Give Clothing

By Samara Filep

Is your spring cleaning creating more of a mess than it is helping? If you can relate to this problem, you might want to check out the clothing drive that SCCC's Criminal Justice Club and UMADD (University Mothers Against Drunk Driving) Club host every semester. The clubs, partner with A&E Clothing Corporation for fundraising and community service, including a campus and community-wide clothing drive.

Beginning in 2006, when Professor Wendy Cooney started teaching Criminal Justice Courses at Sussex, she brought up the idea to use A&E Clothing as partners in a campus clothing drive. The idea came to her through her sons, then in grammar school, which had also partnered with A & E clothing.

The Clubs are now accepting donations in Room E 305. Used clothing, shoes, handbags, belts, ties, hats, bedding, pillows, sheets,

bedspreads, towels, curtains, tablecloths, & stuffed animals are all acceptable! To donate, drop items off in a tied plastic bag.

All donations are stored at the college until the end of the semester, when A&E picks them up.

In return for all the donations supplied by the college and community, A&E weighs all of the bags and the



Wendy Cooney and students with donated clothing

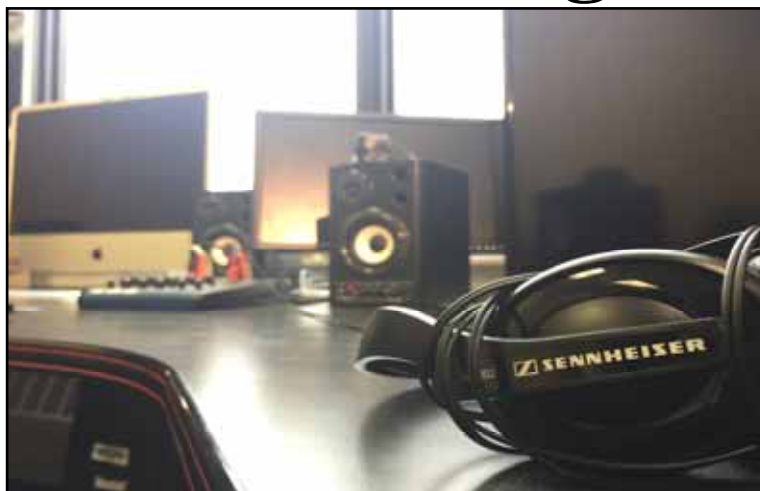
clubs receive 20 cents per pound back in fundraising money.

# Radio Sounds Coming to Campus

By Loretta Visconti

SCCC's FM radio station, 97.5 WRSK, is estimated to be operable by students and fully functional by the Fall 2017 semester.

97.5 WRSK went on the air officially in February, but is currently automated. The control room was previously in the E Building across from the gym, and still hadn't been functional. It then had to be moved to the D Building to allow for the building of the new fitness center, which caused a delay in the completion of the control room. The soft-



Campus Radio Station displays equipment

ware needed to load recorded programs also has not arrived yet.

Tony Selimo, the school's communications advisor, estimates the station will most

likely be fully functional by next semester. Students who are interested in participating in the operation of the station do not need to be communications majors, but

it would be helpful to take a broadcasting class such as Performance for Radio and Television or Intro to Radio Broadcasting.

Students will eventually be able to record commercials and short shows, and Tony would also like students to learn how to gather, create, and broadcast news stories. Taking a journalism class would also be helpful.

For more information about how to get involved with the operation of 97.5 WRSK, contact Tony Selimo.