

SCCC schedules Sports for Spring

By Logan Debowski
College Hill Writer

It is no surprise that we are slowly adapting to the “new normal”. SCCC is one of many colleges that have had to make drastic changes. Besides academics there’s one other major field that needed changes: Sports.

Here in Sussex County we had many things to look forward to, such as the inaugural season for the first New Jersey Community College Football team as well as the new addition of a wrestling team.

Usually by now sports such as soccer and football would have been played, but due to COVID-19, changes had to be made. As it stands now all sports have been moved to be played during the spring semester.



John Kuntz

“All of them (the teams) are doing something...as far as practice is concerned,” said Director of Athletics and Athletics Dean of Student Affairs John Kuntz.

All sports practiced throughout the fall semester to prepare for the Spring when games would be played. Kuntz said “a lot depends on what other two-year colleges will participate and how many, in order for us to have a feasible game schedule.”

He said Men’s and Women’s basketball hope to participate in games starting in mid-February, followed by lacrosse, wrestling, baseball and softball in early March. Then men’s and women’s soccer and football would be late March/early April.

When asked about this change of pace, Frank Vernacchio, head soccer coach, also

had information.

“I think for students and coaches it has come down to getting used to a new routine. We stress the importance of what we are doing to make sure everyone is safe and obviously even more so with how we are going about it,” he said.

“From my point of view I think the players and staff have handled this well and have kept our program on track to compete at the highest level for this upcoming spring. There has been a great sense of unity within both teams. I see our players committed to both the care and safety of the team and to their studies.”



Frank Vernacchio

Each sport will have a “shortened schedule,” he said. Soccer, with usually about 15 games, will play 10 or 12. Basketball will play about 20 games instead of 26.

For the new football team there will be about six or seven games. “If things improve regarding the virus, we may be able to expand the schedule a bit,” said Kuntz.

Except for football, SCCC teams will compete only in New Jersey. This is because SCCC is the only New Jersey Community College to have a football team. With that, SCCC is looking to form a North East Conference of community college football which would require interstate travel. Games are mostly played in Pennsylvania, New York, and even Ohio at Hocking College.

Just as the football team was seeming to pick up good amount of recruits and buzz, COVID hit the college hard.

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SCCC student-athlete Nicholas Langhorne stands in practice uniform of the college’s football team in preparation for the Spring semester. Photo by Kathleen Peterson



INSIDE

Scott Ragubir, above left, and the food truck gave a new look to SCCC in this time of COVID.

Changes came in everything from academics to Halloween to performing arts, to the Veterans Dinner, sports, snow days and more.

See Inside.

By Meghan Carlson
College Hill Writer

This year has been challenging for everyone and yet Sussex Community College has found ways to make sure that both the students, staff, and faculty are safe in these trying times. One way is using online forums to have class, just as SCCC President Jon Connolly did when interviewed.

Connolly said the college has taken many steps to keep people safe and it has fared comparatively well enrollment-wise. He said he’s proud of what SCCC people have done, but stressed there’s more to do.

When SCCC moved to fully online classes in the spring, things were different. We as a whole did not have all of the information or knew what was going to happen in the future. While students were focusing on classes and work, there were many people behind the scenes coming up with ways to have every one of us return safely. Fast forward to the fall semester and things have changed as to be expected.

The semester has been greatly affected by COVID-19 as one could imagine, but

we know more than we did months ago. One of the things that have changed is the hybrid classes, where some of the classes were both in-person and remote or online learning. There have been some snags with remote learning.

“Everyone will check in, answer questions, they’ll do the readings. Then they’ll hear back from the professor at a different time. Then the professors will hear back from their students at a different time. Basically, everyone is on their own schedule.” said Connolly. “Not everyone likes doing that, but in the past students could sign up for it if they wanted it.”

Through this year, everyone has met the challenges of the pandemic within their best abilities, he said.

“All of this has been a problem-solving solution, finding an approach to a difficult problem for the college and for the rest of the country.” Connolly said. “I’m incredibly proud of students and faculty who have made this adjustment to either or both.”

Like all colleges, SCCC adopted many different guidelines and cleaning standards

to make sure everyone is safe on campus.

He said some colleges are faring better than others and SCCC is faring extremely well in this situation.

“We are the best in the state with respect to enrollment. Other colleges have experienced dramatic drops in enrollment. We have experienced a subtle drop in enrollment,” he said.

COVID-19 has not been a deterrent though to enrollment and even employment on campus. There have been cases of other campuses in the state of New Jersey who have either been furloughing their employees or laying them off due to drops in enrollment, he said. SCCC has not done any



President Connolly

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College works for safe campus

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of that yet and Connolly said, “we are very proud of that.”

“As we move forward into the next semester, the question arises whether remote learning is better for students. Many people dislike remote learning and there is no simple answer to whether students are either learning more or less in this kind of environment, he said.

“Introverts are at a considerable advantage compared to what they were doing before,” said Connolly.

Connolly said in a classroom setting, many introverts are less comfortable while the energy of extroverts dominates the room. When it comes to remote learning, roles are reversed.

Introverts take hold of the energy while extroverts are less comfortable, he said. There are still classes that haven’t changed that original dynamic, “so the straightforward answer is yes, it has affected some students learning.”

The main question from here is what is the next semesters, winter 2020 and spring 2021, going to look like?

There is no doubt the country

will still be dealing with COVID-19 and the future is uncertain with rising spikes as the holidays near. Even with that, the campus has plans now in effect for coming semesters.

“There will be no changes in the coming winter semester, unless an executive order is issued that prevents us from engaging like we did this fall.” he said. “We will engage this spring in the exact same way as we did in the fall.”

There are unknown variables at this time with the rising cases and Connolly doesn’t know where we will be come January, but the campus plans to go forward in plans to continue giving education safely.

The procedures, such as wearing masks in class and on campus, to protect students and faculty have been effective in keeping people safe.

The masks do work, for “there was an individual who showed up to class and participated in that class and everybody was wearing their masks, and this individual had COVID.”

“Later we learned they tested positive and we buckled down that class. It stopped meeting and those individuals went into

quarantine and nobody else tested positive,” he said.

With guidelines people can be safe, not always, but most of the time it works, he said.

Connolly said he is happy on how things have been handled.

“I am easy to please and difficult to impress.” he said.

“I am pleased at what we’ve done, but I am not impressed. There are things we can do better.”

His objective is to make sure

everyone is 100 percent safe, as if in outdoor classes.

“I’m not going to give up. I’m going to get there. We will get there, the college will get there,” he said.

“And I am pleased that all of the staff are on board and students get it and everybody forges ahead.”

Throughout this ordeal of dealing with the virus and changing tactics in how we learn here on campus, we will come out stronger.



Spring sports

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As it stands now the team has about 80 players on the roster.

“Overall, from a recruiting standpoint it may have been difficult, but we haven’t been badly affected,” said Kuntz.

Football players have started conditioning and will be prepping for their Spring debut along with the rest of the college sports teams.

Football Head Coach Todd Poltersdorf said the team’s uniforms will be:

- Home will be a blue jersey with white numbering and all white pants with navy socks and
- away will be an all white jersey and blue numbering with all white pants and white socks.
- The helmet will be all white with a blue stripe down the middle.

No doubt there is great excitement that sports are back in our community and for our students to enjoy in a different type of fashion. With each team getting extended time to practice and build chemistry students can’t wait to see how well SCCC does in the spring seasons.



A jersey with shoulder pads.

SCCC hosts online Halloween photo contest

By **Meghan Carlson**
College Hill Writer

Though COVID 19 has changed the way we do things, it didn’t stop us from having Halloween fun.

In the week of Halloween, SCCC hosted an online costume contest.

The people who work with the program Degree Up coordinated the entire thing because it is such a “big holiday in the U.S. and we wanted to bring some fun to the SCCC campus,” said Chloe Bellerby, a Degree Up coordinator.

Photos of the costume were sent to Degree Up and students voted on their favorites. Photos were due by Oct. 29 and the winner was announced on Oct. 30.

I entered the contest with my Sally Slater costume. She is a character from the Haunted Mansion ride, in the Stretching or Portrait room, at the Disney parks.

She stands atop a fraying rope that has an alligator waiting for her at the bottom, its mouth open ready for dinner. I chose this character because she is absolutely my favorite, from her look to her story.

As with all the ghosts seen in the Haunted Mansion, all have stories. Sally is very interesting for she has several stories attached to her, two being canon and the others created by cast members at Disney.

She’s known by two names, one being Sally Slater and the other Daisy del a Cruz. Yet the main part of her story always stays constant, that she was a part of a traveling circus or carnival that took up a permanent residence next to the mansion.

She was their tightrope walker and also



Mireha O’Halloran as a Ghost

a witch who would charm young single men and steal their money. When she was done with them, she would transform them into alligators. It is said that the alligator that does her in is a past lover getting revenge.

Her history is what attracted me to the character and I went to work looking up as many references to her portrait that I could.

There wasn’t much to go off of, just the portrait and a few panels from the comic.

The collecting the needed references to create a costume that is detail oriented can take up to a few weeks to a month.

My philosophy when it comes to costumes is that no matter how you got the costume, whether it was made or bought, as

long as you have fun is what matters.

I have been making my own costumes for 10 years, but it is not only for Halloween. I do cosplay, which is short for costume play.

I’ve done a majority of anime characters and have won awards for the craftsmanship of them.

At least 99% of my cosplays are handmade except for a few details. Fabric is always the toughest to pick out and it all depends on the style of the cosplay that you are trying to do.

The construction of it was easy with it being three pieces; the shawl, the bodice and the skirt along with the shoes and parasol.

The skirt took the longest. Taking a longer version of a circle skirt, each individual petal was painted on with fabric paint and a stencil I made especially for this.

After everything was sewn up and fitted properly, my shoes and parasol were the last pieces to make it complete.

Painting over a pair of old shoes with a light pink fabric paint and sewing on ribbons to tie them to my feet was the best way to achieve a different style of shoe. The same with the parasol, I painted it the same shade of pink and added lace to the edges along with brown paint for the handle and tip.



The writer as Sally Slater.



Lily Pelaez as Dr. Dino

The gloves belong to my grandmother who supports my making of costumes.

Halloween costume contests are one of the best ways for those who don’t cosplay and want to experience a rush of excitement and anticipation to see if you won or not.

Within the whole contest there were three contestants; me, Lillian Pelaez with Dr. Dinosaur from *Atomic Robo*, and Mireha O’Halloran with her ghost bride.

Though I did not win, it was a very close second. The winner was Mireha O’Halloran. It was nice to have such a friendly competition here on campus, especially during these strange days.



It's takeout for most people, common the time of COVID, with volunteers serving cars that lined up on the road alongside the Green.

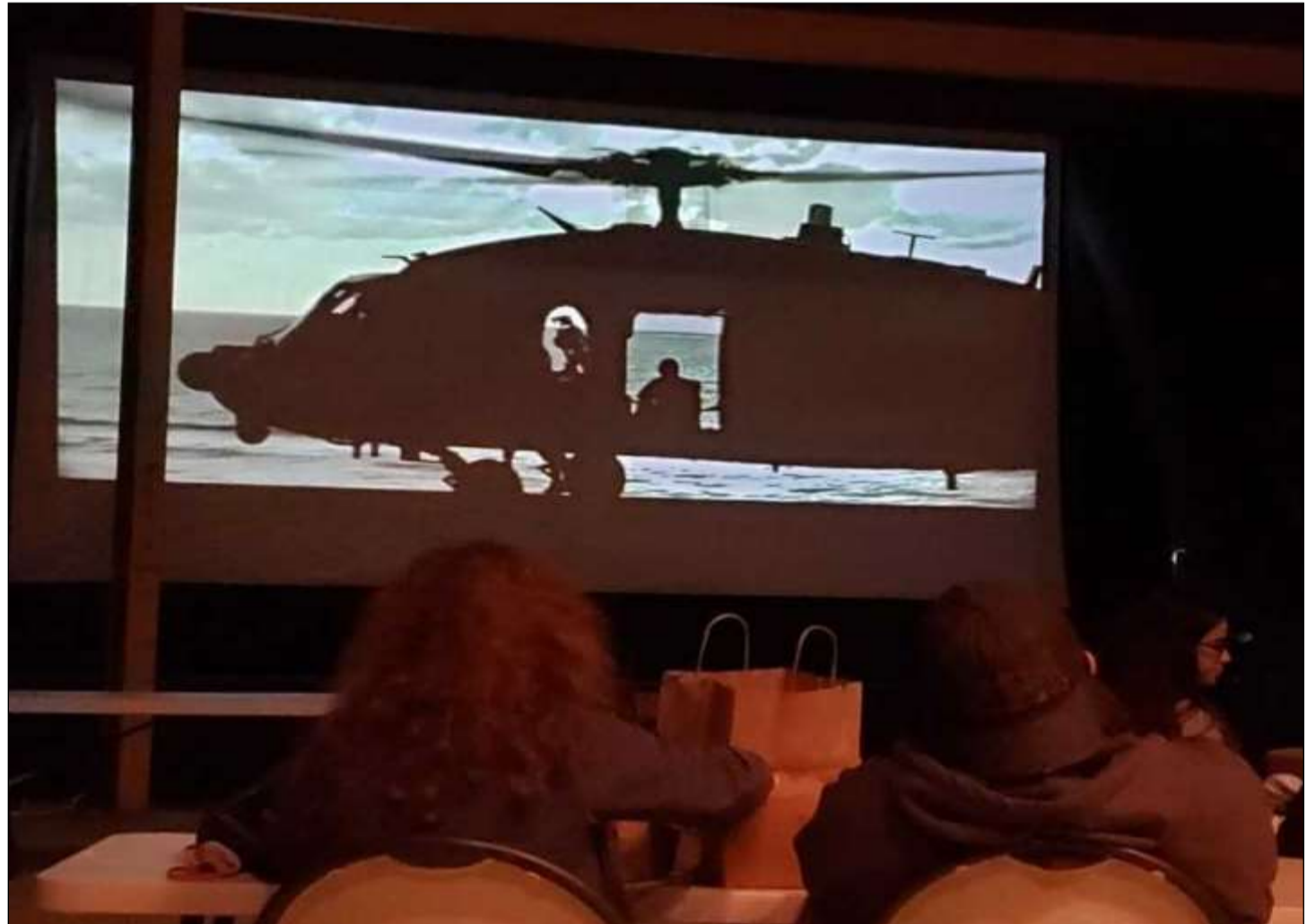
College Hill photos



The chef, who identified himself as Mike, plunges the fish in for frying.



Movie also showed on reverse side of screen.



Although it was a chilly night, some stayed in the gazebo to see the 2001 movie about the ill-fated U.S. raid on Mogadishu in 1993. The film could be seen on both sides of the screen, although in reverse on the back side. One person said that didn't make any difference because there weren't any subtitles.

SCCC Fish & Chips Vets Dinner moves outside

- ◆ Ordinarily at American Legion Post #86 in Newton, COVID forced the annual Veterans Dinner to be served on Connor Green, where it was coupled with a double-sided showing of "Black Hawk Down."
- ◆ With the help of SCCC Student Ambassadors and volunteers, dinner was served to about 70 people, said Veterans Service Coordinator Jay Christy.
- ◆ The event was sponsored by the SCCC Foundation to raise money used to aid veterans who are active students at the college. Aid can be used for many purposes, such as a car payment, a needed home repair, an ill dependent, daycare, mortgage payments, etc. There is no aid for legal issues or tuition.
- ◆ Fish & Chips were provided by Tastefully British, a catering company in Bloomingdale. The 38-year-old company is well known for frying fish and chips at fundraisers in North Jersey and New York.
- ◆ The college website states the Foundation supports the college through fund-raising and friend-raising efforts. Funds are generated through annual giving campaigns, special events, and direct contributions. The funds support student scholarships, infrastructure, and expansion.



In left photo, Student Ambassadors Hailey Koerner, left, and Angel Bernales bag the dinners. And, in right photo, Christine Trusio of SCCC Foundation office helps out.

'Immigrants, We get the job done,' say international students at SCCC

By **Alba Santos**
College Hill Writer

Immigrants come and go to the United States every year. Many of them are college students who come to this country to obtain a higher educational level, in search of better opportunities, and in the fervent hope of a better future.

However, being a foreign student is never easy, there are always challenges and frequent problems that every student typically has to face (some of them even on a daily basis). From financial problems to making new friends, or to the never-ending battle of speaking English for non-English-speaking students.

The list goes on and on and seems endless, but fortunately, most of these problems have workable solutions; although they constantly involve making sacrifices or doing a greater effort on the part of the student, they can be always overcome.

SCCC has between 30 and 40 international students on campus who are currently enrolled this semester. Some of them have been here for years, others just for a few months, but all of them clearly have something to say and experiences they would like to share.

They come from all over the world, and all of them with different backgrounds and diverse cultures, but what they all have in common is their eagerness to achieve their dreams.

Being dreamers is what brings them together. The United States provides opportunities for every kind of student, with any type of goals and hobbies. Especially for those who enjoy sports.

One of the impressive things that foreign students always take advantage of are the amazing sports scholarships this country has to offer. Having a good education thanks to soccer, basketball, or any other sport, is something that not all universities in the world are capable of giving. SCCC

always considers sports as something important and therefore offers scholarships to athletes from all over the world.

Alessandro Filetti is a 21-year-old student who comes all the way from Italy to major in website development and game programming, but also to play soccer on the SCCC team. One of the qualities of this country is its way of bringing together minds, from all over the world to grow and produce together.

One of those minds is Alessandro. "I have always loved the U.S.A., and I always wanted to come here, I like the culture," he said. Alessandro saw fascinating opportunities in this country that unfortunately he could never see on his own.

He said playing soccer and studying something he is passionate about seems like a dream come true. As much for his career, website development, or his hobby, soccer; this country offers an incredible opportunity to come and develop professionally needed talents.

Thanks to a sports scholarship, Alessandro was able to come to study in this country and also to show everything he has to give. "I love to see kids going to school and going to do sports right after," Alessandro said. "And I love to see how they can get a scholarship from it."

Unfortunately, not all countries support sports as does the United States. That is why having the option to prioritize your sport of choice is something that many young people around the world are looking for.

We also have the delightful experience of another student who comes from Portugal. Within only one month of being here, she managed to get involved in many activities at SCCC. She also got a college sports scholarship and is currently playing on the soccer team.

Sofia Anica is an 18-year-old student studying psychology in her first year of college. "When I was landing here and I started seeing the buildings; I assumed New York. I was like, oh, I can't believe that I'm actually doing this!" she said.

"This is a dream come true." Starting a new chapter is never easy. You always have to abandon some things behind and move on into the unpredictable future and what there awaiting, especially when you have been waiting for a unique opportunity like this one to appear into your life.

"I've been wanting to come to the United States for like three years. At first, it was only a thought, and then I got to the point where I saw that it really could be true." Said Sofia. "And that was the beginning of this amazing journey so far."

Oliver Lányi is a foreign student from Slovakia and has lived in the U.S. for more than a year.

He is 21 years old and is a journalism student at SCCC. From the time he has been in this country he has undoubtedly gained many unique experiences and a lot of self-discovery.



International students at the college include, from top to bottom: Asha McClurg, Susa Kreitz, Paula Herold, Carina Gasparini, Sofia Anica
Alba Santos photo

"It's a great experience to study abroad, as you will test your limits and discover stuff about yourself," said Oliver.

From the time Oliver has been here, he has had to go through many difficulties and uncertainties, since in his country the educational system is completely different. But from that, he learned many remarkable things and has obtained unique experiences.

Danny Celi is a 19-year-old student from Ecuador studying at SCCC. He has been living in the U.S. for about a year.

Danny changed his major from Biology to Business Administration this semester because it was more suitable for him. "I realized I wanted to study in the U.S. when I was 16 years old."

He was also planning to join the soccer team soon. His experience at SCCC has been a blessing for him, but, like many other students, he feels eager to go back to college and have classes on campus.

So far, these students have had a pleasant time being foreign students at SCCC, and for the time they have been here they have advice for other students who would like to come to this country to study and grow as a person.

They, despite the adversities of life, have their heads held high and with simple words, they want to encourage thousands of other young people to do the same: To not feel intimidated by others.

Not to be afraid. Alessandro has good advice on how to socialize and how to enter the world. "Just talk to as many people as you can, try to find contacts, and see the most you can," Alessandro said, "and don't be afraid to speak the language."

Sofia Anica focuses a lot on the first steps of this process and how to manage classes.

"Come prepared and do things in advance. Don't procrastinate everything," she said, "and enjoy the experience because it's amazing."

Oliver invites all those young people not to be afraid, especially with the language. "My advice is not to give up after early struggles with language and misunderstanding," he said.

"It's all about the habit and everyone is able to do it. Strong will and discipline is the key."

Danny wants everyone to take advantage of the experience. "This is an opportunity that not many people have in their life," he said.

"Take advantage of it and do your best," he said.

Not everything is easy when you are an international student. Sometimes the difficulties are at the beginning, in the middle of the road, or at the end. Anytime that happens, we should not give up.

We must teach the world what we are capable of, and even though we come from far away, we can do a lot in this country.

Perhaps, sometimes we seem weak or unstable, but in this incredible journey, we will learn to stand up with each fall and that those punches that life can give us, we will carry them with pride.

I am an international student myself. I was born and raised in Honduras, and even though I love my country; because in a good part it made me who I am now, my dreams are far away from it.

Sometimes it breaks my heart to see what I left behind, but I have the confidence that in a future in this country I will be able to be where I have always dreamed of.

It is not always easy walk in a country full of people different from you, but what is different is what makes us unique.

Thanks to this country and especially to SCCC for giving an opportunity to thousands of dreamers from anywhere in the world. They will not be disappointed.



Oliver Lányi of Slovakia says studying in this country is an opportunity to test one's limits.

Food truck kept hunger off campus

By **Lillian Pelaez**
College Hill Writer

The SCCC Food Truck staff plans on increasing the menu and attending events in an effort to raise their funds.

The truck, run by students Sebastian Gonzalez, Lilly Kornmeyer and Scott Raghubir, was started as a response to the closing of the cafeteria prompted by COVID-19. It is intended to allow students and faculty to buy food on campus while attending classes. It's also an opportunity for students to work as part-time employees on campus, as is done in the bookstore.

Ketan Gandhi, executive vice president and chief financial officer of SCCC, said the truck is college property. He said any profits made by the food truck go towards expenses for the truck and the truck staff's payroll. Food is paid for by what the students make from the truck's sales. If the students are short on money, the college supplies what is needed, he said.

Scott Raghubir said the truck was obtained from a man named Kenny Santos and it had been used for selling empanadas. Kathleen Peterson, head of public information, said the artwork for the truck was done by "Gravity Works," in Newton.

The truck has served breakfast sandwiches, pizza, cookies, fruit snacks, macaroni

cups, bagels and coffee. Scott said food is purchased from local farms, ShopRite, Costco and a few other places. In the future, there are plans to add burgers and fries. The staff of the food truck actively want to increase their menu. However, staff wanted to make sure everything is running smoothly before any changes are made.

Business started slow for truck. "The first week was hard", said Kornmeyer. "Not many people know what we're selling. Faculty doesn't know we have coffee and bagels."

The SCCC food truck was present at the "Fall Festival & Car Show" on Spring Street, in Newton in October.

When asked what will happen to the food truck after COVID-19, Kornmeyer said that hasn't been discussed, but there are possible plans to attend sporting events in the future.

"We have the truck, we aren't getting rid of it easily," she said. "We've put a lot of work into it, we wouldn't be able to get rid of it easily."

Kornmeyer said the truck is open to suggestions as to what should be added to the



Scott Raghubir, left, an organizer of the food truck, with an unidentified person.

Lillian Pelaez photo

menu. Empanadas have been high in demand due to the truck's previous paint job, when it looked like a truck that primarily sold empanadas.

The food truck has usually operated from 7:30 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. when the campus was open.

COVID's consequences not only in classrooms

New rules greet students in class

By **Nick Portilla**
College Hill Writer

The outbreak of COVID-19 forced nearly everything in the world to change to avoid spreading the virus.

Students in colleges such as SCCC must take more online classes in order to pursue their education safely. However, will these actions negatively affect their grades?

Past studies have shown that students who take online courses tend to do worse in class than they would do in one they would take in person.

One study by Di Xu and Shanna Smith Jaggars from Columbia University shows that students taking an online course would lose their diligence for the class.

If that student's diligence continues to fall to the end of the course, their final grade will fall by more than .3 points on a 4-point scale. <https://hbr.org/2013/12/students-get-lower-grades-in-online-courses>

At SCCC, there are 431 courses being taken online, and of those courses, 107 have no live interaction with the teacher.

There 6,496 unique registrations in these courses, with an average course size of 15. Approximately 1,656 students enrolled in at least one of these classes.

With the states showing the highest number of COVID patients since the beginning, the school will keep using these practices for a long time.

With many students taking online classes, a question was would their grades fall. Associate Vice President Cory Homer, shared information on this matter.

"As of the beginning of October, most of the students are doing very well in their courses," said Homer. "As you know, the College had to move a number of courses online that were originally scheduled to be on campus due to the COVID-19 situation.

"I am really impressed with the amount of flexibility and perseverance that our



While most learning was online, those students in classrooms practiced masking, six-foot distancing and smaller class sizes.

students have shown throughout this situation!"

According to Homer, a few students struggled with the transitions between in-person classes and online classes.

The development of the synchronous learning lab in the D-Building gallery and the open computer labs have helped.

By the middle of the semester, Homer said, most, if not all, students were fairly comfortable with keeping track of their courses.

The students often used Canvas in order to take classes online and interact with their teachers and classmates. Now the teachers also use programs like Blue Button or only using e-mail to interact with their students online.

While past studies may say that students do poorly in online classes, SCCC

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SGA, clubs find new ways to hold events

By **Cory Conant**
College Hill Writer

SCCC has battled the COVID-19 virus just like any other school,

But the school continued to have events for clubs and the Student Governance Association (SGA) has worked hard to continue to do so.

SGA has compiled a list of virtual tours that students can take on their own time.

We are hoping that toward March we will be able to once again bring back some of the in-person events and activities like our Intramurals and our Spring BBQ, but that will be dependent on the direction the COVID-19 takes in the next few months.

The SGA officers and the ambassadors worked hard to develop a full virtual programming calendar, complete with prizes for logging in and participating.

Amy Rude, Campus Life Assistant Director of Student Engagement said, "For the most part, this can change daily, and they are keeping their eye on the situation we are in."

They are also adding more activities and events where they can be within safety guidelines.

The Campus Life Student Engagement, and SGA have hosted a combination of in-person and virtual events. "Love Rush" happens in a club; a term to describe that moment when a person has acquired such affection for another in the shortest time thought possible.

SGA events are going to be hosted outdoors, depending on the weather. There will be certain guidelines students will be following to participate in the lectures. Presentations were live-streamed to social media and YouTube for students who want to have virtual participation each week during the semester. SGA is limited, with no one dropping in for service.

The SGA are going to be using ZOOM to host larger meetings and having weekly office hours on ZOOM at the end of each month.

COVID-19 has affected all activities

that were hosted since there was limited space available on campus for hosting meetings.

Spaces on Canvas were to be created for each club. Some of them already had virtual spaces, but they are filling the gaps. Students have to reserve space and capacity will be 25 percent.

Other campus events will be handled on a case-by-case basis, depending on state guidance.

SGA officers will direct and maintain the office at one person per time frame. SGA people were not allowed to congregate in the campus Life Office during the fall semester. People could come to the office, by appointment only, during scheduled times to pick up material needed for events.

Rude said, "clubs host their own meetings which are run by club officers with some hosted remotely. But for club events on campus, they are limited with space and stay within guidelines for COVID-19 if a club decides that it would like to host an event."

The Performing Arts Guild hosted outdoor Open Mics by the Skylander Cafe on the Go Food Truck." She also said, "We are able to accommodate an outdoor event where social distancing protocols can be observed."

Tables had the six-foot spacing with signs indicating where to go to maintain social distance. Students who come toward the tables had to be asked to stand six feet away from each of the tables and each other. Hand sanitation is available.

Some events, like the blood drive, the Thanksgiving gathering, originally scheduled for Nov. 26th, 2020, and the annual Welcome Picnic, were canceled.

All events will have the same guidelines as Club Rush, including sanitization, social distancing, limited capacity and mandatory masks for any indoor events.

SGA is planning more virtual events through Zoom including specific ambassador and SGA officer Zoom hours. During

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Campus Life kept events coming for student participation

By **Logan Debowski**
College Hill Writer

Campus Life has offered many events to bring students together with tournaments for flag football, dodgeball, and basketball.

COVID has definitely had an impact on the college, but that didn't stop Campus Life from trying to offer students an opportunity to come together and engage with one another while staying as safe as possible.

Campus Life Director Amy Rude offered insight on the Campus Life program. While keeping the CDC and State guidelines, this fall semester Campus Life scheduled volleyball, Cornhole, kickball, and KanJam events. Campus Life organizes events and activities that help students with the living and learning that takes place outside the classroom.

"Surprisingly," she said, "Cornhole was the most successful of the offerings." For 11 years the campus has hosted the annual "Turkey Bowl" each November.

"It is by far the event that the majority of students look for each year," she said. However due to uncertainty of the state of the college in November, Campus Life scheduled a Flag Football game in October.

"This year we decided to add another flag football game in October, since we were unsure what would be happening in November due to COVID and many students had requested that we host a flag football game. We had a smaller crowd this year, but just as much fun as in 2019," Rude said.

The success from October's "Monster Bowl" game spawned a plan for next Fall Semester regarding Flag Football at Sussex.

She said they decided for Fall 2021 to host three flag



The Monster Bowl, in which these students played, was but one of the events throughout the semester of COVID.

football games as part of the Intramural Program, one in September, Monster Bowl in October, and the Turkey Bowl in November.

Each of these tournaments allow teams of 6-7 players to register and depending on the number of teams registered the games are either single elimination or double elimination.

"Given that we are adding two more tournaments to the schedule, we may decide to have a different structure to the event with the first two dates leading to a Super Bowl style event in November," said Rude.

It is very exciting for students to look forward to and get involved in "fun and light-hearted competition," she said.

Campus Life has done a great job offering fun activities to get out of the house and get involved on Campus

during these difficult times. "The intramural program is about building school spirit, making new friends, and creating memories," said Rude.

All students have a choice to make, they can choose to go to class and go home, which is a valid choice, or they can choose to get involved on campus.

Students can choose to get their degree and move on or they can get their degree and leave an impact on the campus.

The students who participate in the intramural programs, in the Student Government Association, the Ambassador program, and the Student clubs are leaving an impact.

"These students are helping to shape the college culture, students selected the games that were offered and that is definitely something to continue," she said.

Open Mic draws performers and an audience

By **Alba Santos**
College Hill Writer

Open mic is an activity that can be found in many places — cafés, bars, garages and even universities.

It invites everyone to share with an audience those talents that people often have hidden because they do not know how to show them to the world.

At the same time, it encourages people to be more creative and is a great opportunity to appreciate and meet new people and new talents.

Those reasons brought students to the "SCCC Studio 20 Open Mic" hosted by the Theater Advisory Board.

This year has been particularly difficult for everyone, so to take a small break from what is going on around the world, the theater advisors board members wanted SCCC students to show their talents in an Open Mic.

During the event, everyone took the safety measures needed, wearing a mask and observing social distancing.

The event took place between the Café and Media Center, and was open to performances, from spoken word to music and even comedy.

Unfortunately, not many



Students came to both perform and listen at the Studio 20 Open Mic event. *Alba Santos photo*

people were able to make it to the open mic, and even fewer wanted to participate. But those who did, did so fantastically. The crowd numbered about 15 people that afternoon.

The event began with the theater student, Brandi Cunha, and one of the coordinators and part of the theater advisor board and Professor Veronica Coyne, welcoming those present and thanking everyone for coming.

"I want young people and students to express themselves and show their great talent and I like promoting that," she said.

In the end, only three people wanted to stand in front of everyone

and show us their talents.

That's because not everyone there came to participate; some just wanted to enjoy the show.

All those who did participate chose to sing a cappella or to be accompanied by an acoustic guitar. Listeners were delighted with their incredible voices.

While they sang, the audience could feel the passion of the singers and how talented the people at SCCC are,

It wasn't only students who participated, but also some campus security staff.

Participants on stage could take off their masks — if that's how they wished; since there

was no one else on stage while they sang.

And that way too, the audience could hear better, and they could sing more freely.

In the end, it turned out to be a very pleasant afternoon for everyone able to attend.

And it was especially so for participants since it was a great moment to show a part of them to the public.

It was an afternoon when, even for a while, everyone could forget their problems and concerns while listening to the beautiful voices that SCCC has, while in the distance one could see the splendid sunset.

COVID sends students online

(Continued from page 5)

strives to make sure it is more efficient for everyone involved.

"I will also add that if any student is having an issue, please do not hesitate to reach out to any faculty or staff member," said Homer. "We are all here to support you throughout your time with us."

"If students have trouble submitting assignments, they should reach out to their faculty member immediately for assistance.

Students can also visit the Canvas student guides at any time they are having an issue with Canvas. They can be found here: <https://community.canvaslms.com/t5/Student-Guide/tkb-p/student>."

Clubs coping with COVID

(Continued from page 5)

each hour, the Ambassadors and SGA Officers host virtual games, cooking segments, etc.

Campus Life was to host virtual programming including a virtual Escape Room and a virtual Among Us event. SGA will continue the weekly Coffee Talks (topics will be worked out during Winter Break), and is also working on a documentary discussion series, both in conjunction with Academic Affairs and Faculty.

Lanternfly populations rise with seasonal changes

Class studies invasive species beginning to expand in Sussex County

By Lillian Pelaez
College Hill Writer

The Spotted Lanternfly, an invasive species here in New Jersey, has been increasing rapidly in population size. This has caused damage to agricultural products, affecting the income of local farms greatly.

Erin Collins, Supervisor of Agricultural Business and Horticulture science at SCCC, has been looking into this issue in great detail. The issue of the Spotted Lanternfly was brought to her attention back in 2017 by her bosses at a private garden she used to manage.

The Spotted Lanternfly originates from Asia. Collins said that it likely hitchhiked here to Pennsylvania by hiding within shipping containers.

“They’re good hitchhikers”, she said. “We’ve noticed that the spread started in Pennsylvania and moved outward from there. This is why it’s so important to quarantine, (in relation to imported pests), it’s only a matter of time before they spread.” Collins said that the Spotted Lanternfly has only just begun to spread to New Jersey.

According to the U.S. Department of Agriculture, the Spotted Lanternfly has been found in Connecticut, Delaware, Massachusetts, Maryland, North Carolina, New Jersey, New York, Pennsylvania, Virginia and West Virginia.

“This is my profession”, Collins said. “I’ve been a horticulturist for over 20 years. If we let pests like this explode, (in population size), then we’re not doing our job.”

Collins said the Spotted Lanternfly’s primary host plant not only originates from Asia as well, but is also an invasive species here in New Jersey. “The Tree of Heaven, (also known as *Ailanthus altissima*), seems to host the plant because it’s one of their native plants.”

She said removing the host plant would not fix the issue, since the Spotted Lanternfly has also been known to target native oak

trees as well.

According to the Penn State Extension, the Spotted Lanternfly feeds on sap from grapevines, maple trees, black walnut trees, birch trees, willow trees, and more.

There are more than 70 different species of plants that are currently targeted by the flies.

The lanternflies cause significant damage to the trees affected, and have the

Lanternflies cause significant damage to the trees affected, and have the chance to kill the trees in the process.

Methods used for destroying egg sacs would work primarily in December, when they’re present.

Methods meant to target the insect in its nymph stage would primarily work in May.

chance to possibly kill the trees in the process.

Collins said that the bug has a preference for sweet foods, causing them to be found more on fruits, (such as apples and grapes), rather than vegetables.

She recently had an assignment in which researched the insect, its life cycle, host plant, what times of the year it’s active and when to target it using certain methods of management.

Her students went looking for the insect on campus and killed off as many as possible.

Collins said understanding the life cycle of the insect is important for killing it off effectively.

Methods that are used for destroying egg sacs would work primarily in December, when they’re present, while methods that are meant to target the insect in its nymph stage would primarily work in May.

Neem oil can be used to target

egg sacs, while nymphs can be targeted by wrapping a sticky band known as “tanglefoot” around the tree, since the nymphs can’t fly.

Although reducing the host plant could help, there still needs to be some present due to the risk of oak trees becoming the new host plant.

“It’s important to understand your pest and manage it so chemical use can be used.

“It’s best to start with soft chemicals and move to hard if necessary,” Collins said.

“Insecticides could affect insects that weren’t targeted, creating an imbalance.”



Prof. Collins and her class hunt the bug around campus to study it. They research its life cycle, what kind of plants host it, what time of year it’s active, and what methods can be used to deal with it without damaging other species.

College Hill photos

Library offering contact-free Takeout Boxes

By Nick Portilla
College Hill Writer

On the third floor of the science building, just outside of the elevator, two boxes are called the Takeout Boxes. These boxes are meant for a “contact-free” method of pick up and returning library materials.

When a student needs library materials, rather than going into the library and risking infection, they can order them on email and then find them in the boxes. They take them out and then return them to another box when they have finished with them.

To use them, students need to contact the library staff, either by phone, email or using an interlibrary loan request form. Then the staff will email the students instructions on how to use the boxes, which provides a code and box number.

“They haven’t gotten a lot of use,” said Stephanie Cooper, Director of the College Library, “But the students who have, have been delighted.”

The boxes are available whenever the science building is open, even if the library is not. With COVID-19 reducing evening hours, they created the boxes to accommodate student needs.

The library staff plans to use the boxes for a long time. It helps reduce the spread of the virus, and its convenience to students and faculty is excellent.



The Takeout Boxes, located on the third floor of the science building. They are accessed with codes provided by the library’s staff to make sure the library materials inside are given to the ones who requested them.

College Hill photos



During the Dec. 17 storm, the gazebo on Connor Green served as a parking garage for several college vehicles.



The bridge and walkway up the hill from the parking lot looked pretty much the same after both snowfalls, as facilities workers kept it cleared.



After the second storm, there wasn't much checking of temperatures at the guard shack.

Snow, but no more snow days

Near semester's end, two snowstorms visited the college. The first was hardly a bother; it was just a dusting, leaving the campus in a delicate white.

But the second was a bear, closing the campus. Excepting the snow, the empty campus looked much as it had all semester. But this storm revealed a change of the digital era: Future storms will indeed shut down the campus, and then students will just log onto Canvas and get to class.

College Hill photos



By late afternoon, the lights were on.



Security personnel and delivery people were about the only ones on campus after second storm.



The pond looked like a nice place to sit and think after the first snowfall, but only if one brushed off the seats.