



THE COLLEGE HILL NEWS

APRIL 11, 2011 | THE STUDENT NEWSPAPER OF SCCC

A Storm of Laughs for Women at SCCC

admin

April 10, 2011 2:15 am

There is no need for a resume. No need for an interview, a conference, a phone call or email. Hands will not be shaken, and pay stubs will not be stashed: twenty-four hours, seven days a week, inflexible hours. No sick days, no vacation days, no retirement, no lunch breaks. Motherhood is a full-time job requiring more patience than seats available in the backseat. Jersey comedian Dena Blizzard has used her mommy-magic and molded it into her gut-busting show, "One Funny Mother: I'm Not Crazy," for women and mothers alike. Former Miss New Jersey turned television personality and comedian, Blizzard's witty take on wifehood and mom-madness leaves audiences at ease with the conclusion that they are, in fact, not crazy. Blizzard performed in front of a sold-out audience at 7:30 pm on Saturday, April 2 in the Performing Arts Center at Sussex County Community College in affiliation with the Ladies' Retreat happening throughout the day.

"I remember the very first time I did stand up and I just sucked. But, even though I sucked, I loved it. I knew it was something I could be good at," Blizzard notes. Her likeability and comfort on stage secured her desire to pursue her goals of becoming a comedian. Having performed in Philly, New York, Las Vegas, Napa and throughout the Tri-State-Area, Blizzard's shows have reaped success from state to state. Inspired by her three children; Dean, Jaclyn and Brooke, her husband Jimmy, and the chaos that comes from both, Blizzard uses her "Jersey humor" to bring light to the head-spinning scenarios that come with the "Mom" role. "Anything that annoys me inspires me: my husband, my kids, dumb people, people who are mean to me. I always think that some of the funniest things in here are things that are horrible or times when I just completely lost it, but years later, it's hilarious. Life in general is my inspiration," she explains. Though Blizzard's show evokes nudged elbows, slapped knees and teary eyes, the underlying message hits just as hard as the laughs she conjures. "Find the funny. My aunt is the one who really taught me how to find something funny, because if you don't, it'll kill you." She continued, "You have to be honest with yourself. I probably would have been fired from any real job by now, about ten times over." Blizzard's message stresses the important role that laughter plays in any job we choose. "It takes a lot to stand up and tell your story, but I think it's therapeutic in general. I think that everyone leaves here knowing not to take things so seriously," she adds. To take life with a grain of salt is to lead happily. Blizzard's light-hearted message serves as a reminder that life is what we make of it. Whether it makes us

cry with laughter or cry with pain, life goes on.

A job with no pay, no breaks, no vacation or leave; a nightmare to the unemployed; an opportunity for a storyteller. Dena Blizzard's contribution to keeping sane the women who teeter between motherhood and mayhem secures her title as "One Funny Mother."

Video Interview with Dena Blizzard coming soon!

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<http://sussex.edu/collegethillsnews/2011/04/09/a-storm-of-laughs-for-women-at-sccc/>)



The Idols Among Us

Ashley Intveld

April 4, 2011 12:50 am

"I was literally speechless, I did not think I was going to win this thing at all," said Andrew Lister, while backstage at the Performing Arts Center after winning first place in the Performing Arts Club Talent Show on March 31.

With his acoustic rendition of Celtic Thunder's "Lauren and I", Lister was able to move not only the judges, but the audience as well. The crowd reached its loudest moment of applause at the completion of the song, and Lister accepted it humbly and gracefully.

While Lister may have won the night, there were many bright talents that moved across the stage that night, however.

Dressed in their pink costumes adorned with large pink ribbons, Allison McCurry, Katie Sferra, and Melissa Kemeny of Synergy Dance Company appeared to glide across the stage with calculated moves that seemed almost effortless. Dancing to The Fray's "How to Save a Life", the three young girls dedicated their performance to breast cancer awareness.

"We thought it would be a good thing... to show our support from the dance studio to the public," said Kemeny about their choice to dedicate the performance. "People didn't just look at the dancing, but they also felt the emotional aspect of it," added McCurry.

Another act that nearly brought the crowd of approximately eighty people to it's feet was Eugene Steficek who not only sang "Stand by Me" with the passion of a classic soul singer, but also played the harmonica with skills that would remind many of John Popper of the Blues Traveler's. He was also accompanied by Andrew Gallagher on guitar.

"It's the kind of song that really just transcends generations, it's just one of those songs that stands the test of time," said Steficek.

Steficek and Gallagher met while both were attending Vernon Township High School.

"Anywhere and everywhere we can, just keep on playing," said Gallagher when asked if the duo would continue to perform together.

The night ended with all performers returning to the stage to sing impromptu versions of Jason Mraz's "I'm Yours" and Rebecca Black's "Friday".

The event was organized by Sussex County Community College's Performing Arts Club with the help of Stella Trikouros and Bryan Zellmer, both employees of the college, and was open to the local community.

"It's like a family," said Trikouros of the performers.

The judges for the event were Phil Lid, Chip King, and Melanie Arpaio.

Results:

1st: Andrew Lister

2nd: Eugene Steficek and Andrew Gallagher

3rd: The Testostoertones

By Aaron McCarty



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SCCC student Baruchian featured for Scouting achievement

Christopher Frear

March 25, 2011 5:29 pm

Sussex County Community College freshman Julie Ann Baruchian is featured on the NorthJersey.com news site for achieving the Gold Award, Girl Scouting's highest honor, http://www.northjersey.com/community/118632009_Vernon_young_adult_to_receive_Girl_Scout_Gold_Award.html.

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Report: SCCC holds line on tuition increase

Christopher Frear

March 23, 2011 1:47 pm

Sussex County Community College will not increase student tuition more than expected in the coming year, even after losing \$1 million in county funding, according to a report in The New Jersey Herald, <http://www.njherald.com/story/news/23SCCCBUDGET-for-03-23-11web>. Tuition will increase by \$18 per credit hour, but higher increases had been discussed after the county freeholders held firm on the reduction in county funding.

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The Ballad of Christy Farrell

Ashley Intveld

March 21, 2011 1:43 pm

The Ballad of Christy Farrell

Christy arrived from Dublin

In search of a better life

He wanted to be in America

Far from homeland strife.

He saw an ad in the paper

"Work for the WPA!"

He waited on line, his hat in his hand

And he landed a job that day.

Now Christy was a good worker

That could not be denied

But that day he embellished his talents

Let's face it - Christy lied.

He said he could handle a tractor,

Ran one since he was three

But there's not much plowing in Dublin

Sure and there's hardly a tree.

But off to Jones Beach they sent Christy

To rake up the sand for a beach

They gave him the key to a tractor

The ignition was easy to reach.

Christy sat on the tractor like Rommel

Goggles shielding blue eyes.

He was the Sheik of this desert

He felt eternal and wise.

A boardwalk stretched out before him,

The foreman's joy and his pride.

But a turn of the wheel, a slip of the gear

Took Christy on a wild ride.

The rake on the back of the tractor

Did damage - putting his life at stake

It had ripped up the Jones Beach boardwalk

Christy knew he had made a mistake.

The foreman pulled out his pistol

Bullets fanned Christy's head

The Jones Beach boardwalk was ruined

The boss wanted Christy dead.

Christy, leaped from the tractor

And ran for the ferry with speed

Yelling, "Get me back to the city

Away from the beach and sea breeze."

Back to New York went Christy

Back to cement and stale air

Jones Beach became very famous

But Christy never went there.

Mary Parker

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<http://sussex.edu/collegehillnews/2011/03/21/the-ballad-of-christy-farrell/>)



Shopping for a Story

Ashley Intveld

March 21, 2011 4:58 am

The monotone “beep” of the register adding up each item as it slides into another plastic bag; what do we check out while getting checked out at the local grocery store? Tabloid newspapers and magazines may catch our eye, but how do we define news? Is it in the name of the top designer at the latest red carpet event? Or perhaps which celebrity is “winning” us over this week? Entertaining as the world draped in gold may be, the real world has some real news. The real news comes from names we don’t recognize; the voices of our peers. We live in a world based on communication. A wave of destruction wreaking havoc in Japan floods our newsrooms with footage, quotes, images and stories to be told. What cannot be traveled in a day by foot, can travel in seconds by word of mouth. We may not be within an arm’s distance, but communication is what embraces each of us everyday.

Recognizing the important role that communication plays in keeping one another connected, writers, web developers and professors of Sussex County Community College collaborated in an attempt to redefine the meaning of “commune” in community college. To commune; to converse or talk together; to interchange thoughts or feelings. From text messages, to emails, to a simple wave; even a head nod is acknowledgment of togetherness. We share this campus, we share our thoughts from which we learn and here is the opportunity to voice those thoughts. The College Hill News is back and ready to keep students and faculty informed of what’s happening on campus, off campus, on the field, in the classroom, or on our minds.

It’s that continuous “beep” of the cashier’s swipe that leaves us swiping the latest gossip gab into our carts to pass the time. Consider this; the cashier, the customer behind you, the writer who wrote the article you’re reading, the photographer who snapped the shot to go along with that article; each one has their own story. Each person has their own perspective, their own way of portraying their role in this world. To put those perspectives into words is to become a community, even with strangers.

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Animal Over-Population Needs Best Friends

Ashley Intveld

March 21, 2011 4:14 am

By Bryan Cropper



Logo courtesy of Bestfriends.org

Every year, four million cats and dogs are euthanized in animal shelters across the United States. That’s one cat or dog put down every eight seconds.

An incredible statistic like this is hard to believe, but it is the hard truth. Why do all these cats and dogs need to be put down? What is the reason behind this senseless euthanasia? Couldn’t these pets find good homes? The fact is the animal population is simply over-populated.

There are a number of solutions to help combat the state of animal over-population in the United States. “The number one solution to fixing the problem of overpopulation,” said Lindsay Cropper, a graduate of Delaware Valley College who majored in animal bio-technology and conservation, “is spaying /neutering your pets. This prevents more unwanted animals from being born; there are simply not enough homes for the amount of homeless animals in the U.S., which leads to euthanizing, in many cases, perfectly healthy animals.”

Only ten percent of the animals received by shelters are neutered or spayed, and seventy-five percent of owned pets are spayed and neutered. This means that often these pets are brought in pregnant or owned pets can become pregnant. Why aren’t all pets spayed and neutered?

Another option to consider is adopting pets strictly from animal shelters, which can reduce the amount of over-population. About fifteen to twenty percent of pets are adopted from shelters and rescue sites. The rest are purchased from breeders or pet shops. Puppy mills (institutions where puppies are bred for the sole purpose of being sold, often to pet shops) have been around for decades and are a contributing factor to over-population.

The conditions are indeed shocking: when breeding animals’ fertility runs out, they are killed, abandoned or sold cheaply to another mill to try to force “one more litter.” This act in itself contributes to millions of puppies born annually, often many with behavioral and/or health problems.

Best Friends Animal Society, based in Utah, is the largest animal sanctuary in the United States. “Best Friends has come up with an innovative way to keep the problem of pet over-population down,” says Cropper, who interned at Best Friends during the

summer of 2008. "They created a campaign called 'First Home, Forever Home'. Recently there has been an increase in shelter-surrenders from previous owners due to financial problems because of the recession. Best Friends helps by donating food to owners who need help taking care of their pets. This prevents the pet from becoming another statistic."

In addition to "First Home, Forever Home," Best Friends also initiated a campaign called "No More Homeless Pets." Their goal is to one day bring about a time when no pets will be homeless or killed needlessly in shelters.

Information about the Best Friends' many campaigns to help combat the over-population of pets in our country is available at www.bestfriends.org. Those interested in adopting a pet from an animal shelter should visit www.petfinder.com.

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2.7 Million Dollars Later

Ashley Intveld

March 21, 2011 4:06 am

By Aaron McCarty

"Absolutely not," said Danielle Enman, a Sussex County Community College student, concerning whether or not tuition should be raised to offset the school's deficit. "I'd like to know where all this money that has created a deficit has gone to since the school doesn't supply us with anything other than a classroom and a professor," she said.

This type of animosity towards the administration is common among students. They share the "It's not my fault the school is in debt," mentality, and rightfully so. It is not the students who are to blame. However, many students are unaware of the specifics in the battle to save their tuitions.

When it came to being aware of the exact amount of debt, Enman responded simply, "No."

This too, has become a common trend among the students of Sussex County Community College. Students know the school has a large amount of debt, but most seemed unsure of how much.

On October 5, 2010, the *New Jersey Herald* reported that SCCC faced a \$2.7 million deficit.

To many it seemed this was impossible since enrollment at the school has increased dramatically over the past few years. The reason for that increase in student enrollment has been

affordability. It is what SCCC has built their reputation upon. "SCCC has become the college of choice for over 4,000 students from Sussex County, New Jersey and Pike County, Pennsylvania," as is noted on the school's official website.

The truth of the matter is, however, students will end up paying more.

With Sussex County Community College receiving less money through state aid and county contributions, raising tuition has become one of the last viable options for the administration.

"We have made the painful recommendation to increase tuition and fees by an unprecedented 14 percent," said Paul Mazur, the newly appointed President of SCCC, in a recent op-ed, published by the *New Jersey Herald* on February 27, 2011. Mazur also stated reductions would be made in "programs, supplies, services and staff."

The most recent listing of tuition prices posted by SCCC on their official website states that Sussex County residents pay \$107.00 per credit. With a 14 percent increase, that number would increase to \$121.98. The recommendation has yet to be approved.

Nonetheless, the effects of the deficit are already taking their toll. Spring enrollment at the college dropped six percent this year, as reported by the *Star-Ledger*.

With all this on the table, a great divide has emerged.

On one side, some students are upset about a looming increase in tuition and still carry the raw emotions over the firing of Constance Mierendorf, former SCCC President. Replaced as a result of alleged poor financial record keeping, many students believe she was innocent, and she was used as a scapegoat.

On the other side stands the administration and board of trustees who are being forced to make tough decisions and try their best to put the past behind them.

"I don't think about that kind of thing," said Mazur in a *Star-Ledger* interview. "I'm developing my own relationships. It's about me; I'm not worried about the past."

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SCCC welcomes new president

Tara Ayres

March 20, 2011 11:20 pm

"I'm a student-oriented person," said newly elected Sussex County Community College president Dr. Paul Mazur in a March 10 interview.

Dr. Mazur, who was unanimously selected as president on Dec. 16 of last year, has a long history of being involved in the community college system.

"Community colleges have been the best well-kept secret," stated Mazur. Most recently he was SUNY Adirondack's vice president for academic and student affairs in Queensbury.

Prior to his position in New York, Mazur was the dean of liberal arts at North Hennepin Community College in Minnesota. In addition, he taught political science courses during his time there.

"My advice would be take a serious look at the community college," said Mazur.

Mazur said he is enthusiastic about his new position at SCCC, as well as the students and faculty.

"People here have been very friendly, very welcoming," he stated. He said he is also confident the college has something for everyone.

"There are always lots of things going on. There are lots of different events," said Mazur.

Mazur is not only passionate about his career, but about education in general.

"Education has been good to me," he said with a smile. "And in this generation, education is good to everyone."

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SCCC Broadcasting Club raises awareness of the dangers of drunk driving

Tara Ayres

March 20, 2011 11:18 pm

"You know you're going to drink; stay where you are," Stacy Bockbrader exclaimed to students in passing at the Broadcasting Club's Shamrock Sale on March 9 at Sussex County Community College.

This year marked the club's first Shamrock Sale to raise awareness on campus of the dangers of drunken driving.

"It's basically against kids drinking and driving," informed Bockbrader. The event was held on March 9 and March 10 from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. in the D Building. For \$1 students bought a shamrock and the money was donated to Mothers Against Drunk Driving, or MADD.

The sale was also a means of displaying the Broadcasting Club's new public service announcement.

"We wanted to make kids aware of the PSA," said Bockbrader. The advertisement will air on Channel 20 at a future date. According to Broadcasting Club member Aaron McCarty, it will be streamed on the club's Facebook and YouTube pages.

No matter where the ad is aired, the Broadcasting Club is happy to get their message out there.

"With Spring Break coming up we know kids will drink but they should stay where they are or have a designated driver," said Bockbrader. "The reality is it's not worth it."

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