

## Connolly cites improvement in security

By Max Anderson  
College Hill Writer

Earlier this year, after the school shooting in Florida, SCCC President, Dr. Jon Connolly, was asked to reveal his thoughts on school safety.

Those dealt with concerns expressed by college students, staff and faculty in the week after the shootings at Parkland High School, in which 17 people were killed.

In the Spring '18 edition of College Hill, he identified innovations coming in campus security, all designed to help improve communication and containment in an emergency.

For this edition of the paper, we again met with Connolly, for an update on the issues he raised in the spring.

One measure discussed was installing telephones in every classroom and office. Connolly said the installation isn't complete, but it should be soon. The phones will aid awareness of a lockdown, he said.

He said the college has a centralized location to send alerts through the existing Rave System. Anyone with a college email can receive alerts, which range from snow closings to threats on campus.

Last semester, Connolly

*(Continued on page 8)*



### *Coping with Work and School ...*

Thomas Fuzia, shown bagging at ShopRite in Newton, is just one SCCC student who must balance priorities. See story page 6.



### *Gone and apparently forgotten*

That blue on building roofs in this old photo are solar panels that no longer exist — and the administration can't explain why. But blue panels in E building parking lots remain. See story page 4.

## INSIDE:

**Pages 2,3,10:** *Blue Poles students and faculty on security*

**Page 10:** *Mascot to takes its place on Skylander sidelines*

**Page 5:** *Tech studies get new home*

# What do students say on campus safety?

By : **Maggie Lukas**

*College Hill Writer*

Here at SCCC there are precautions set in place to keep students and faculty safe on campus, but we have to ask ourselves is it enough?

While most college students have a lot of other things on their mind, and don't really think of safety on campus as an issue, there are a number of things that this college along with other ones can do to make sure everyone is safer.

One thing the college does have, are the blue light towers that allow the students to contact the campus security if they feel threatened or in danger in any way. There are several located around campus, but the one that is concerning is the one located at the entrance to the Library building. This tower is supposed to be accessible for all students who are walking to their cars after class, but what about the students that have to walk all the way out to their car underneath the solar panels?

Sophomore Megan Jahnke said, "It would be nice to have the blue light towers going all the way up and into the back of the parking lot, that way just in

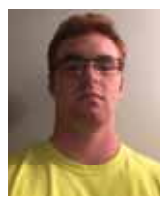
case something does happen it would be easier to access."

Another concerning matter is the fact that literally anyone can walk freely throughout the campus, and enter all of the buildings as they please. When a few students here at the college were asked what they thought about safety and whether or not ID scanning should be placed at the door to each building.

Megan said, "It has pros and cons just like anything else, but I definitely don't think it's okay that anyone could get access to these buildings so easily."

Sophomore Andrew Pustelniak agrees that the ID scanning would be a great way to keep our college safer, and said "The ID scanning would be more convenient in the front of all the buildings, rather than just walking in."

A fellow Skylander, Sophomore Isabella DiMartino said "I feel like we are pretty safe, the cops are here all the time and we usually have security driving around the parking lots." Most students would agree with her statement because since 2015 there has only been one account of domestic violence here on campus as well as one account non forceful, unlawful entry and one account of vandalism.



Top: Isabella DiMartino, Connor Andrews ; Middle: Rhiannon Lubas, Megan Jahnke; Bottom: Andrew Pustelniak

Which doesn't seem like much to worry about.

Unfortunately, there are heart-breaking stories of high schools, movie theaters and shopping malls where civilians are killed and injured by people with guns. Needless to say this happens too often in today's news, so a few students here were asked was if they thought the teachers and security guards should be allowed to have a firearm in order to try and keep SCCC safer.

A newcomer to the college, Connor Andrews, stated, "I don't think they should have guns unless they volunteered to carry and are properly trained."

Another second year Skylander, Bryce Falk said "I think the SCCC staff should be able to carry a firearm with them on the off chance that someone did get on campus with a weapon, then they could save people's lives."

Louiseith Nazaire, an SCCC Sophomore feels that SCCC is a safe environment. "It's always being supervised by campus security, their building is always open and they are always there to help you." she said.

She added, "Something that can be done to keep everyone safer might be doing more drills, or attending a safety lesson, god forbid something might happen."

Everyone wants to feel safe when they are going about their daily lives, whether that be going to work or going to school, like us here at the college.

Sophomore Rhiannon Lubas said, "I do feel safe on campus, but when I think about it, anyone can walk onto the campus and not be questioned, so in that sense we aren't completely safe."

## Annual security report records little problem at SCCC

By **Jess McPeck**

*College Hill Writer*

Sussex County Community College has been ensuring the safety of all students and faculty members for years.

The Clery Act, was passed in 1990, after the 1987 murder of Jeanne Clery, ia freshman at Lehigh University, who in her dorm

room. The law requires colleges and universities that accept US federal student financial aid to disclose all crime incidents on and around campus within the past three years.

In 2017, there was one incident on campus, involving unlawful entry . The crime was not forceful. Last year, No crimes were committed around campus. All students and employees have access to more infor-

mation at the Campus Safety and Security Office in room B321, or online at [sussex.edu](http://sussex.edu).

To report an incident on or around campus, text message CRIMES (274-637) with the key word NEWTON. A person not feeling safe on campus can request security to escort you to a car or building at the school's non-emergency number 973-300-2103.

# Blue Poles a Safety Aid on Campus

By Kendra Pappalardo

College Hill Writer

Campus safety is a main concern for students and parents when choosing a college. The mission of providing a safe and secure environment for students should be a college's main goal. SCCC has an advanced security system with new equipment, as well as the "Blue Poles."

The poles are a key feature of campus security, being several years old. But not everyone, among new students, seems aware of them and their use.

Fred Mamay, Director of Campus Safety and Security, said, "The blue poles are part of our "Code Blue" emergency call box system which consists of 36 call boxes throughout campus. There are three blue poles that house the exterior call boxes and have security cameras mounted on top.

"They are located in parking lots 1, 5 and 9 and were strategically placed for the best accessibility in exterior locations that logistical connect-ability would allow. They are also equipped with blue beacons for easier identification in dark or poor visibility conditions. The remaining call boxes are yellow boxes located inside the buildings throughout the hallways, typically two or sometime three on each floor."

Mamay said, "Transmissions on the call boxes are received directly at the Security Front Desk and although the Front Desk receives many calls for different reasons, the call boxes are received on a separate



Pushing red button calls SCCC security.

Photo by Kendra Pappalardo

independent phone and take priority above all other calls."

He said, "The Campus Safety and Security Department saw the need for an emergency call system for improved communication and quicker response time for emergencies. They were installed in 2014."

The Blue Poles are an extremely important safety feature, so it was important to find out whether students at SCCC knew it had existed or not. One student, Abby Reed, knew of the poles. "Yes, I knew for a little while now actually."

Asked how she knew about the poles, whether she just saw them or heard about them, Reed said, "I saw them walking by as per usual to my class one day."

Taylor Boyer, another student, had an opposite response, "No I didn't even Blue Poles were a thing on college campus."

Boyer said the college should proactively inform students of the poles, perhaps during syllabus week, or at orientation.

Another question that was whether students facing an emergency should use the Blue Pole system or a cellphone.

Reed said, "If I were in close proximity to the light, I would probably use that rather than my phone." Boyer responded similarly, "It depends on the situation. If one pole is nearby and I can use it, I will. But if there isn't one nearby, I think it would be more convenient to use my phone."

Mamay said, "Feedback is generally positive and have been used for a number of reasons, but because of accessibility challenges in certain parts of campus, we suggest to our community to store the Security Front Desk number as a quick dial in your phone: 973-300-2222. The system is tested on a weekly basis and each box is individually evaluated."

Overall, the Blue Poles at SCCC have been a positive installment on campus. They allow students to feel safer on campus during their day and night classes and offers the chance to be able to use them whenever and however if they feel threatened in any way.

## Student Stats for Fall 2018

The demographic report, provided each semester by the office of Associate Dean Cory Homer, is used in planning, directing resources and improving quality.

### Registered Status

	FA 2018		FA 2017		Change
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	
Full-time	1,318	57.30%	1,411	55.79%	-6.59%
Part-time	982	42.70%	1,118	44.21%	-12.16%
TOTAL	2,300	100%	2,529	100%	-9.05%

	Number
Sussex County	1882
Warren County	109
Morris County	24
Passaic County	17

	Number
Freshman	1139
Sophomore	786
Unclassified	375
TOTAL	2,300

	Number	Percent
White	1847	80.30%
2 or more races/ethnicities	245	10.65%
Hispanic/Latino	93	4.04%
Black/African American	53	2.30%
Asian	44	1.91%
American Indian/Alaskan Native	6	0.26%
Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander	1	0.04%
Unknown	11	0.48%
TOTAL	2,300	100%

# Solar Saga Leaves Open Questions

*One Set of Solar Panels Long Gone, But Another Still Operates*

**By Paul Arvary**  
*College Hill Writer*

Members of the SCCC community may have noticed the large solar panels in the parking lot and in the field.

These panels represent an effort by the county to move towards an eco-friendly approach to sourcing energy.

If they had looked at the campus two years ago, they would have seen other solar panels in addition to the ones in the parking lot and field.

The other panels were on buildings B,C,D,E,and L on SCCC campus.

The solar panels on top of the academic buildings are no longer there.

Those panels were the result of a 10-year lease agreement that was not renewed and the panels were removed in June of 2017.

The office of college president Jon Connolly responded that “no one was present in the administration when the original lease agreement was signed” and gave no comment as to the efficiency of the panels or why the lease agreement was not renewed.

These statements were echoed by nearly every person and office that was asked.

The Chief Financial Officer of SCCC Ketan Gandhi was not employed by the college at the time when the lease agreement ended.

Facilities Director of SCCC Cathleen Peterson was aware of the solar panels and the project but was not able to comment on why the panels on the buildings were taken down.

According to the electrical invoice from 2016 during the summer months they would generate upwards of 160,000 kWh of power per month.

This number was dramatically reduced during winter months to around 40,000 kWh. While this may be considerably more power than the average household uses per month (867kWh according to U.S. Energy Information Administration) it does

Aaron, a third year student at Sussex, said “I think it’s a good idea” and expressed an idea that the project was more environmentally conservative than traditional energy sources.

Freshman Bruno Fredes said “I like them” and expressed his



These solar panels, shown when under construction in the parking lots, are still up and running, unlike those atop college buildings.

not represent enough power to power the school entirely. Also the constant fluctuation depending on the month makes this an unstable avenue for sole power supply for the school.

The question on the table is why does it not serve as a valuable secondary source of power? It seems to be consensus from the interviews with students and staff that solar panels were a step in the right direction.

Unfortunately, no member of the administration was able to comment on as to why the agreement was not renewed

After interviewing several students and staff around campus a general consensus of the solar panels being a good idea was for the environment was held by all.

idea that saving renewable energy was a step forward and also that the added coverage from snow in winter was not a bad addition.

Assistant to the director of the Library, Lauren Jessop, said the panels are “a positive thing both financially and environmentally”

Jessop also expressed the idea the panels made for good coverage for student parking from impending foul weather.

An interview with the head of facilities at Sussex, Charlene Peterson, identified the panels in the parking lot and parking lot adjacent panels as not being owned by the school.

She mentioned an earlier project where the school had panels installed on the roofs of several of the campus buildings was a ten-year lease that had ended in

2017 and was not renewed.

Ms. Peterson was not part of the discussion for the renewal of the project.

Most students interviewed felt that the project was better for the environment and a good step in the right direction.

On a county level, there has been much more negative impact as funding for the three county wide project has not progressed as originally expected.

The panels located in, and next to, the parking area above E building are part of a much larger deal that spanned the counties of Sussex, Morris, and Somerset.

The deal, in 2011, was for a placement of solar panels around public spaces, mostly schools, in those three counties.

The counties were party to an agreement where they would advance a certain amount of government bonds, 27.7 million dollars’ worth for Sussex, to the company and receive lease payments from the company, a joint venture of Sunlight General Capital and Power Partners Mastec, for the energy created by the panels.

The county wide issues continue to develop and there have been legal battles between the two companies as well as between the county governments and the two companies.

The county governments of Hunterdon and Morris have chosen not to pursue legal action leaving Sussex County government the only county pursuing litigation.

But for the students at SCCC the panels have not posed the issues that have plagued the countywide project and for the most part, except for possibly the man who plows the parking lot in the winter, have positive opinions of the panels that are in our parking lots.

# A Future Home for SCCC's Technical Programs

By Noa Shaw

College Hill Writer

Sussex County Community College is going to have a new location for its Technical Programs. What used to be the McGuire Chevrolet dealer on Main Street in Newton will soon house students enrolled in automotive, welding, diesel technology, culinary, and machine tool programs.

So far, the college programs have been housed in “borrowed” space, but that is all about to change. As College President Dr. Jon Connolly said, “I’ve been looking all around the county for space, out of maybe 20 places we looked at, (the) first one we looked at was McGuire.”

The McGuire owners were originally hesitant to the College’s development plans, however, they eventually decided to consider the college as a potential opportunity. “They said ‘let’s look at it’”, said Connolly.

Since the college has been renting space out for the technical programs and as Connolly pointed out, renting space doesn’t allow for much control. For now, the college is planning to just lease the McGuire building from the current owners. However, purchasing the building is not out of the question. “It would be most practical to purchase it, we are in negotiations right now,” said Connolly, “I’m 85% sure of the price.”

The development cost of the McGuire building would be fully funded if government entities will cooperate. Connolly said the college wouldn’t need any more government money for the project, as long as the college received the same amount of government funding being provided currently, so there will be no borrowing or need of additional money. The total estimated cost of the project is \$4.2 million. Judge Lorraine Parker, retired Superior Court judge and chair of the college’s board said, “The college is fully funded, there is money sitting in the county treasury.”

Both Connolly and Parker pointed out the project is also backed by county businesses that need skilled employees. Industries like diesel shops, car dealers, restaurants and machine shops all need a skilled



This artist’s rendering envisages what the college’s new technical studies center will look like in the building once occupied by McGuire Chevrolet on the Newton square.

workforce. Thorlabs, an optical and fiber optic equipment company headquartered in Newton, needs machinists and technicians that the college could provide.

In a statement issued on August 5th of this year, the company wrote, “A fast growing, key stakeholder within both Newton and Sussex - Thorlabs – went right to Sussex County Community College (SCCC) when looking at ways to attract and attain skilled workforce.”

The company has pledged \$400,000 to the college over the next four years, for the development of the McGuire project. Crystal Springs has also shown interest and support in regards to the culinary institute.

Even McGuire Chevrolet itself, now located on Hampton House Road, has pledged \$250,000 towards partnering on the project. “They need skilled college graduates. The college focuses on providing skilled employees for the community,” said Parker.

Although the McGuire building has appropriate funding, David Loeffler, representative of EcolSciences, an environmental services company, said the property has a few environmental concerns. A total of seven underground mixed use (gas and heating oil) storage tanks need to be removed, and groundwater quality needs to be improved.

However, Loeffler put the severity of contamination at the site as only a 2 or 3, on a 1-10 scale. The cleanup costs of the McGuire site would be paid by the current owners of the building, the college would not incur any costs, said Connolly.

Connolly made it clear the technical programs would be, “More than teaching cooking,” The programs are also intended to teach the business side of these trades. On top of that, the McGuire lot will also house an open-to-the public restaurant.

The culinary students will be able to show off their skills by serving their community their food. Both Connolly and Parker said the college presence in Newton will be a major influence to the town.

As Connolly said, “it will not fix Spring Street, but it will be a big help. We want to be a big piece of that.”

Parker has the same opinion stating, “I think it’s going to have a huge influence.” She also mentioned that housing units serving as both student dorms and public apartments were in the plans, and they are already talking to a developer.

The town of Newton is involved in these plans and “These are opportunities for the county,” she said.

# Life of a Working Student

## *Balancing Academics and Paying the Bills*

By **Max Anderson**  
and **Kendra Pappalardo**

*College Hill Writers*

Many college students around the country have more responsibilities other than doing school work. Most of them have the challenge of attending classes and working a part-time job at the same time. In an ideal world, a student can focus solely on his or her studies, but everyone needs money.

A study from Georgetown University's Center on Education and the Workforce stated that over the past 25 years, 70% of college students worked while going to school.

SCCC does not keep records of students who work, said Cory Homer, Associate Dean of Institutional Research. However, one can assume that many of the school's students have jobs.

No matter the reason for why a student has a job, everyone experiences stress and can be truly tested at times and the students here are no exception to this. Some SCCC students opened up about how they handle the challenges that come with working while going to school and the effects that come with it.

Each student has a personal way for handling stress. Some can handle it better than others, but they all experience battles of their own.

For Wallkill Valley graduate, Bobby Mara, his performance at school and work is affected immensely. Bobby is a waiter and barback at Sheridan's Lodge in Newton, and that involves late work nights.

"I frequently on the weekends have to work until closing so some nights I don't get home until around 3 a.m.," he said. Because of his work hours, it's hard for Bobby to get a normal amount of sleep.

His sleep schedule gets messed up and he has trouble getting energy for his classes on Monday and Tuesday. Bobby said, "I get

about 3-4 hours of sleep per night and I feel like a zombie both days. Instead of interacting within the class I usually just stare into space because I can't focus on anything."

Although he doesn't like being sleep-deprived, Bobby knows that both work and school are beneficial to his life. Work allows



Mara

him to pay for school, his car, and for the activities that help him relieve stress which are playing video games, reading books, going on dates with his girlfriend, and "eating large amounts of food." Another stress reliever for him is hanging out with his friends but unfortunately, that has been difficult to accomplish. "Everyone I know for the most part goes to school and works so it leaves small windows to hang out. Most people are available at least once a week, but because of work, usually if anyone plans something for the weekend I have to sit out."

Bobby said he never feels sorry for himself and he knows many others are experiencing the same stress that he's dealing with.

Vernon graduate, Edana Lobosco, is another student who knows the struggles of working while going to school. Like Bobby, she also has to deal with late nights after getting home from work.

Edana said she's "forced to stay up late to finish assignments" which can affect her grades. She finds herself more focused on getting her work done so she can get to bed faster instead of focusing on the quality of her work.

However, Edana has made some adjustments to avoid these late nights. She said her time management skills have improved and when she has time she will work on her assignments days before.

To deal with stress, Edana likes to sing and play the ukulele, sleep, watch Shane Dawson conspiracy videos on YouTube, and hang out with her friends. With only two days off work, she does find it hard to balance the time she spends with her friends, boyfriend, and family.

Edana believes teachers should keep in mind that most of their students work.

"Teachers should know what it's like since they probably worked while going to school. I'm not saying they should baby us since we're adults, but it seems a bit irrational to be strict with attendance and to give assignments everyday especially if you know most of your students work and have other classes."

At the end of the day, Edana knows it's best for her to work while going to school. Making money allows her to buy what she needs and she's paying for school so she can have a chance at a high paying job once she's graduated. "It's part of life." Edana said. "Everyone has to do it."

The biggest challenge for Emily Hertlein, a Vernon graduate, is "handling everything, especially mentally. Working part-time and going to school full-time doesn't allow me much time to really take care of myself the way I should be."



Lobosco

Emily explained how she felt exhausted from the stress that comes from getting her school work done and having to go to work. On top of those, she said she has many responsibilities back at home to help out her family.

This all takes a toll on her mental health. Emily said, "My mental health starts to go downhill with all of it because there's not

*(Continued on page 7)*

(Continued from page 6)

much time to do everything since I'm constantly going to school, working, helping out at home, or doing homework."

Like Edana, Emily learned how to use her time wisely. She forced herself to do homework in advance so she doesn't have to do everything all at once. During school, her free time goes to doing homework and studying, thus allowing her more time to do future assignments.

Emily said, "Something that really helps me to relieve stress is going to the gym and working out." She tries to go 2-3 times a week and it helps her temporarily forget about the stressful things she has to do. She listens to music while working out and music in general is a stress reliever for her. "I've always loved music, so listening to music in times of high stress gives me a sense of comfort, helping to reduce the stress a little."

For Haley Sparta, also a Vernon grad, stress began with missing her friends and trying to find time to spend with her family. School work and an internship add more weight to her stress.

Haley said, "My stress is through the roof with all of this work with my internship. Plus, I emailed my professor about a project for my internship and she never got back to me."



Hertlein

Haley reminds herself that all the work she's doing now is leading to the future. Every completed assignment gets her closer to graduation.

She said her love for

children is another big motivator, as her plan is to become the best teacher she can be.

To help with stress, Haley said, "For me I made a chart with the days and time that I have class and work so I know when to fit homework in. If I am stressed I would take a break and take a big breath, then I will go back to my homework."

Ashley Wenzel of Vernon is another student who explained how exhausted she was from school and work.

Ashley said, "I don't have much time as I would like to study and do homework. Also, I am separated from family and friends often which is hard."



Sparta

Work has taught Ashley some lessons and responsibilities. She learned what she does and doesn't want to do with the rest of her life. Doing both has taught her time management skills and how to create relationships.

Ashley has her ways for reducing stress. She allows herself one to two days off a month to relax and take care of any of her needs. Listening to music is another way for her to relax.

School and work can be too much at times for Wallkill graduate, Thomas Fuzia, but as long as he's on schedule and isn't procrastinating, he doesn't have a difficult time getting everything done.

Thomas said, "Stress comes and goes. I try to stay positive and not give into the stress. If

I put my mind to it I can get all my work done well before the due date so I won't be stressed the night before."



Fuzia

Thomas said he is self-motivated, but the added motivation he gets from the people around him goes a long way. "Seeing my friends go through the same stuff lets me know that I can do both.

"All my friends who go to school work so they're a motivation to me and I try to be a motivation to them. My family has always supported me and I know they would always help me if I needed it."

Thinking about supporting his own family one day is another motivator, he said.

Thomas always has something to do in his free time to relieve stress. He hangs out with friends, plays video games, watches movies, and occasionally he will go out for a night drive while listening to his favorite music.

Thomas said he feels a sense of pride for being able to do both at the same time.

It's a confidence booster for him and he said he feels accomplished and has more self-respect for himself.

All of these students go through similar struggles and have developed their own ways for relieving stress. These students aren't going through this alone. Many students deal with these problems.

Everyone has had to do it but it doesn't make the struggles of these students any less important. While learning their major, they also have to learn how to balance work, school, and time spent with friends and fami-

## Security supervisor encounters many situations

By Carlie Reilly

College Hill Writer

With the hustle and bustle of life here at SCCC, it's easy to forget that while we are nose deep in studies, others are hard at work to ensure our safety. One is Jim Coiro, supervisor of security.

Here for three years, he had worked as a security guard at Anandale Mountain view state facility for 25 years and is well versed in blackouts, stabbings, drug smuggling, and gang fights. He is no novice, and along with the role of being an officer comes the stories, adventure, and responsibility of being one as well.

One such circumstance at SCCC that occurs quite frequently is officers having to chase bears off campus with bullhorns. "The closest I got was probably about 30 feet away," said Coiro. Coiro claims

that this happens at least a couple times every year during the fall semester. Another semi-casual occurrence is student or faculty leaving animals in cars, especially dangerous on hot summer days.

"One time, we had a professor lock a dog in the car on a pretty hot day," he said. Coiro and another security officer got the license plate decal, and informed the teacher, after having to sit with the dog in his office for hours.

The dog later urinated freely, presenting a new slew of problems for Coiro and his team. "This was about Spring of 2017."

Since then, he said, things have cooled down, and he enjoys what he does, minus the minor inconvenience here and there. Coiro enjoys his job and looks forward to the future endeavors he may face on duty.

# Club offers outdoor adventure

By Shane Johnson

College Hill Writer

One of the hardest challenges for school clubs is finding new members. To combat this problem, Adventure Club has found some fun and exciting ways to bolster its ranks. “We’re more than just an outdoors club” said Vice President of AC, Bryson Beck. Indeed, the club’s focus seems to spread well beyond its own interests, offering many different ways to give back to the community and the school. With activities such as weekly hikes, bake sales, manhunt, and dodgeball tournaments; it’s easy to see why this club is turning heads.

What makes this club so different and exciting when compared to others? Founder and SCCC alumni, Jon Heater, has some answers. “There’s nothing like the Adventure Club. It’s an outlet for people to go outside



Adventure Club members celebrating a view on one of their outings.

and get off their phones... make a real connection”.

In a time when technology is so intimately intertwined with our daily lives, it’s important to not be sucked into our own worlds, and to form real life connections.

Clubs can offer an outlet to people who want to make new

friends, but don’t know how, or just people that want something to do outside of class.

The motto is “People and nature together”, but that’s not all this club is about.

A main highlight of the club is its dodgeball tournament. This event is open to the public, and involves multiple teams compet-

ing in an authentic dodgeball experience. “For our first tournament, we had about 68 people... our second had six teams of eight”. The event features multiple teams facing off tournament style until only one is left, and is open to all students willing to participate.

It’s widely looked forward to and this past one will mark its fourth consecutive year running.

Another thing that makes this club so unique is its flexibility. Meetings and weekly events can change depending on the availability of its members, as well as the bigger events themselves.

Ideas are met with open arms at Adventure Club, he said. Both founders are still active, and with an ever growing club size, it’s easy to see the appeal.

So whether you’re looking for experience, friendship, or just something fun to do, the Adventure Club might be the place for you!

(Continued from page 1)

said there were concerns with getting total compliance from the entire SCCC faculty during lockdown drills. He said at the time the college would take a hard line on this matter and employees who disregarded drills could face discipline.

He said that now, to his knowledge, there were no instances of faculty not following lockdown drill procedures this semester. He said he believes everyone has accepted the “culture change” that has come from mass shootings.

He said it’s sad that it has to happen, but it’s a change everyone has to welcome.

Lockdown drills are still scheduled only once a semester, but, he said, a special joint operating relationship with police and other emergency units may allow for two drills a semester.

An automatic security lock system for all doors on campus should be approved within the next two months by the Board of Trustees, he said. If there’s a threat at

the school, all the doors can automatically be set to lock so no one can get in or out.

Security officers will monitor whether doors are opened or closed and aid the school’s ability to contain any situation. The locks will be controlled by a computer-like system at the central security desk. The lock system will cost slightly under \$500,000 and will be paid for by a federal grant program under Chapter 12, he said.

Overall, Connolly said, he feels safe and believes everyone else should feel safe on campus. He said he likes the direction in which the school is going when it comes to safety.

He said the Board of Trustees has been very supportive with the security changes.

The lock system is also capable of be-



Connolly

ing used as a scan system controlling access to buildings. Some sort of ID would be needed to enter campus building.

Connolly said the school isn’t interested in making that change right now because they want to respect everyone’s freedom to move freely around campus.

However, he said, he doesn’t like the fact that changes have to happen. He doesn’t want people to be fearful, but said he believes shootings are an “epidemic” and they’re “unpredictably dangerous.”

“The school is getting safer, but it’s mostly for comfort,” he said in a reference to creating a greater sense of security for the college community.

“Nothing can stop three teenagers from coming on campus with guns.

“We can’t prevent it from happening, but we can contain it.”

College Hill Writer Kendra Pappalardo contributed to this story.



# A Great Year For SCCC Soccer Teams

*Women and Men Notch Winning Seasons*

**By Maggie Lukas**

*College Hill Writer*

It was a great season for both Skylander soccer teams. The mens team started out their season on August 31<sup>st</sup> with a 3-1 win against the Harford Community College Owls. And they finished as NJCAA Region XIX champs, with a record of 11-5-1.

Even with that success, the Skylander's seven-year head coach, Frank Vernacchio, said "Wins and losses will happen and some wins can certainly be great, but nothing beats the family atmosphere we try to create each and every year." Each team member knows the importance of dedication and determination, they practice every day for at least three hours and make sure to push themselves to be better each and every day.

"A day at practice is like any other job said sophomore Nik Polizos, "you're trying to perfect the way you play, and make sure that every team that plays against us is going to have to work hard to beat us." Polizos, said "Coach Frank expects a lot from us, he's a great guy, but he's not afraid to be tough on us. He knows how great we can be and is willing to do whatever it takes for us to meet and exceed our potential."

It seems Vernacchio's coaching methods have been quite effective, with an overall record of 72-26-2 since his debut as head coach in 2012. "Being one of the top teams in the nation has certainly been a great honor and we will continue to develop and grow this program in a way that allows us one day to achieve or goal," he said.

One of the team captains, Nicholas Encarnacion, said "Balancing school and soccer has always been a challenge, but eventually you get accustomed to the lifestyle after being part of a team for as many years as I have. Every day is a long day for these guys but their hard work certainly does pay off.

The women's team, also coached by Vernacchio, had a great season, making the Region XIX Women's Soccer Division 1 championship game. The championship was against Essex, who had beaten the Lady Skylanders 1-0 during the regular season.

Although the women didn't win the game, they ended their season with an incredible 7-6 record. After having such a



Both the men's and the women's soccer teams had good seasons this Fall, with the women making it to the divisional championship game and the men winning theirs.

great 2018 season, Karleigh Noll, a sophomore, said "Bonding on and off the field has helped us greatly since we all understand that we have a common goal in mind,

"Each member of our team knows she is fighting for more than just herself, that is what has given us an advantage over any other team."

A few girls on the team are international students and came here to play for the school. One is Maddi Ollington, from New Zealand

and one of the team captains.

"Being from another county and playing a sport you love in the U.S has been a dream come true," she said. "It's just like having a family away from my family back in New Zealand."

Vernacchio, asked to describe the teams in three words, said, "It's very hard to describe both teams in three words, but three that come to mind for both are family, pride and growth."

# Faculty Expect Change with Better Security

By Max Anderson  
College Hill Writer

Survivors of the Parkland, Florida, school shooting began their own anti-gun movement this year. They want to bring an end to innocent people being gunned down, which has left many people around the whole country begging for change.

Teachers at SCCC also said change needs to happen and they shared their thoughts on our own school's safety.

For English Professor, Jean LeBlanc, the fact that shootings are becoming a new normal, or as she likes to say "new abnormal", scares her. When it comes to the school's safety drills and security, she thinks it could do a lot better. She said, "I do not think one safety drill a semester is enough. I also do not think we have enough security guards on campus."

LeBlanc's husband and SCCC English professor, George Lightcap, taught in public school for 30 years and she said she always worried for his safety. He said our safety is in the hands of Congress. "Until Congress passes strict gun control legislation" and "keeps weapons out of the hands of the mentally ill, nothing will protect us from attack."

Lightcap also said, "We remain at the mercy of a cowardly, cynical, immoral Congress. I knew it was hopeless when these swine didn't even blink an eye at 20 dead elementary students and their teachers in Newtown, CT."

History professor Patricia Clancy, is aware of the problems happening with mass shootings, but said she feels safe on campus.

She said the school drills are necessary practice, but they won't be able to prevent an attack.

She loves the college and would never want to see it become an "armed camp".

Fine Arts professor Michael Hughes, also used the term "armed camp." He said adding armed guards and metal detectors would make the school look like a prison. He said the only way to prevent these mass murders is to get rid of automatic rifles.

Hughes is against the arming of teachers. He said, "No one knows how they'd react."

Criminal Justice professor William McGovern is a retired police officer and even though he's qualified to handle a gun, he would never wish to have one on campus. McGovern said, "I firmly believe teachers should not be armed. As a police officer I was involved in three shootings and I think teachers should teach, not be armed security."

McGovern said possible security measures such as access control, locks, windows, lighting, and guards can offer "the best security possible in today's climate of school shooters and terrorism."

An idea he had for increasing safety was "Hiring three Special police officers. Specially trained as school resource officers by the National Association of School Resource Officers."

The thought of a shooter is present in all minds, but they say we can't live our lives in fear. Every school can do more to increase safety, but hopefully twenty years from now, we don't view a place of learning opportunities and education as an "armed camp".



Sussex County Community College's **SKYLOR** readies for action on Connor Green.

## *Skylander is Named*

By Nicole Rodick  
College Hill Writer

A new friend is coming to SCCC, in the form of a new mascot. And students had the task of selecting a name.

The unnamed mascot was announced through an email sent to all SCCC students by Kathleen Peterson, SCCC's Director of Marketing. They were asked to participate in naming the mascot, a Spartan-esque bearded man wielding a lightning bolt and wearing the blue, green and white of the Skylanders themselves.

While many serious name suggestions were submitted, a few even referencing mythological gods Zeus, Jupiter, and Thor (given the new mascot's godly appearance). A few students have admitted to wanting the new mascot to have a silly name, such as "Lightning-beard" or simply "Beardo".

This newspaper surveyed 15 students about their opinion regarding the new mascot, and all

of the responses turned out to be overwhelmingly positive.

"The new mascot looks like he would be a good friend!" said Cortney Pruden, who is in her third semester. Another student, JJ Montana, in his second semester here, said, "He reminds me of a superhero or a comic book character! The lightning bolt makes the Skylanders seem powerful, which is really awesome!"

Submissions ran from November 14th to November 21st, and the top three contenders for the new mascot's name were announced in another survey. Students were then asked to pick from the top three most popular names.

The most popular name was to be announced December 13th, between the Men's and Women's basketball games, and every student who voted for the winning name was entered into a raffle for a free gift basket.

**Good job in voting, and let's welcome the new Skylanders mascot, Skylor!**

# Workout Center Fit for All

*New facility offers more room, more machines*

**By Nazir Britt**

*College Hill Writer*

There has been some question on how well the new fitness center at SCCC has benefitted many individuals. Many say it's useful and said it was a very smart idea to make this facility bigger.

As its predecessor, the center is in E Building, directly off the lobby across from the basketball gym. The room itself has had a number of uses throughout the years, including a studio.

SCCC has a large variety of athletes who use the fitness center for many reasons, maybe after a bad day and or to get one's mind off things that might not be so good.

Derrick Montgomery seems to be satisfied with the new facility. A SCCC basketball player, going on his second year as a starter, he said "Yes. I don't have to be so close to another person while working out and it's not the size of a closet".

The new fitness center is larger than the old one, with more machines, which Derrick said was an improvement.

Derrick said he's in the weight room at least three times a week with a consistent

workout plan to follow.

Aniya Montgomery, Derrick's wife, a student athlete for the first year at SCCC, said she was thrilled with the upgrade in the weight room.

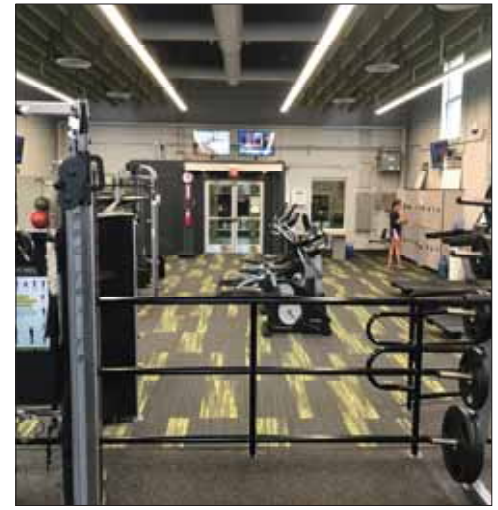
When asked if there were an improvement she'd like to see, Aniya said, "if I could change anything in the new gym, it would be to add more mirrors. I would add more lockers and more equipment for a variety of targeted areas of the body."

Several people said the fitness center here benefits not only the variety of student athletes but also the students here as well.

John Kuntz, college athletic director, said it was very smart to make the change. He said really impressed by the population that is now using the new center.

Kuntz seems to be pleased that more students are in there than student athletes, "It seems to almost be a shocker. I would never think there would be more students using the weight room than our student athletes."

He said, "an even bigger weight room would be better, although it is very convenient now imagine a bigger size and more equipment students would love it".



The fitness center is open to all students and staff of SCCC. Photo by Nazir Britt

Kuntz credited the college president as being the driving force behind the new facility. "This was a presidential decision," Kuntz said. "He wanted a new weight room and made the change" after learning the old center was small and inconvenient.

In conclusion, the fitness center here at SCCC was a major change. It seems that people go there to take their anger out or to get away from daily problems.

With all the people in the center, SCCC may be a physically and mentally tougher school. And although any facility could be bigger, it brings in students, meaning they don't go somewhere they shouldn't.

## Healthier food might be welcome, but chicken nuggets sell

**By Dylan Higgins**

*College Hill Writer*

Most of us have experienced first-hand how hard it can be to stay focused in class on an empty stomach. Luckily, we have an on-campus cafeteria to help fill those mid-day cravings.

But with so many different places to eat right off campus, it raises the question whether the cafeteria has enough variety to meet every student's taste.

One issue is those trying to save money but eat healthier.

Student Tim Zayac said he eats off campus due to the fact the cafeteria food is "too expen-

sive" and there are "not enough chicken nuggets."

Although he did add "my panini had nice cheese."

A good majority of the items for sale are fried foods or cold cuts and while there were some healthy choices, it's hard to picture eating salad every day.

Ian Gulow said he eats in the cafeteria only from time to time as a good option when he's hungry.

However, he added, he felt



Zayac

the selection is very limited "usually junk food or sandwiches, no in-between." He said he would like to see "extra fruits and vegetables as well as food for people with allergies."

"The food is okay, it's always the same," said Lindsay Scriffiano.

She said she doesn't go out of her way to eat off campus,



Gulow

but would like to see something healthier as the menu is mostly fried foods.

Roberta Zavoda, head

chef, explained making of the menu.

Unlike many school cafeterias, the lunch staff have full authority over the menu, she said.

She said while they are happy with the variety as of now, they find it hard to sell healthy foods, as most students just want chicken fingers, pizza and fries.

She said they are open to suggestions from students and would welcome ideas for menu items.



Scriffiano

# Degree Up Helps Students Deal with Stress

**By Emily Mercado**

*College Hill Writer*

A resource available to SCCC students for more than three and a half years is finally taking off in popularity. The initiative started by NORWESCAP, or the Northwest New Jersey Community Action Partnership Inc., is a nonprofit organization assisting residents from more than five counties in New Jersey for 50 years.

More than three years ago, the combined efforts of Diana Morrison, a representative from NORWESCAP and Naomi Miller, a professor of psychology, were able to create Degree Up.

Degree Up is located at the back lower level of the E building offers much more than just academic help. Degree Up offers a free computer lab with access to printing, becoming the only place on campus where one could print for free.

It also offers gas cards and access to food through either the Horton Food pantry on campus or through NORWESCAP itself.

One of the biggest components of Degree Up are the volunteer student tutors. Degree Up encourages students to help other students.

Professor Rich Linden, a psychology

professor at SCCC, became involved with Degree Up two years ago when Miller, head supervisor of Degree Up, encouraged him to come aboard. Asked why he decided to join, Linden said that “helping people helps me”.

Linden said he finds great joy in helping people and say that “Degree Up builds good people”. This year, with the significant jump in students utilizing the program, Linden has become the host for a Movie Night on Thursdays.

This is yet another way in which Degree Up helps students by making available a safe fun social event that helps relieve the stress of college.

## Spring will bring fun activities for SCCC students

**By Kendra Pappalardo**

*College Hill Writer*

Are you and your friends ever looking for exciting upcoming events here at SCCC?

Some of the main activities are listed below, however, each event is listed in detail on the college website under the 2018/2019 Student Handbook. Also, new events will be added throughout the year. Check your student email for important college registration information, plus campus activities & athletic events!

On Tuesday, Jan. 29, get lost in the Escape Room from 11:00 am–3:00 pm in the Dining Room. Be locked in a room with no way out, searching for hidden compartments, secret passageways, and clues to plot escape. And there’s only 20 minutes to find the treasure!

On Monday, Feb. 11 through Wednesday, Feb. 13 stop by the SGA table to purchase a Valentine Candy Gram

from 11:00 am- 1:00 pm! All Candy Grams will be available for pick up on Thursday, Feb. 14, in the Student Center Galleria.

On Friday, Feb. 15, celebrate at SCCC’s Valentine’s Day Game Night Mixer from 5 – 8:00 pm. Location is yet to be determined. Enjoy the Valentine’s Spring Mixer and meet new friends and have a good time playing board games with prizes for winners. Light refreshments will be served.

Procrastination time is over! On Thursday, Feb. 28, come to the Spring Transfer Fair from 10:00 am–1:00 pm in the Student Center Galleria. Learn about the transfer process and get information from four-year colleges and universities.

On Tuesday, March 5, join a Mardi Gras Celebration from 11 a.m. –1 p.m. in the Cafeteria. Stop in for some Mardi Gras fun, food and games, with prizes for winners!

Thursday, April 4 will be

the Spring Blood Drive from 10 a.m. – 7 p.m. at the Student Center Theater. This is a semi-annual event for which SCCC has teamed up with the American Red Cross! Help raise 225 pints of blood and the American Red Cross will create a new scholarship! Look for online registration instruction on Campus Life on Canvas or walk in on that day.

On Friday, April 5, enjoy a Spring Broadway Trip to see Harper Lee’s “To Kill A Mockingbird.” Student tickets are \$55, staff \$65, members of the public \$75. Price includes bus fare and ticket to the show. Tickets available at Bursar’s Office or online.

On Saturday, April 6, grab your girlfriends and come to Ladies’ Saturday Retreat. The day is full of food, fun and great workshops for women of all ages. Contact the Foundation Office at 973.300.2121 for any further information.

As the end of the school

year approaches, come on Thursday, April 25, to the End of the Year BBQ & Campus Life Carnival from 11 a.m. – 1 p.m. on Connor Green. Join Campus Life, faculty and staff in celebrating the close of another academic year! Free food, fun and games for all!

And on the next day, Friday, April 26, take a trip to the Philadelphia Zoo. Students tickets are \$30, staff \$40, and members of the public \$50. Price includes bus fare and admission ticket to the Zoo. Tickets are available at the Bursar’s Office or online.

On Tuesday, May 14, celebrate the end to the academic year with graduation breakfast from 9:30 –10:30 a.m. in the cafeteria. This is a congratulatory event for SCCC graduates!

Come and enjoy a wonderful buffet breakfast before Graduation Rehearsal, get important graduation information and say good-bye to faculty and staff!