

College copes with COVID

Inside are stories of college life before the virus, and after it changed everything like never before.

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Campus empties as academics/admin go online

By Sarah Haudek
College Hill Writer

The coronavirus entered fast into our lives and no one was prepared for all the changes it has brought.

It started as only talk at schools everywhere being shut down. It can be especially hard for colleges, trying to keep things in order, trying to keep everyone calm and getting kids ready for their freshman year of college. One person at the front of all this at SCCC is Kathleen Peterson, Marketing Director of Marketing.

"It was a day to day conversation" with the deans, Peterson said, and they wanted to make sure it was the right decision for the students.

It was a progression, leading up a full closure of the school, with the library and all events being canceled, to only a few classes allowed to meet and finally to full closure, with all classes going online.

Peterson described it as strange and "adjusting to change," having to work with students and having that connectivity. It is harder for some than others with online classes, like art classes and labs, are going to change their format of learning.

Each department head is to make sure what's being done for classes and to figure out alternatives for such circumstances.

"We never expected it to get to this point," she said. However, nothing is stopping her and other staffers from doing their jobs while keeping people safe.

She and other members are working from home and having weekly meetings about their next moves and what's best for the school and students. Except for occasional professors, Security is usually the only ones on campus. They open buildings to which people need access.

The law states the staff are not legally allowed to announce anyone's names on the staff who has the coronavirus. HR did send out a form saying if this happens it's okay for one's name to be known to the college, if one has signs the form.



Lauren Jessop, Library assistant, shows her gloves in front of B Building. One of two non-security employees on campus, she came to clear papers from the dropbox on the porch behind her, and to check on Bruce and Jaws, the Library fish. (See story page 14.)

College Hill photo

Should a staff member have COVID, the Health Department would be alerted and any areas where the person had been would be sanitized.

Student safety is a number one priority. An email was sent out via college email to see if there are any concerns or updates, then the COVID-19 task force can let everyone know.

They still need to look forward and have future plans, so Peterson is sometimes on campus and trying to get students ready for SOAR. They are delivering SOAR via ZOOM until further notice.

They still will get their students prepared and ready to introduce them into this new journey and get their freshman prepared.

This situation isn't easy on anyone, but Peterson likes to look on the bright side "It's nice to have your phone on you," she said. Answering calls and talking on the phone is a change for many people in the world of texting and email.

"Rapid change is the toughest," Peterson said. The most difficult part for Peterson

was putting everything else aside and focusing on how to get things done now. There are many future plans for the school, but this time they had to put a lot on hold.

"It's a day-to-day process," Peterson said. The school has decided to keep the rest of this semester online, as well as summer session one, at the least.

The rest is unclear because Peterson, the rest of the staff and everybody else around the world doesn't know what is next. This is new for everyone, having to figure out ways to deal with it.

This time is anything but normal, but Peterson has a positive outlook and a work ethic that helps things run smoothly.

No one has the right answers. "I don't think anyone has," Peterson said. The staff, just like everyone else, is going with this day-by-day.

Peterson said rapid change is the toughest. She said the best thing to do is adjust and she is settled in to remote learning.

This will not last forever and all one can do is take it day-by-day.

Virus forced student to leave job at College

Family concerns came first for part-timer in Facilities

By Cybele Tamulonis
College Hill Writer

In Sussex County, as across the world, many are struggling with the same issues as people try and get through the global COVID-19 pandemic.

For Erin Zabriskie, a paralegal student at the college who has been working in the Facilities department for three years, keeping a positive attitude is what helps her through her busy days.

"I requested to stop working before the actual shutdown on March 21. Fortunately, SCCC has always been family-friendly

and my boss was understanding and when I came to him with my concerns about coming to work, and he said I could go," she said.

She filed for unemployment and her job will be held for her once the pandemic has passed. The New Jersey Department of Labor reported that New Jersey residents have filed a record amount of unemployment claims. That number, according to the department, shot to more than 200,000 in the first week alone after the closure order.

Zabriskie did not leave her job lightly in the face of the pan-

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A Quiet Day on Campus

Taken on a Friday in early April, these photos show an unaccustomed lack of activity on campus. During an extended visit, the only people encountered were security officers and Lauren Jessop, library assistant (who appears on another page).

Clockwise from opposite page, top photo: A parked Newton officer has a good view of the empty upper lot;

Above: Work continues on new Academic Center behind the Performing Arts Center; picture was taken before Gov. Murphy banned “non-essential” construction, among other things;

Right: Jim Coiro, security supervisor, displays a \$700 sanitizer. Facilities workers use such units to make sure college computers and other equipment are disinfected; as of April 24, more units were being ordered;

Opposite page, bottom left: The only vehicles behind E Building belong to the College;

Opposite page, middle; Lower parking lot, also just about empty.



Value of ‘online’ biology lab questioned

By Claryssa Mills-Robinson
College Hill Writer

Schools around the world have moved from face – to – face learning to an online modality. For some courses it’s not a problem, but for others, it’s very difficult.

Stephen Straub, a professor of biology at SCCC, was required to move his lab courses online and that is where he sees the difficulties. Before the move online, Straub says, he was hesitant about online lab courses.

When online courses began, Straub had to change his semester plans around. He said students can’t do as many experiments. He has to supply as many visuals as possible.

Asked about the difficulties of a virtual lab, he said, “it’s working, with the work coming in and students are understanding the material.”

The only difficulty is there can sometimes be spotty internet. However, Straub said, going from hands-on to virtu-

Hands-on classes last ones slated for online

al is heartbreaking.

“A lab isn’t meant to be online it’s robbing you guys of a learning experience” Straub said.

With all of this, he said he’s okay with going virtual, explaining it’s better than nothing.

The final experiments Straub completed with his students in class were research assignments. Each lab group had its own tasks to research and carry out.

Some experiments used pill bugs, plants, and various chemicals and yeast products for the pill bugs.

One experiment used the pill bugs, yeast products, and various colors of light. The result was to see which product or light the pill bugs would be drawn to.

These experiments took place before spring break, which was followed by the classes moving online.

Most schools have also gone into the topic of making the spring semester a pass/fail. Straub said he wouldn’t agree with such a decision if it were made for SCCC.

He asked, “What if a student can’t complete the work on time? It doesn’t seem fair.”

SCCC has said pass/fail is under consideration, but has yet to announce a decision on the matter.

SCCC finally decided to move all classes online in an announcement March 21. Prior to that, there had been consideration of allowing a very few classes to remain in a face-to-face setting. On March 18, this “exceptional” few was identified as “science labs, automotive, culinary and a few others.”

Faculty in these courses were initially told to submit requests for waivers by noon, March 19. But this option was superseded by the full closing, effective March 23.

A sign for tough times



The College sign along Route 519 displays a sequence of messages: Proclaiming a closed-off campus, offering healthy advice and looking forward to a fall semester.

College Hill photos

Wrestling could start in months

By Meghan Carlson
College Hill Writer

The Skylanders may be getting a wrestling team in the fall, a plan that could lead to a construction of a multi-purpose building that would house the team.

The reason for the team is to provide an outlet for high school graduates who wrestled and want to come to SCCC.

“Wrestling has always been a strong sport in this particular county,” said John Kuntz, director of athletics. He said he had been approached by Jon Connolly, college president, with the idea.

Adding two sports had been under consideration, said Kuntz. “One was football and the other is the wrestling team.” If current plans bear out, a football team will soon begin playing.

But there have been snags in creating the team. There is limited space for all sports, especially in winter. A solution could be to use an off-campus building for practice in the first year. And, Kuntz said, Connolly wants to build a structure to house practices/matches and use it for other purposes in wrestling’s off-season.

“A building probably won’t happen until 2021 or 2022,” said Kuntz.

The team already has a head coach, who was hired last fall. The coach, Chris Burdge, has a good knowledge base for the sport and has about 15 students waiting to start in the fall.

Both Kuntz and Burdge hope to have at least 25 students join the team by then. This is to be Burdge’s first year coaching at the college level. When he saw SCCC was offering wrestling, he said, it “was a cool idea to me and since it wasn’t an opportunity that I’d had, I wanted to jump on board and set it in the right direction.” He had gone to Centenary College in Hackettstown, because SCCC at the time did not offer a wrestling program and that’s what he wanted.

Both Kuntz and Burdge want the best for the team. The most important thing for both of them is that the students enjoy what they are doing and want to continue their athletic career.

What Kuntz is looking for is a willingness to participate in the new program. Because there was no program in the past, students who wrestled in high school saw the sport was going nowhere for them.

“Here is a chance for kids to come to a community college and start to work on their academics from a college standpoint and to continue in the sport of wrestling,” said Kuntz.

Pa. doctor’s early take on coronavirus

By Meghan Carlson
College Hill Writer

As with many states, Pennsylvania has been under lockdown for weeks.

Before most of the colleges around the Tri-state area placed students on online classes to wait out this virus, Pennsylvania had gone further. The reason for the lockdown was to prevent the spread of the COVID-19 virus, commonly known as Coronavirus. Any non-life sustaining businesses were strongly advised to close until the lockdown is lifted.

Dr. Diane Sommer, a doctor for Pennsylvania Bureau of Prisons and Assistant Regional Director for the area on this situation, offered her perspective on the virus. She said there was a lot of misinformation spread over social media platforms, and even the news media, such as why the schools were closing and changing to online courses or the use of gloves in public areas.

Regarding the virus, Sommer said, “it is in the same family as the common cold. The virus has flu-like symp-

toms.” One of her issues with the media is it did not give out proper statistics.

It was interesting to know that in South Korea, more women tested positive for the virus. But it appeared in the U.S. and worldwide that men were more susceptible.

She said she didn’t know why more women in South Korea contracted the virus. A possibility she said, was a test being used early on could indicate false positives because of antibodies built up from fighting the common cold.

Early on, Pennsylvania closed highway rest stops, with the ramps initially blocked off. But this left truckers no safe place to stop and rest during long drives. After a few days, and backlash from truckers, the state opened the ramps.

Other places have closed as well, such as daycare centers, stores, and parks. Stores such as Walmart, Lowes and Home Depot remain open at this time, along with grocery stores. Restaurants are open as well, but only for take-out.

It hurts the local businesses, especially in small towns that rely on tourism. The upside was that in the Tri-state area, it was

possibility that the borders of New York might be closed, or at least that was the talk of the town. That would escalate the situation, but seemed possible. Because Sommer works for the Bureau of Prisons, she is considered an essential worker and could use her credentials to cross the borders.

There is little to do now with everything that is non-life sustaining closed. But people are finding ways to keep entertained. There have been people walking as it gets warmer. The funny thing is, most of them are older, which is the demographic that is mostly affected by the virus.

Sommer that the virus is airborne and it can even be contracted through the membrane in the eyes. “Possible,” she said, “it is why the general advice is to not touch your face. Most of the time people contract viruses through contact with others.

Who knows the next step in Pennsylvania is when it comes to this virus? Hopefully things can open back up and we can go back to normal.

EDITOR’S NOTE: Dr. Diane Sommer is the mother of Meghan Carlson.

Some Asian-Americans feared hostility

By: Lilian Pelaez
College Hill Writer

The coronavirus caused a major pandemic, putting New Jersey to go into a state of emergency, and causing some Asian-Americans to fear discrimination.

There was an great panic over the virus, many took precautions when cases were confirmed here in New Jersey.

Toilet paper and sanitation products became scarce. Along with the shortages, some perceived a rise in discrimination against certain groups of people.

The virus is believed to have started Wuhan, a city in China. Many speculate that the virus was spread from the immense wildlife trade there, but nobody knows for certain. More recently, there has been speculation the virus came from a lab in China.

It was thought it could have spread from the consumption of wild animals specifically, but nothing has been proven. Research is still being conducted and little is definitely known about its origins.

The Center for Disease Control and Prevention, released a statement saying, "It is important to remember that people – including those of Asian descent – who do not live in or have not recently been in an area of ongoing spread of the virus that causes COVID-19, or have not been in contact with a person who is a confirmed or suspected case of COVID-19 are not at greater risk of spreading COVID-19 than other Americans."

Despite the CDC's efforts, there have been reports of discrimination circulating around people of Asian descent.

Anna Chandy, an Asian-American woman from Fresno California, found her father's car vandalized with racial slurs in relation to the coronavirus. None of her family living in that neighborhood had contracted the coronavirus, so it is believed that the vandalism was in relation to her family's ethnicity.

Some media outlets have referring to the virus as the, "Chinese/Wuhan Virus".

Many people in the Chinese community believe that this will cause people to

Origination of virus in China sparked concern about targeted discrimination

look at people of Asian descent as the main spreaders of the disease.

Anatolia, a journal published by "Taylor and Francis Online", is an

ination.

It said, "Misleading media coverage around NCP, (National Consumer Panel), has led people of Asian heritage,



Charlene Glynn, a Newton woman of Asian descent shown here on a family trip to Hershey Park, said reports of attacks on and abuse of Asians has left her "unsettled and upset."

Photo provided by Charlene Glynn

"international journal of tourism and hospitality research".

Inside the journal, research has been recorded that has been looking into whether or not the media coverage has been causing the rise in Chinese discrim-

especially Chinese nationals and individuals of Chinese origin, to face intense discrimination.

"Tourists and others returning from China are being quarantined and sprayed with antiseptic upon arriving in their des-

tinuation."

Charlene Glynn, a woman from a mixed-race family in Newton, is concerned about the rise in discrimination.

"On the news, I've seen an Asian man being sprayed by what was either Febreze or Lysol, and an older woman being squirted with hand sanitizer", she said.

"The rise in discrimination, makes me feel really unsettled and upset. I strongly identify with my Asian half more than my other half. Seeing and hearing about people I care about and identify dealing with this is sad."

She said she also had concerns with referring to the virus as the Chinese/Wuhan Virus.

"I think it's wrong to put an ethnicity onto a virus. I understand that it originated in these areas, but it's giving people the wrong idea about the virus, China is not the epicenter any more since it has moved onto other countries", she said.

There was also a sharp decrease in business for Chinese restaurants, even before restaurants were closed by government order.

James Tierney Tang, a worker for a restaurant known as "Hwa Yuan" located in New York City, told "Grub Street", (a blog of the New York Magazine), that, "In short, we have been severely affected by coronavirus.

"Frankly, business has been gangbusters for the past year, and it's dropped 40 percent in the past week."

Chinatown is a major market in New York; sudden slow business in an area that's usually flooded with customers could have a major impact on the businesses there if it continues.

There is no telling when the virus will be contained, or when businesses that were shut will be allowed to reopen.

Before the "stay at home" orders, the CDC said there are also other groups of people who have faced stigma These were people who had traveled in general. People work in medical fields were sometimes faced with stigma although now they are treated as heroes for treating those afflicted by the virus.

Major art shows postponed due to outbreak

By: Lilian Pelaez
College Hill Writer

At SCCC, all events and activities were unfortunately cancelled following executive orders from Gov. Murphy.

The cancellations started with those events scheduled in March and April.

This meant that all club-related activities, campus events, and even events that are held in an effort to give certain opportunities to students to help them further their future were either cancelled or postponed.

It is difficult to project if and when these events might happen, since we have no way of estimating when the pandemic will end. All events were subsequently canceled.

One major event here on campus, the "Student Art Exhibition", was also postponed. During this event, young talent is

able to present their works for the month of May.

The students who made the works are also welcome to sell them to potential buyers, possibly creating future networks for the students.

The event requires the entire month of April to prepare: Students submit their art for the event, prepare them for display, and have them judged by the art department's faculty.

Behind the scenes, the college art department works on marketing for the event, and gallery programs get produced, until eventually installation finally happens.

This means that if the event had been given a date, there will likely be a bit of a scramble to get everything set up, possibly on short notice.

Although it's unfortunate that the event was postponed, there's no doubt that many are concerned about the coro-

navirus outbreak, there likely wouldn't have been a mass amount of people attending the event.

Luckily for those organizing it, the event isn't really set up much until the month of April, so there wasn't much preparation that went to waste.

However, this show is held annually, this was going to be the event's 29th year. Even if the event ends up getting cancelled this year, there will always be another one next year.

There was another art-related event that had a bit more to lose from this outbreak: "Teen Arts".

Preparations were underway when all events were canceled due to coronavirus concerns.

It was set to open during Spring Break, which was around the time quarantine was just about to occur.

This means that all preparation

work done for Teen Arts by teachers and students alike was wasted due to the Coronavirus.

However, just as there will be another Student Art Exhibition, there will be another Teen Arts as well.



Historic Horton Mansion to Remain

Despite rumors that the building is slated for demolition, Dr. Connolly's administration is determined to keep the building intact.

By: Cybele Tamulonis
College Hill Writer

Horton Mansion has been around a long time, and looks to stay here in the future. The impressive mansion—built in 1858 by John A. Horton, a successful leather manufacturer—is not slated to be torn down at this time.

The building has a tumultuous history with the press, despite its stony silence. Originally earmarked for demolition in 2009, the mansion gained attention from The Newton Historic Preservation Advisory Commission in 2014.

The preservation group tried unsuccessfully to get an ordinance passed by Newton's Town Council to have it listed as a historic building and, in effect, force a renovation.

According to town council minutes, the issue was hotly contested in a meeting, with the cost of renovation being the most problematic in achieving the ordinance, which was narrowly rejected.

According to the minutes, no representative from the college, nor any student was in attendance at that time.

Fortunately, the current college administration seems more adept at keeping the peace. While there are no plans to tear down the mansion, there are no firm plans in place at this moment for a full renovation,



Horton Mansion present day. The building sits right next to the college Administration Building and faces Route 519.

Photo courtesy of SCCC administration.

Other photos by Cybele Tamulonis unless otherwise noted.



First floor parlor after asbestos remediation. The large Gothic windows still provide plenty of light to the pre-electric building.

said Dr. Jon Connelly, president of SCCC.

“The ‘Horton House’ or ‘Horton Mansion’—as it is most commonly called—is a tribute to the history of Sussex County.

The college hopes that over a long period of time it will be restored to functionality, and towards some useful purpose for students. To make this possible, funding would need to be found for restoration purposes,” said Connelly.

Funding continues to be the main issue for the mansion and is not a cost that anyone would like to see pushed on to the students—so the balance between historic preservation and affordability continues to be a delicate matter.

Director of Facilities Charlene Peterson recently gave a tour of the building.

“We love this building, all of us here do and we want to see it taken care of,” she said.

Indeed, the outside of the building is pristine and well looked after.

“The facilities department buys paint every year and the staff volunteers to paint the porch and do some general caretaking,” she said.

Inside, it's immediately evident that there has been some effort to keep decay at bay. The asbestos has been remediated in a few rooms on the first floor and the hall is stacked with stored furniture.

Continuing further in, it becomes painfully obvious what a big job it would be to bring the building back to a fully operational space.

“Whether it's done in phases or another way, we'd like to see it back as a functioning building,” said Pe-

terson. “But it's not being torn down. We'd like to see it become a space for our students.”

The mansion was built on Horton's 200-acre estate in the classic Gothic style popular at the middle of the 19th Century.

According to research done by the late local historian Kevin W. Wright (who died in 2016), Horton commissioned the services of architect Chauncey Graham to build the mansion and accompanying gatehouse from local quarried limestone.

Horton was able to successfully run a working farm on the estate before starting plans for the main house. The Horton Estate holds Sussex County history deep in its soil.

According to Wright's research, it

(continued on next page)



Charlene Peterson at entrance to the mansion.

Stately Reminder of SCCC's Past

(Continued from previous page)

was also the homestead of Newton's first known settler, Henry Hairlocker, a German immigrant who settled on the area sometime before 1751.

Hairlocker built a tavern on the property, which also served as the county's first courthouse before an official one was completed in 1765.

Hairlocker was buried on the property in 1779 and his cabin was torn down in 1944.

Horton was never able to enjoy the living in the mansion. He died in 1858, the same year as the building's completion, at the age of 51, at his father-in-law's home in Newark.

In 1928, the property was sold with 167 acres to the Salesian Order of the Roman Catholic Church, for the training and education of priests.



Don Bosco in 1880

According to Peterson, the mansion housed 25 to 50 seminary students during its heyday. This number grew to almost 600 as the campus expanded, according to Ann Bain's book *Life on College Hill: a history of the site of the Sussex County Community College* (published 2008).



Chapel ceiling first floor with depictions of angels and saints installed by the Salesian Order. The artist is unknown.



Second floor hallway leading to original bedrooms, later transformed into priest's dormitory.

The campus also operated as a boy's summer camp for many years. Obviously, the mansion could not house all of these activities and students. So, in 1930, the order began work on constructing what is now known as the Student Center (D Building), which the order completed in 1931.

As Peterson said, "There is another historic building on campus, the Don Bosco building."

Students will recognize the beautiful 'Don Bosco College' in stained glass that decorates the front of the building.

"There is a plaque in the front hall when you enter, so the students can learn about the history of Don Bosco," Peterson continued "We are very much aware of the history of both buildings." At the time of this writing, the plaque had been removed to correct a spelling error, but it should be back up soon.

The plaque gives students the history of the Don Bosco era and translates the Salesians' Latin motto, 'Da Mihi Animas Cetera Tolle' to English, 'Give me souls; take away the rest.'

The plaque is thanks to the efforts of a former student, John Peter Zappe. "I wanted to make the history of the college known to my fellow students so that they, too, may have a greater appreciation of the buildings and grounds of the college," he told the *New Jersey Herald* in 2019.

SCCC's administration appreciated Zappe's efforts and held a plaque ceremony last year that hosted members of the members of the Salesian order as well as faculty and staff.

The Horton Mansion continued to be used as the main hall until around 1989 when the lure of the Salesian order had dwindled to a dozen students. The order sold the campus to Sussex County Community College and new era began on the Horton Estate.

The halls of Horton Mansion express varying styles of architecture and function implemented on the building over the years.

There are the Gothic archways and heavy pointed wooden doors Horton had installed, and the leaded stained glass and indoor plumbing the church contributed, as well as a dazzling array of paint colors the last group of Salesians added, each representing a different era of the mansion.

One of the most remarkable features is the ceiling of the former chapel on the first floor. Painted in a Baroque style, complete with gilding, depictions of angels and saints and ornamental plaster, it is breathtaking to behold.

While the ceiling is historical it seems slightly out of place in the austere architecture of the rest of the building. The second floor leads to a wide, airy and light-filled hall.

Off the hall, there are cubicles, study halls and common areas that were remodeled for the Salesian Brothers, brightly painted in cringe-worthy neon greens and eye-popping blues, and in no condition for visi-

tors or habitation at this point.

Limestone—a staple of Gothic architecture—may be the saving grace of the Horton mansion, allowing it to stand the test of time, from the outside at least, for 162 years.

However, one thing is clear after seeing the interior, the building has a lot of issues that cannot be addressed all at once. Perhaps, as Connelly indicated, a slow and steady approach is best.

"Our mission is to provide our students with a healthy, safe and affordable education," said Peterson.

If the mansion can be a part of that in the future, SCCC will have succeeded in preserving a piece of Sussex County history on its campus.



The stained glass windows on first floor were installed by the Salesian Order.

English department takes to online courses

By Meghan Carlson

College Hill writer

Everyone going to Sussex County Community College already knows that the school elected to go to online course during the COVID-19 pandemic, but how are classes dealing with the change? There is something to be said about English courses in the college settings.

One of those things is they are very flexible when it comes to being online courses. Different professors have different views on teaching and then there are those that are well adapted to doing both in class and online courses.

One of these professors is Maureen Murphy-Smolka, who is the Associate Professor of English and chair of the department.

To start, Murphy-Smolka said that “I am really proud to be a part of SCCC

faculty.” She knew there were going to be some difficulties with the transition to online courses, but she also knew that the faculty would do their best in order to make sure all of their students were cared for in these times.

“There was a learning curve,” she said, in regards to some who were not prepared for the move, “We had the Spring Break to do some training.”

Something that Murphy-Smolka did was to set up a conference with her students. To say the least, she has experience with being online and she gets more responses through this way.

With these conferences, which a majority of her students are able to make during the class time, she has become more flexible in understanding timelines.

“Teaching writing online is something that I never done.” Murphy-Smolka said. She prefers to teach writing face-to-face, for it allows immediate



feedback from both herself and the students.

Students are responsive to this type of teaching and the flexibility that has come of it. But it does come down to the student’s perception; some do prefer online courses while some prefer in class.

One of her colleagues, Jennifer

Daly, was able to give her perspective on this situation as well.

“Though it was overwhelming at first, I’m having fun learning to make great videos and more interactive handouts for my materials,” she said.

One of the programs that professors are using including Canvas is Zoom. Zoom is a program that is like Skype, but it can be used on cellphones.

“I’m using Zoom, which also allows me to connect with students while lecturing from different virtual places, which is fun!” Daly said.

People are looking for new ways to teach in these times, which is much appreciated. It is a time when we can come together to help each other, giving advice in how these classes can improve.

We can only hope that this situation does not go over into the summer semester, but if it does for some reason, the faculty and staff at SCCC will be there to help those who need it.

Violent assault in relationships goes on display

By Alba Santos

College Hill Writer

Sexual violence, its causes and effects, were the focus of an event sponsored by DASI.

The production was called “Relationship Feud.” It was a game to test how much SCCC students knew about healthy relationships and interpersonal violence knowledge, said Caitlin Clark, one of the event organizers.

DASI (Domestic Abuse and Sexual Assault Intervention Services) is a non-profit organization in Sussex County that assists survivors of domestic violence and sexual assault.

The organization has a campus presence in room D113 for students and staff members for any need for support in the event of sexual abuse or disclosure of any kind.

DASI created the “Relationship Feud Game,” a quiz with sixty questions about healthy relationships, abusive relationships, violence, abuse. It included advice about how to prevent unfortunate experiences than can happen to teens and adolescents.

All one needed to join was a smartphone and knowledge about healthy relationships.

On their cellphones, participants went to Kahoot! an application with a game-based learning platform. After entering the game code one could start playing.

During the event, six participants, female



Participants in the “Relationship Feud” game, sponsored by DASI, learned a lot about the problem of interpersonal violence.

Photo by Alba Santos

and male students from SCCC, answered questions, while learning important facts about violence, sexual assault. It started with the definition of what exactly is sexual assault, since many young people do not know.

Statistics were provided that are very important and opened eyes about our society, such

as every 92 seconds, an American is sexually assaulted.

Also, there were statistics about how much this affects younger minds and health. One study reported that 62 percent of pregnant teens have been victims of molestation, attempted rape, or rape, before a first pregnancy.

Studies of middle and high school students estimated the rate of physical aggression as 10-20 percent in the general teen population and much higher in high-risk youth.

The three people with the highest score won a prize. It was a helpful and admirable experience in which students filled a huge gap in knowledge about problems affecting our society.

With these kinds of activities, people can find ways to identify the signs and red flags on their relationships or those their friends are in.

DASI has its doors open and has a 24-hour helpline. It has an office in the college, available to any student facing similar problems or needing advice about their relationships.

Early on, COVID-19 made retail shopping scene a lonely place

By Claryssa Mills-Robinson

College Hill writer

In early March, people all over the world were worried about COVID – 19. There was panic buying of toilet paper, meat, milk, hand sanitizer, anti-bacterial wipes, tissues, paper towels, and many other items.

Along with other states, New Jersey has been put on lockdown and all non-essential businesses were closed. New York was one of the first states to take this action.

One non-essential business was TJ Maxx. A normal weekend at TJ Maxx in Middletown, N.Y., is busy with usually more than 50 people in the store.

It wasn’t until Thursday March 19, that TJ Maxx closed all stores in the country. But until then, COVID – 19 outbreaks had turned the busy weekends into quiet weekends with barely any customers and nothing for employees to do.

Sanitizing stations were placed in the fitting room, employee lounge, and front-end service department



wipes and again when there were few customers.

Some wore wearing gloves or masks and others walked around with hand sanitizer and used it every time they touched something.

Customers would ask employees if they sold hand sanitizer. The response was that TJ Maxx does not sell hand sanitizer and that it was the employees personal bottle of sanitizer that they bought for themselves.

When it came to the more essential businesses like Walmart and PetSmart, which were allowed to stay

by the registers. Employees at the registers would either wear gloves or use hand sanitizer after every customer, especially after handling money. Each morning the registers and credit card pin pads were wiped down with Lysol

open at this time, there was more panic and worry.

In another store, the shelves were empty. The toilet paper and paper towel shelves were completely empty. There were barely any paper plates or cups.

There was no more meat, the bread was almost gone and there were very few containers of water left. The milk and eggs were wiped out as were most of the fruits and vegetables.

The same could be said for ShopRite and Price Chopper. In PetSmart, there were minimal selections of pet foods, treats, and even toys. PetSmart stopped their adoption process, except for cats and fish.

The employees never got too close to customers and employees at the registers wore gloves and wore a new pair after every customer. They were no longer grooming pets and had stopped their training classes.

Although they were low on merchandise, they were restocking the shelves everyday so that no pet was affected by COVID-19 because of their owners not being able to stock up on food, treats, litter, and toys.

Emails tracked approach of virus

As SCCC prepared to meet an increasingly real threat to public health, it sent many emails to the college community of what had happened and what might happen. Listed below those coronavirus-related emails sent in March and April.

In the interest of brevity, entries are limited to summarizing specific actions and, excepting those from the Coronavirus Task Force, do not identify originating office.

The recurring theme running through all communications from all offices was an overriding concern for the safety of the college community.

Feb. 28, 2020: College monitoring “developments related to a respiratory illness caused by a new coronavirus (previously called “2019-nCoV,” now called “COVID-19”).” Announcement details symptoms, states there have been no cases at SCCC and advises people to practice hygienic and social distancing behavior that soon became common.

March 4: SCCC following “guidance of our local and state resources to ensure we have current and accurate information to safeguard out students, employees and visitors.” Offers advice on symptoms and hygienic practices.

Faculty told to prepare for possible move to Canvas and advised on steps to do so.

March 6: College forms Coronavirus Task Force to “prepare for, communicate, and address College matters that have direct and indirect impacts stemming from the outbreak.”

March 9: Breakfast of Champions postponed, for possibly later in April.

March 9: College is monitoring developments and preparing “for all scenarios.” Classrooms being disinfected daily with spray cleaners; planned campus events may be canceled; reiterates need to keep hands clean, cover coughs, refrain from shaking hands.

March 10: Canvas training videos made available.

March 11: Canvas training sessions scheduled.

March 12: Coronavirus Task Force announces “The College will be temporarily moving a majority of courses online, starting week of March 23. The temporary move to online instruction will be assessed weekly, with the first status update being March 25 for the following week. Faculty should continue to work with their respective Dean to develop and implement a plan to deliver their course.”

March 12: Four Men’s Lacrosse games remaining in March are canceled.

March 16: College will abide by Executive Order #104 issued by Gov. Murphy requiring all New Jersey schools to cease in-person instruction effective March 18. Order permits waivers “to allow in-person instruction to students on a case-by-case basis where a compelling rationale to allow such access exists.” College observes that specifics of “a compelling rationale” are not clear,” but expresses hope for clarification.

March 18: College announces all SCCC classes, small and large, will be offered “remotely ...” Waivers will be considered for an “exceptional” few, such as science labs, automotive, culinary “and a few others.” Faculty seeking waivers must submit requests by noon, March 19. Such requests are to be “processed” by state health authorities.

March 19: Online classes to begin March 23.

March 19: College sends out list provided by

Sussex County Chamber of Commerce of 20 area restaurants offering take-out food.

March 20: College says an unidentified employee has the virus. Buildings that employee frequented are given “a thorough and deep cleaning.”

March 20: Faculty thanked for efforts in preparing for upcoming challenges. Buildings A, B/C, E and L are “essentially closed” while D Building is “partially opened.” Library going virtual Monday.

March 21: College says all courses will be online effective on return from Spring Break, March 23.

Gov. Murphy issues Executive Order #107 which, among its provisions, requires public to “stay at home,” closes all but “essential” retail businesses, closes libraries and orders institutions of higher learning to cease in-person instruction. Provision for waivers remains operative, but there is no elaboration on a “compelling rationale.”



The coronavirus

Nature.com

March 23: College employee who tested positive is reported “ill but recovering.” “All protocols are being followed regarding our facilities, and this person’s case is being pursued as dictated by the rules of the Sussex County Health Department.

“The College will be disinfected for the health and safety of our college community. We are continuing to work closely in concert with our partners in Sussex County as the Health Department conducts its investigation and monitoring moving forward.”

March 24: Email states first official day “of SCCC operating in a virtual capacity is in the History books.” Everyone is thanked “for making the transition as seamless as possible ...”

March 25: Email states college it is “conducting outreach to all of our current students. Through this process, one of the themes that has emerged is that some students may not be hearing from their faculty members.” It also states many faculty are maintaining “excellent communication channels” with students.

March 26: Following guidance from state Department of Health, college tells employees they

may authorize college to be told if they are diagnosed with COVID-19.

Signing an authorization form is voluntary. A subsequent email explains the waiver would allow College to notify individuals with whom the person may have had contact.

March 27: Reminder of behaviors to provide for safety of oneself and others and links to assist in managing homework environments and interaction with others.

March 27: Student class evaluations will not be done this semester.

March 28: Attachment with Families First Coronavirus Response Act is distributed All College, with recommendation it be reviewed to understand potential benefits.

March 31: Task Force report includes following items: Faculty are saying it “may be less confusing and provide consistency” if classes remain online for rest of semester; Various offices in college are helping students deal with remote delivery; Food Pantry is preparing bags for students who need them and pick-up locations are being coordinated. Human Resources working on unemployment claims; Student financial aid being processed.

April 1: Courses will remain online for rest of semester. Graduation postponed “indefinitely.”

April 14: Task Force report includes following items: Fall registration now open.

Cuts in state aid expected, but reductions at state institutions expected to be “much more dramatic” than at community colleges. Summer enrollment down, but communication ongoing.

Marketing is working on fall campaign; a campus tour video is being created and Summer I \$100 fee is waived. Commencement ceremony canceled.

April 20: Task Force report includes following items, mostly concerning normal activities of running the college, with adaptations as necessary:

College received \$500,000 federal CARES grant to help students with emergency cash grants; Pass/Fail still under consideration;

Summer I is fully online; summer session beginning June 23 being moved online while decision pending on session beginning July 6. For international students, visas are being granted only for emergency medical reasons.

College sent out COVID-19 student impact survey “to gain a deeper and better understanding of the challenges our students are facing.” In addition to cleaning, Facilities is working on football practice field project and new Academic Center.

April 24: Coronavirus Task Forces announces that Faculty Senate says “there are concerns regarding online teaching over a long period.” Also, it’s reported that “there are concerns among faculty who have health conditions on coming back for face-to-face instruction in the fall.”

Registrar’s office working on language of pass/fail and incomplete options. It’s reported that every school is awaiting guidance from national level regarding fall athletics. Community members who are calling in for food pantry items are being directed to county food pantries.

Security is charting visitors to campus, when they come and where they go. Marketing is looking around country for ideas on graduation.

Admissions is beginning to see an uptick in application counts.

Color adds to Nature in art display at College

By Meghan Carlson

College Hill Writer

Showing in the gallery at SCCC, Ka'rin Lowney-Seed has her paintings that represent nature and the use of color.

Lowney-Seed first decided to become an artist when she was young. She sold her first piece of art to her grandmother for \$25 when she was just twelve.

"This was in the sixties, it felt like a lot of money," Lowney-Seed said with humor. She felt at that time that this was a need, something that she had to do.

Lowney-Seed, a Sparta resident, has been working on the series over the course of two years with lots of pieces missing that have been sold.

Lowney-Seed got her Masters in Fine Arts degree from the School of the Art Institute of Chicago. She is also a professor of art history and studio classes which allows her to use her knowledge in her works.

Her works were also exhibited in Brooklyn Museum, Brooklyn NY, The Philadelphia Art Museum, The Art Insti-



Ka'rin Lowney-Seed among her paintings displayed in B/C building.

Meghan Carlson photos

tute of Chicago, Art Basel Miami and Art Expo New York.

One of the ways that Lowney-Seed works is in a series or a group of paintings. It is one of a way she gets inspiration for her works.

"I'll start something and sometimes I have a little moment that triggers something, thinking of taking the series part a different way" she said.

One example being the water series, in which it is a series looking at water and its fluidness but then she gets that moment to merge it with the hard part of life.

"It's organic" she said, "I let it go where it's gonna go."

Lowney-Seed said with this series of paintings (which a mix of two series is; the Forest and the other The Water) she was using a newer technique.

With acrylics, by using "transparent layers and working up those layers of depth and trying to work with the idea of hard and soft" she said.

(Continued on page 11)



From top: "They Said They Couldn't Work it Out" and "Pushing Towards an Answer"



Above: "Spring Forest"



(Left to right) "New Growth", "He Said, She Said", "Full Bloom", "She Blushed"

(Continued from page 10)

The one thing that she likes to do is to have this clean, but looseness to her works and one of the questions she asks herself is “how can I get those things together and make the work for me?”

Something that is new to her is use of the color pink.

“I’m a colorist, I’m pretty bold with color. I’m not afraid of it. Pink has been a new color for me. Working with it is a challenge of its own” she said.

With two of her works, she uses quotes that are representative of nature. She said “I used not my words to tell people, but history words to tell people.”

What she meant is, like most people she is very concerned about if people are thinking about the environment and how it can affect them.

She used quotes of comedians, writers, architects and others who looked at nature and shared why nature is so important to them.

“It’s why we need it so bad, it’s a healing part of our world,” Lowney-Seed said.

When the exhibit opened, Lowney-Seed said it was excellent and she was thrilled to see all of the works put up in one space.

“Where I see it crowded in my studio,” Lowney-Seed stated, “it is nice to have the breathing room around the work and see it stand on its own.”

She has said that she has work her way through it all and that her ongoing process will forever morph.

Lowney-Seed does not stay in on place forever.

“Once it told its story, I move on,” she stated, “I’m always looking for something new, a new way to tell the story.”



From left: “Universe” and “Mother Na-



“Life of the Party”



“New Growth”



From left: “Make a Choice” and “Do You Think She Likes it in There?”

Voices from past SHOUT out for women's rights

By **Alba Santos**
College Hill Writer

"The history of the past is but one long struggle upward to equality.."
Elizabeth Cady Stanton

Susan B Anthony, Elizabeth Stanton, Alice Paul, Matilda Joslyn Gage, Ida B. Wells - Those are some of the many women who fought, broke down barriers and led one of the most powerful movements in women's history.

Their struggle and the world they faced was performed by the college's acting students in "SHOUT!"

The program portrayed the early 1800s until the early 1900s, when women were denied some basic rights as men.

Women started to get tired of not having an opinion and not being able to do anything, so they finally decided to defend their rights and their beliefs.

In July of 1848, Elizabeth Cady Stanton and Lucretia Mott organized the first women's rights convention at Seneca Falls in New York, attended by more than 300 people—mostly women, but some men, including former African-American slave and activist Frederick Douglass.

Stanton was the leading feminist philosopher for the first generation of women's rights activists. The campaign for women's suffrage was a small but growing movement in the decades before the Civil War.



The cast of SHOUT, at the performance bringing alive voices of women's suffrage.

Photo by Alba Santos

However, not until the Nineteenth Amendment in 1919 did women throughout the nation gain the right to vote.

SHOUT! is a collection of original poetry and dramatic dialogues written by Susanna Rich from the points of view of core suffragist figures. Those voices range from the Seneca Falls Convention in July 1848 to the 19th Amendment.

Rich has transformed researched material into a four-dimensional experience for readers and audiences. It opens a window to the world of suffragettes: An activist force-fed during a hunger strike, an African-American marching among 6,000 white women, a modern-day political candidate thwarted in "getting the vote" in the 21st century among others. Specializing in writing historical poetry, Rich is an Emmy-

Award nominee, a Fulbright Fellow in Creative Writing, and the recipient of the Presidential Excellence Award for Distinguished Teaching at Kean University

Directed and performed by art and theater professor Stella Trikouros and her Acting II class students, it featured a special appearance by Toni Zimmer (Secretary of the Board of the League of Women Voters of the United States, past president of LWV NJ and LWV Sussex County, as well as an SCCC Theatre alumnus).

SHOUT! is a way to give audiences a deeper insight into the inner struggles that activists had to endure in order to bring rights to women. With the show being in a first-person perspective, one could step into their shoes and view the world how they saw it.

The representation of these historical characters acted out by the students caused excitement and inspiration in the audience that day. So much was the passion of the actors that made some of the people present that day shed tears.

"Read, read and read" is what one of the actors said when asked what they do to prepare. They have been preparing for three weeks.

"The thing about acting," said Trikouros "is to get a voice, to start to embellish the character, to experience it," and all the actors found their voice in their characters, so much so that it seemed that they were not just characters. It felt real.

"When portraying these incredible women in the story, it takes a lot of preparation and emotion since it takes a certain connection with the character, so that the audience knows that they were really real people who fought until the last moment for what they wanted and they believed."

"We are very fortunate, because when I think what they went through, starving themselves and things like that, but they did that just to give us the right to vote," said Zimmer, talking about the dramatic characters portrayed.

A simple act on stage, raising their hands for five minutes to represent the pain one woman suffered while hanging from her hands in prison, it made it easier for the actors to put themselves in the shoes of these incredible women.

College novel talk a good time to learn

By **Meghan Carlson**
College Hill Writer

When you entered the Student Center Theater the first thing that greeted you was the smell of popcorn. Students and faculty were munching on the as they waited for the discussion to begin.

And when it did, Dr. Mary Thompson took to the podium with professional excitement. She told us about her background and her relationship with Dr. Laurie Sterling. Sterling works at King's College in Wilkes-Barre, Pennsylvania.

There is an undeniable love of fiction

with Thompson, an English professor here at Sussex Community college, but there is an expressed love of fairy tales. But it was not she who picked the book that was used in the discussion. It was nominated by Peter Schoch, a physics professor at the college, said Thompson.

Anyone can nominate for a novel discussion. Once the nominations are in, the book is chosen by the group.

He said it was on his summer reading list, jokingly adding, "Yes, even some of us 'old people' have a summer reading list." He did say he had been a bit unsure because it was not his usual reading material.

A genre to which he compared it was sci-fi/fantasy. "It was as if you were reading a bit of Jules Verne, mixed with some social commentary" he said.

Time at the College Novel discussion enlightened on about a work called *Haroun and the Sea of Stories* by Salman Rushdie. Why, you ask, is this novel important? Or better yet, why are stories important?

The answer is stories are the most important part of human nature. It is why it is important to have these discussions, because we as humans can analyze the importance of such works.

Fiction is an important part of human

nature. As Sterling said, "I don't think humans can survive without telling a story."

In 1989, Rushdie was threatened with death for his book, *The Satanic Verses*. He spent about 10 years in hiding after the rulers of Iran said he should be killed because the book was offensive to Islam.

Thompson presented a clip of what happened and the backlash from the novel. It was to put the audience in the mindset of the novel as the focus of the discussion.

If anyone has the chance to go to these discussions, one will not regret it. Thompson directed a great discussion and there will be more in the future.

Ambassadors give to College while working on their goals

By **Claryssa Mills-Robinson**
College Hill Writer

Sussex County Community College has a lot to offer and one thing a student can do is become a Skylander Student Ambassador.

The ambassador program is a semester-long program administered by Amy Rude, overseer for Campus Life and advisor for the SGA, and the ambassadors

As an ambassador one can help run and plan events that will get students more involved on campus. The program comes with a process in choosing the right ambassadors. There are 15 spots available each semester for new and returning ambassadors.

The program is constantly changing as well as the application process. This semester's application process dove deeply into an applicant's strengths and weaknesses, both personal and intuitive.

An important part of the application process is an interview. The interview is based on a series of questions that give Rude and her team of interviewers a closer look at the applicant, what one can bring to

the program and one's definition of teamwork.

Of the 15 available spots, usually about half of the students filling those spots are returning ambassadors from the previous semester.

By the end of a semester, an ambassador must devote a number of hours to the program. There are two 80-hour positions, two 60s and 11 40s, these usually filled by new ambassadors.

Regarding the ambassador group for this semester, Rude said, "they have a positive vibe, they have passion, they're more open, and bring a lot of energy to the program".

Dakota Pittman, an 80-hour ambassador, is a captain. She had been president of the Criminal Justice club when her friends, who were ambassadors at the time, pushed her to fill out the application in the fall of 2018.

She recalled that her interview process was "stressful and terrifying". She said she thought she didn't do great, but she still became an ambassador in the end.

She started out as a 40-hour ambassador, but was shy and reserved from the



Student Ambassadors at annual SCCC Foundation Dinner at Perona Farms in fall '19.

others. However, they quickly helped her gain a level of self-confidence and they helped her at a time when her mental health was declining.

Watching her work as an ambassador today just shows how strong of a person she has become due to the help of her friends and Rude.

The process of becoming a returning ambassador was less stressful and she had more confidence going into that interview than she did the first time. As a captain, Pittman makes sure all of the ambassadors are doing work that makes them comfortable and she doesn't push them too hard unless she feels like it will help.

The ambassador program brings together people who quickly become a family and push each other to achieve greatness in leadership and personal growth. Pittman is one example of that and Rude is always

around to push one along and help to accomplish one's goals.

For more information about the SCCC Skylander Ambassador Program please stop by the Campus Life office.

A statistical portrait of SCCC student body

Attendance status

	FA 2018		FA 2019	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Full-time	1,318	57.3%	1276	55.1%
Part-time	982	42.7%	1041	44.9%
TOTAL	2,300	100%	2317	100%

First-time, Full-time Degree-Seeking

FA 2018	FA 2019	Change
316	405	2.81%

First-time, Full-time, Degree Seeking by Sex

FTFT degree-seeking	Number
Male	215
Female	175
Not reported	15
TOTAL	405

First-time, Part-time Degree-Seeking

FA 2018	FA 2019	Change
56	107	91.1%

First-time, Part-time, Degree-Seeking by Sex

FTFT degree-seeking	Number
Male	48
Female	56
Not reported	3
TOTAL	107

Registration status

	FA 2018		FA 2019		Change In Number
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	
Continuing	1217	56.74%	1229	53.0%	0.9%
First-time	580	25.22%	664	28.6%	14.5%
Stop-out/readmit	237	10.30%	253	10.9%	6.8%
Transfer	178	7.74%	172	7.4%	-3.4%
TOTAL	2300	100%	2318	100%	

Matriculation Status

	Number	Percent
Degree-seeking	2021	87.2%
Non-degree-seeking	297	12.8%
TOTAL	2318	100%

Class Level

	Number	Percent
Freshman	1311	56.6%
Sophomore	710	30.6%
Unclassified	297	12.8%
TOTAL	2318	100%

Average GPA (excluding first-time and concurrent students):

Sex

	Number	Percent
Female	825	49.9%
Male	781	47.2%
Not reported	48	2.9%
TOTAL	1654	100%

Race/ethnicity

	Number	Percent
White	1790	77.2%
2 or more races/ethnicities	300	12.9%
Hispanic/Latino	103	4.4%
Black/African American	59	2.5%
Asian	47	2.0%
American Indian/Alaskan Native	3	0.1%
Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander	4	0.2%
Unknown	12	0.5%
TOTAL	2318	100%

Citizenship

	Percent
U.S. citizen	98.0%
Non-resident alien	2.0%
TOTAL	100%

State of Residence

	Number	Percent
New Jersey	2086	90%
Pennsylvania	171	7.4%
Foreign Country	48	2.1%
New York	9	0.4%
Alabama	0	0%
Colorado	0	0%
Connecticut	0	0%
Florida	0	0%
Other	4	0.2%
TOTAL	2318	100%

Most Common N.J. County Residency

	Number
Sussex County	1918
Warren County	93
Morris County	25
Passaic County	22

Average Age

	Average
Overall	25
Full-time	23
Part-time	28

Traditional/Non-traditional Aged Students: Total Headcount

	Number	Percent
Traditional*	1766	76.2%
Non-traditional	549	23.7%
Unknown	3	0.1%
TOTAL	2318	100%

*Traditional aged student is defined as age 25 and younger

SCCC
Students by
the Numbers

*The Office of Institutional Research and Assessment, headed by Cory Homer, assembles these comparative statistical snapshots of the student body each semester. This one is for **Fall '19.***



College student leaves job here to care for family

(Continued from page 1)

demic. Her parents had been helping her care for her two elementary school-aged children when the crisis hit and public schools shut down to move to home school instruction.

"I was not comfortable with them continuing to watch them while I was at work," Zabriskie said, "my mother has extensive health issues and her pulmonologist wasn't comfortable either."

Zabriskie's mother had been hospitalized for eight days in February and came home with an oxygen tank, putting her at higher risk for COVID-19. "I just can't take the risk of exposing my mom to it.

For sure, it would kill her," Zabriskie said, voicing the concern many have with exposing their elderly parents to small children and possibly infecting them with the virus.

Zabriskie's father is a Vietnam veteran who suffers from neurological complications after exposure to Agent Orange. "I just knew it was time for me to be there for my kids and keep my parents safe."

It has been difficult not to see her parents, but they stay in contact as much as possible. "We call them, but we won't go over there," she said.

After Zabriskie left work to be home with her kids full-time, she faced a whole new challenge of home schooling her children and juggling her own coursework.

"I just took my mid-term, and I was pretty nervous," she said.

"Hopefully, I did well. I am planning to take psychology with Dr. (Richard) Linden in the fall." With the additional stress of completing college work in addition to home-schooling her own children, Zabriskie keeps a positive attitude.

"I get my school-work done because this is to improve my way of life and will enable me to get a better job to provide for my family," she said.

To keep her own children occupied during the crisis, Zabriskie said she goes on hikes with them a few times a week to clear their minds. This gets them outside for the bulk of the day as soon as they are done with their school assignments.

"Every morning I put both feet on the ground and tell myself, you live in the best country you can possibly live in. Be grateful you don't live under a dictator and remember that there are people in other places that are living like this every day.



Erin Zabriskie, both a student and employee at SCCC, is now at home, caring for her family.

"Your children are still being educated and this is only temporary."

Despite her positive attitude, she still has some worries, "My sixth grader is missing her final year of elementary school," she said.

Even though her own daughter will miss all of the end of the year ceremonies that sixth graders would typically participate in, she has empathy for others, "Can you imagine being a senior in high school during this time?" she asked.

While many remain on lockdown, with employers shutting down business as usual, Zabriskie's husband still goes out to work for a large landscaping company where he is in a management position.

This type of situation is a concern for many who are sheltering in place while a family member goes out to work and possible exposure to infection.

Zabriskie and her husband stick to a routine New Jersey residents are familiar with when someone leaves the house.

"He takes his boots and clothes off in the garage and then goes straight into the shower," she said, "He has a good immune system and is never sick, so I'm not too worried. His job is also very good about keeping the 6-foot policy enforced."

When asked about her plans for after the crisis has passed, Zabriskie made no hesitation about what to do.

"Dinner at the Walpack Inn," she answered. "It was my birthday March 17th and we couldn't go, so I'm looking forward to that."

Experienced pair at library keep its resources ready

By Sarah Haudek
College Hill Writer

Any student, or SCCC employee, who has an overdue college library book, shouldn't worry because Lauren Jessop and Stephanie Cooper will take care of it.

Books can be renewed after May 1, so no need to bring a book back just yet.

Cooper, library director, and Jessop, assistant to the director, have worked hard to keep things in order to help students as much as they can. Jessop has worked in the library for 26 years and Cooper has been there for 13 years. They are a tight-knit pair and work well together.

"Lauren makes it interesting" Cooper said.

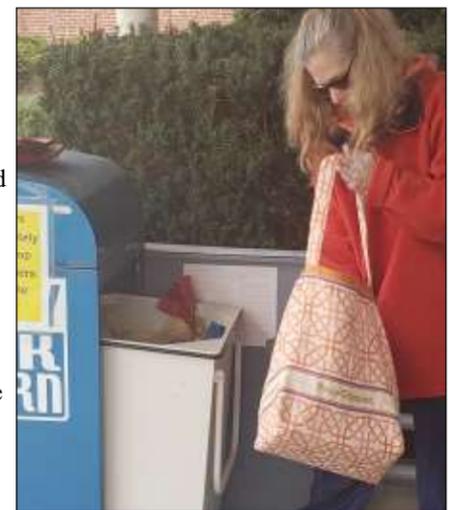
A big part in the library is, of course, the fish: Bruce and Jaws. Cooper and Jessop assured everyone the two are okay. Jessop set up a self-feeder and goes in once or twice a week to check up on things. Another thing Jessop did on a visit to campus was to clear newspapers out of drop box on the porch by the main entrance on B Building.

The Library was arguably the first official closing at the college and Cooper had a big say in this. She said how she was isolated in the library and reported concern as to why it was still open.

"I'd be the only car there," Cooper said, so she pushed to get the library closed. They began to prepare beginning with Spring Break, alternating days of being on campus. It gave them time to be prepared if they had to work from home permanently, as how Jessop set up the self-feeder for the fish. A big incentive came when they learned someone, whose identify can't be discussed, had the virus.

She said libraries were being looked at as essential service and closing can make it difficult to close for foreign exchange students. Cooper spoke of one student who would come in all the time and it was difficult to ask to leave.

Cooper said it's been a learning process, but one of the things she loves about being



Lauren Jessop clearing papers from the drop box in front of B Building.

a librarian is learning new things. She has learned a lot about online learning and video tutorials alongside Jessop. Cooper has said working from home is also a learning curve, but sitting at home things don't seem so terrible.

"But going to the grocery store and seeing markers for six-foot distancing and people in masks and gloves is a little unnerving," She said.

Jessop said keeping a routine helps and she is finding it easier to manage time at work. "We're all in the same boat," she said. It can be scary at times, but, she said, to use this as a learning experience.

Both said not many students have reached out to them, but they still want everyone to know they are here to answer any questions and help in anyway they can.

There is an updated library page and on the college website there are links and resources students may need. Both have said there is an internet archive where books are on the shelves, just digitally.

Jessop and Cooper are working hard and want students and everyone to know this is hard and negative things will happen, but positive things come out of it.

(Continued from page 13)

Traditional/Non-traditional Aged Students: First-time, Full-time, Degree-seeking students

FTFT degree-seeking	Number
Traditional*	377
Non-traditional	28
TOTAL	405

*Traditional aged student is defined as age 25 and younger

Enrollment by Age Grouping

	Number	Percent
<18 years old	21	0.9%
18-22 years old	1443	62.3%
23-29 years old	493	21.3%
30-39 years old	210	9.1%
40-49 years old	60	2.6%
50+ years old	88	3.8%
Unknown	3	0.1%
TOTAL	2318	100%

Registered credits

	FA 2018		FA 2019	
	Average	Total	Average	Total
Full-time	13.6	17863	13.6	17398
Part-time	6.5	6386	6.3	6521
Overall	10.5	24,249	10.3	23919

Full-time equivalent (FTE)

	FA 2018	FA 2019
FTE (total credit hr/15)	1,616	1,594

Developmental Course Enrollment (Total FA19 enrollment)

	Number	Percent (of total FA18 enrollment)
One course	113	4.9%
Two courses	16	.07%