

Is SCCC Safe?

Change coming in Procedures, Equipment

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will not be tolerated **Page 1, 2**
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By **Grace Thuen**
College Hill Writer

Recent school shootings across the country have raised concerns that will bring “a culture change” at Sussex County Community College, said Dr. Jon Connolly, the school’s president.

Changes in coming

months will involve lockdown drills, communications equipment and college staff and faculty, he said, emphasizing the college expects full participation in drills and will discipline employees who ignore them.

See **Connolly**
Page 2

Violent Video Games and Young Killers: Do they mix?

By **Matt Epperly**
College Hill Writer

In the wake of another mass shooting, concerns have been raised over the cause of these tragedies. One theory about the cause is the popularity of video games among members of the younger generation (the 12-18 age range), which comprises most of the shooters.

However, a recent study found little connection between avid gaming

and violent actions. Researchers said participants in the study did not “behave in a certain way that would indicate an increased realism involving the violence of video games would affect their behavior in the real world.” This study was done by the University of York in the U.K. in 2016-2017.

Using more than 3,000 participants, the team concluded video game concepts do not “prime”



Video games featuring violence have wide appeal.

players to behave in certain ways and that increasing the realism of violent video games does not necessarily increase aggression in players.

One experiment exposed players to two combat games, one using

(See **Games**, Page 6)

Students Want Safety

By **Grace Thuen,**
Ryan Quentz
and **Jordan Bryson**
College Hill Writers

Students from Sussex County Community College recently shared their reactions after the school shooting in Parkland, Florida, as well as their opinions on SCCC’s security and safety should such an event ever happen here. The students were willing to share their opin-

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Connolly

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Connolly shared his thoughts and insights about school security in an interview in his office during the waning days of the Spring 2018 semester.

Though some students have expressed they do not feel safe on campus, Connolly said he personally feels safe and believes the students and faculty are protected well enough.

He said there are three retired police officers and a fire chief on the campus security team, and a dedication to safety is what they “live and breathe.”

He said a campus security position “requires a totality of safety and security.”

Though Connolly expressed confidence in the safety of the campus, he said there are some “improvements” that can be made to enhance the communication, cooperation, and overall success of future lockdown drills.

To make the campus aware of a lockdown, he

said, “every classroom and every office is going to have a telephone in it.”

Also, he continued, there will be a centralized location sending out as-needed alerts to each computer screen as well as to each telephone over the telephone’s speaker.

Connolly said the manner in which lockdown drills have been announced is a concern, and that the most recent drill “highlighted” that issue.

Another concern warranting improvement, he said, is getting “total compliance from everyone,” including current faculty, during the drills. He described this matter as part of a “culture change” brought about by the recurrent shootings that needs to be accepted.



Connolly

Many faculty grew up when shootings were not an issue, but now they have to adjust to a changed environment.

He said the college would take a hard line with faculty who ignore a lockdown during a class and continue teaching in a business-as-usual manner.

“We’re aware there were some faculty who honestly didn’t hear it (the lockdown announcement) or heard it and ignored it,” he said.

He said the school will forgive past instances and help faculty move forward in training, but ultimately it is “insubordination (to ignore a drill) and by our policy, insubordination would have significant disciplinary consequences.”

In regards to repetitive practice of lockdown drills, Connolly said, “No, we do not practice drills enough ... moving forward, we will be doing more.”

He said there will be more drills throughout the

spring, summer and fall semesters than there have been in the past.

Connolly would not comment whether faculty should be armed, saying it would not be proper to reveal his political opinions, given his role at the college.

“We are in constant communication with the Newton Police Department and we are evaluating consultants’ reports to determine what the best practices are for us moving forward; we’re in the middle of deploying those,” he said.

Safety, however, doesn’t come free, he said. “We’re going to have to spend more money” on things such as technology and computerized lockdown systems and “in the next year and a half or two ... the projects will be complete,” he said.

Regardless of these changes, Connolly said: “I guarantee it will not have any impact on tuition, fees, or taxes.”

College Security Chief Lists Changes in Progress

By **Mackenzie Bennett**
College Hill Writer

After the deadly school shooting in Parkland, Florida, many schools are reevaluating their campus’ security. SCCC takes the safety very seriously and is currently in the process of improving that safety.

“The college’s security consists of an in house security team with over 100 combined years of professional public safety experience that operates and oversees a contracted

security outfit that supplies guards,” said Fred Mamay, Director of Campus Safety and Security.

Although many guards on campus have backgrounds in law enforcement, none are currently armed. Mamay said the College Board has passed a policy that will let the guards who have previous experience in law enforcement carry a firearm on campus, which he agrees with.

All classroom doors in every building on campus lock automatically when closed.

“Even before the tragic event in Florida, we have been working to install a system that will keep the integrity of our open campus while having the ability to “lock down” our exterior doors remotely if the need ever arises,” he said.



Mamay

See **Security**, Page 3

Faculty Oppose Being Armed in Class

Questioning Numerous Aspects of Carrying Guns

By **Mikaela Crowell**
College Hill Writer

In response to the recent tragedy in Florida, the idea that teachers should be armed is growing in popularity, and is a controversial topic throughout the United States.

The same is true at Sussex County Community College. More than a dozen faculty members were contacted in a survey; of those who responded, all opposed the idea of carrying guns.

Amy Rude, professor and Assistant Director of Student Engagement, said "You're not paying teachers and professors enough to also go through crisis and firearms training. We would be better served to utilize retired police officers or returning veterans once they've gone through psychological training to guard our schools."

George Lightcap, an Effective Speaking and Foundations for Success professor strongly believes

"The idea of arming teachers is absurd - a darkly laughable, arrogantly ignorant, blatantly profit-driven sentiment by a gun industry - not at all interested in the Second Amendment, but with increasing gun sales.

"If teachers are armed, should movie theater ticket-takers and ushers be armed? How about bouncers at nightclubs? Should our outdoor concerts be ringed by armed guards? When do we cease to be America and become nothing more than an armed camp?"

Lightcap continued, "before arming teachers, perhaps we should consider addressing what has become the true terrorist element in America: registering white men with access to assault-style weapons and high-capacity magazines."

Patricia Clancy, history professor, said, "I am adamantly opposed to arming faculty and professors. I am not skilled in the use of

weaponry and I for one do not own a gun, I do not want to own a gun, nor do I want to carry or learn how to kill someone. If we need to protect our schools, then hire and train plain-clothed security.

"I do not want to be responsible for making a mistake and shooting a student, or be criticized for how I handled the situation. And, if I did have to be armed and even if I shot a perpetrator, I am not sure I could live with the fact that I killed another human being, even a bad one."

John Krejci, a professor of mathematics, said "I do not want to be armed. I am opposed to open or concealed carry for faculty. More guns will not help. What we need is to build tolerance and bridges. Many would consider that a very idealistic thought. Now we have security people to protect us against people who decide to commit terrorism on campus. We need to do a better job determining

which students are at risk for carrying out an attack.

"We need a way to quickly notify security of events. Personally, giving me a gun would not be a safe thing to do. I have never shot a handgun. As a young boy I had a BB gun, but that is quite a bit different. I have no idea how to use a gun and really have no interest in learning."

Athletic Director John Kuntz said, "I would disagree with arming professors/faculty. I realize that in an active shooting scenario that time is the most critical factor, but having a, basically inexperienced person, even though trained to shoot, carrying a weapon may not be the best. We need to continue to explore other safety measures."

Professor Audrey O'Connell responded by asking a question for all to examine and contemplate: "Is discussing arming faculty a distraction from the larger gun control issue?"

Security

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The college is also working to upgrade the communications system so it will include a public address system inside classrooms that will work through telephones. Public TV monitors connected to the RAVE Alert system are in the works.

In regards to an active shooter situation, the college's Emergency Operations Plan, which can be found on the school's website, lists three steps to respond:

- 1) Evacuating from a building would be the first initial action;
- 2) Hiding in an area outside of a shooter's view;

3) Fighting back and attempting to incapacitate a shooter would be a last resort.

"We also work very closely with the Newton Police Department and other local law enforcement and first responder agencies to help ensure the safety of our campus," said Mamay.

In the recent lockdown drill, he said, there were students who complained about not knowing where to hide because windows surrounded a classroom on all sides.

Mamay said windows are coated in a shatterproof film that will prohibit an intruder from busting through, so it is best to hide near a window rather than a door. Another lockdown drill is expected next semester.

Students on Safety

(Continued from page 1)

ions on the event that took place in Florida, as well as their opinions on whether they believe SCCC is prepared should such an incident take place.

Overall, the students said they do not feel security is top notch. Keeley McGregor (Sophomore, Wantage Township) said that when practicing a lockdown drill on campus over the spring semester, “nobody followed the directions, including the professor. We all sat in our seats and continued to talk.” McGregor said she “would like to think” the staff and faculty would do anything in their power to protect her along with her fellow students, but other students were not so hopeful.

Tyler Bahr (SCCC 2015 Alumni, Wantage Township) shared his most honest feelings when explaining he feels like the SCCC staff and security would “hide” if something were to happen.

Bahr said that he feels it was a “fend for yourself” feeling when he was on campus in recent years, and offered some insight and recommendations from a student’s perspective: “I feel like there needs to be more communication between the student and the faculty,” not only a, “quick blip (PowerPoint slide) in freshman year and then forgetting about it.” Bahr also said armed security is an option to pursue.

Emily Warncke (SCCC

2016 Alumni, Wantage Township) explained that though she feels the staff would protect her, she “felt more safe with the veterans group [on campus] than security.” She offered that a “meet the security panel” could be a way to introduce the students to the security on campus and build that trust.

Lucy Cantu (sophomore, Lafayette Township)



said people dedicated specifically to the protection of the campus would help; a mix of both current security as well as armed security is a possible solution.

Connor Fitzsimmons (sophomore, Vernon Township) expressed similar ideas. “We need to get everyone on board and to understand what needs to happen in order to save as many lives as possible.” Echoing what others said, he said procedures need to be more clearly explained and practiced; the staff needs to be better trained to better communicate how to stay safe during an event.

SCCC students do not want an event like the Parkland, Florida shooting to happen and are willing to share and come up with ways to prevent that.

Samantha Roethel, a liberal arts major and sophomore at SCCC shared

some strong words regarding the FBI and police receiving tips about the Parkland shooter dozens of times.

“I couldn’t imagine why the police, if informed ahead of time, wouldn’t do anything. I think that’s really disappointing.”

“I think (such incidents) happen so often because things are getting really out of control. There isn’t enough understanding in the nation. If you aren’t in that situation you don’t believe it could ever happen to you.”

On feeling safe at SCCC? “I don’t feel safe at school anymore. I don’t feel safe in any high populated areas. It’s too easy for someone dangerous to get to us.”

Whether SCCC is prepared in case of a shooting: “I don’t know if anyone can properly be prepared in the case of a shooting. It’s such an insane idea that a person would knowingly and maliciously harm a random group of people.”

“I know the schools are doing what they can, and I want to feel safe at school. The one thing I can say is, I do not believe



that putting weapons into the place we send our children everyday, is the way to go. And it breaks my heart that we don’t have the collective empathy to understand how traumatic it will be and

would be to survivor⁴ of an attack.”

Katie Bohr, a freshman and psychology major was eager to answer these questions. On police response at Parkland, she said:

“I think they chose to ignore the complaints on Nickolas Cruz because they didn’t think anything would actually happen. They probably thought this was just a troublesome kid looking for some kind of attention.”

“These school shootings are happening so often because guns are being sold to just about anyone. There should be more universal background checks on people wanting to purchase a firearm.” Katie had strong words of whether she feels safe about her own college.

“You can feel safe at a place, but it doesn’t mean you actually are safe. I think there should be more security guards and all doors should be locked at all times and students should have to swipe their student IDs to access buildings. There should be metal detectors when entering any of the school buildings.” When asked if SCCC was prepared in the case of a shooting, “I think that we should have more drills in case something like this was to occur. Where would students who are in buildings go and where would students who are outside go?”

On student safety, “there has been effort in keeping our school community safe, but I feel as if there can be more done that will be beneficial in the long run if anything were to happen.”

Michael Woodrow⁴, a

(Continued from Page 4)

sophomore and business major, on the police response: "Because they didn't think he was a threat." As for why these things keep happening, "Because of a copycat affect, people want to be remembered for something."

On whether he feels safe and if SCCC is prepared, "I do feel relatively safe here on campus, and I don't think anyone is truly prepared for a school shooting." He said SCCC is doing

everything they can as he said "I do believe SCCC does enough to keep its students safe."



Cantu

Heather Marsh, an alumni communications major said this about the Parkland reaction. "I have no idea why they didn't,

from what I've heard the student was already a suspicious character in school, so why they didn't follow up on a threat like that is beyond me." On why shootings happen so often: "Easy access to guns, and the media's extensive coverage on these stories. While they need to cover these stories it gives similar-minded people someone to idolize. The wide availability of guns is also a huge factor, as there is no reason to have things like AR-15's in your home."



Bahr

She said, "While I attended SCCC I did feel safe, the police presence and security guards really helped make the campus a safe environment. I can honestly say I was never worried for my safety."

"No school is ever adequately prepared, but

SCCC having locked doors and a seemingly constant police presence on campus I feel they are prepared somewhat well." And like Michael, she said she felt safe on campus.

Rickey Dasilveira, a student said, "I believe we should have an on-campus police officer".

Student Brandon Zmich, said "we should have more cameras at more visible angles".

Lindsay Scriffiano said "the head of security and the guards under him, should have more experience and training on the issue of shooter drills".

Joey Virga, an alumni business major on police reaction: "You just don't want to go based off pure assumptions, I see people all over social media make sick jokes like what he was making. If the FBI investigates every person who says stuff like that they would need a whole new department."

Such events keep happening, he said, "because the media gives these people so much news cover-

age, they see how much⁵ attention they get and they want to be a part of that and be remembered."

On whether SCCC was safe from such acts and if

he felt safe on campus. "during my time at SCCC, I did feel relatively safe, the police



Warncke

presence made sure of that, however seeing as how many doors remain unlocked, they could do a better job.

"But overall, I did feel safe. "SCCC would be better prepared if security guards had weapons, otherwise how else would you be prepared? The police do have a presence but they're not there all the time."

He said SCCC is doing its best. "Overall it has done a pretty decent job in terms of student safety.

"It could do better, but definitely could be worse."

College's Latest Security Report Shows No Incidents

By Sultan Destani
College Hill Writer

SCCC's Annual Security Report of 2017 listed no reportable offenses in the previous year.

Federal law requires educational institutions to report all criminal activity on or near campus tracking back three years.

In SCCC's report for 2015, there was one domestic violence incident and in 2014 there was one burglary stated as a forcible entry. No such

incidents were reported for 2016, the most recent year available.

Incidents should be reported and forms are available at the security desk. In an emergency, one should call 911 or (973) 300-2222.

East Stroudsburg had increased crime rates from 2015-2016 under sex offenses categorized as fondling, from none in 2015 to two reports in 2016. There were fewer liquor law arrests; 121 arrests in 2014, 88 in 2015, and 52 arrests in 2016.

Ramapo College reported no liquor arrests in 2016, but had a number of sex offenses, five categorized as fondling and 11 categorized as rape.

Rutgers University/Newark listed one account of rape, zero liquor law arrests and 24 drug arrests in 2016.

The document, called the Clery report, is generally on college websites. It is named after Jeanne Clery, a Lehigh University freshman who was raped and murdered by another student in her dorm room in 1986. ⁵



SCCC has a new logo and a mascot for sporting events is in the making. Designed by an outside company, the logo reflects a "Sky God" theme chosen by the school. "Skylands" has been used to describe north-west New Jersey for about 30 years. Of 100 students surveyed, 70 backed this design.

Games
Continued from Page 1

"ragdoll physics" (a style that had characters get knocked about in a fashion that is fluid and believable) to create realistic character behavior, and another that did not (an animated world that looked real).

After the game, players were asked to complete word puzzles called "word fragment completion tasks," where researchers expected more violent word associations to be chosen by those who played the game with more realistic behaviors.

The idea was to expose participants to concepts, such as violence in a game, and to discover if such exposure made it easier to use those

concepts, such as violence, in "real life," said Dr. David Zendle.

This is called "priming," which some say prompts changes in behavior. He said, "Across the two games we didn't find this to be the case. Participants who played a car-themed game were no quicker at categorizing vehicle images, and indeed in some cases their reaction time was significantly slower."

Zendle said, "If players are 'primed' through immersing themselves in the concepts of the game, they should have been able to categorize the objects associated with this game more quickly in the real world once the game had concluded.

"Across the two games we did not find this to be the case," he said.

Statistical Snapshot of Student Body for Spring 2018

The annual demographic report, provided by the office of Associate Dean Cory Homer is used in planning, directing resources and setting guidelines for improving overall quality. Some of the information included in the document is listed below.

Spring 2018

Attendance status

	SP 2018		SP 2017	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Full-time	1,192	48.36%	1,209	50.71%
Part-time	1,273	51.64%	1,175	49.29%
Total	2,465	100%	2,384	100%

Registered credits

	SP 2018		SP 2017	
	Average	Total	Average	Total
Full-time	13.47	16,056	13.5	16,317
Part-time	6.02	7,667	6.2	7,314
Overall	9.62	23,723	9.9	23,631

First-time, Full-time Degree-Seeking

SP 2018	SP 2017
39	50

First-time, Part-time Degree-Seeking

SP 2018	SP 2017
40	43

Registration status

	Number	Percent
Continuing	1,720	79.89%
First-time	120	5.57%
Stop-out/readmit	180	8.36%
Transfer	133	6.18%
Concurrent high school	312	12.66%

Matriculation Status

	Number	Percent
Degree-seeking	1,970	79.92%
Non-degree seeking	495	20.08%

Average GPA (excluding first-time and concurrent: 2.80)

Number of Developmental Courses Enrolled

	Number	Percent (of total SP 18 enrollment)
One	340	13.79%
Two	33	1.34%

Sex

	Number	Percent
Female	1,270	51.52%
Male	1,112	45.11%
Not reported	83	3.37%

Race/ethnicity

	Number	Percent
White	2,026	82.19%
2 or more races/ethnicities	226	9.17%
Hispanic/Latino	98	3.98%
Black/African American	61	2.47%
Asian	34	1.38%
Unknown	13	0.53%
American Indian/Alaskan Native	5	0.20%

State of Residence

	Number	Percent
New Jersey	2,234	90.63%
Pennsylvania	181	7.34%
New York	10	0.41%
Foreign Country	37	1.50%
Other states	3	0.12%

Most Common New Jersey County Residency

	Number
Sussex County	2,085
Warren County	98
Morris County	29
Passaic County	14

Source: 10th Day SURE Report and SCCC Concurrent Students Report

Food Pantry Fills Need in County

Story and photo
by **Mackenzie Bennett**
College Hill Writer

When in college, the last thing someone wants to have to worry about is having enough to eat when they get home after class.

But a New York Times story in January 2017, stated an estimated half of college students nationwide struggle with food insecurity. But helped by the Horton Food Pantry, SCCC is spreading awareness of assistance available to students.



Hannah-Rey Delbury

Hannah-Rey Delbury, an 18-year old student at SCCC, runs the pantry, which started last year to

serve students at the college. “I’ve personally been impacted by food pantries and used them when I was younger, so to be able to give back is an awesome experience,” she said.

The pantry collects nonperishable goods, such as canned soups, canned vegetables, pasta and rice. Any student in need of food can take home a bag that will feed a family of four for up to four days.

“If someone feels intimidated to ask for food, they shouldn’t be,” she said. “A lot of people take

food and I’m not here to judge people who are taking it. I just want to make sure those people’s stomachs are filled.”

The food pantry, which is next to the Student Life Center, is open on Wednesdays 3-5 p.m. and on Thursdays during college hours. Donations of nonperishable food items and monetary donations can be made all year round at the Student Life Center.

“The biggest thing we need right now is to spread the word,” said Delbury. “Every little bit helps.”

Workout Room Fit for All

Story and Photo by **Grace Thuen**
College Hill Writer

Sussex County Community College continues to satisfy to the needs of its students, faculty, and staff by providing a new workout facility in the E building. The gym was finished during the Fall 2017 semester and is open to all students and staff.

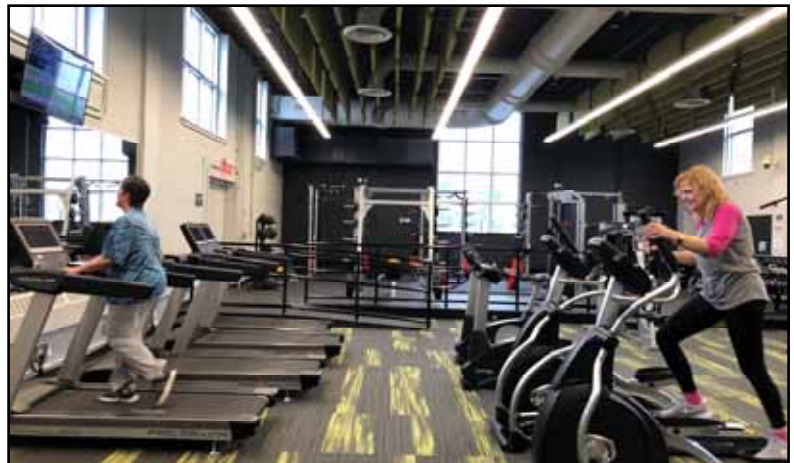
While the old facility was available to the campus, it was “dilapidated, narrow and cramped,” said John Kuntz, Athletic Director. Many did not know a gym existed, and the new facility is open for any SCCC student, staff or faculty member, he said.

Tuition and fees cover the cost for use. However, there are some rules to keep in mind before using the new

facility. Like an unmonitored beach after lifeguards head home, the gym operates on a “work out at your own risk” policy, said Kuntz.

SCCC recommends seeing a doctor before working out and be cautious of equipment. The facility is open weekdays from 7 a.m.-9 p.m. and weekends, 7 a.m.-3 p.m.

Work study students occasionally monitor the gym, so it runs on an honor system; students and staff are asked to treat equipment and others with respect.



The new workout facility in E Building is open to the entire SCCC community.

Photo by Grace Thuen

The facility provides lockers for valuables while working out, but remember to return the key once your items are retrieved. Along with lockers, there are TV’s available for use.

There are nearby vending machines and a water jug. There are no towels, but there are showers in locker rooms in the gymnasium across the hall (both male and female).

Athlete's 1,000 Points Makes SCCC History

By Mikaela Crowell

College Hill Writer

Well acquainted with a thousand points, Brielle Hilbert is the first female Skylander basketball player in history to reach 1,000 points in only two years. A graduate from Wallkill Valley Regional High School, she first netted 1,000 points there in her basketball career.

Brielle, a point-guard, didn't go into this season with the goal of reaching 1,000 points. "Coming into college my major goal was making it to playoffs and getting to the final four. I was never focused on reaching 1,000 points until midway through this season. I just let the ball fly as I wasn't focused on the points. I was more focused on getting the wins to get our team a good seed in playoffs." Brielle's average is 25.8 a game. Her highest points reached last year in a game was 38, and this year--50. Brielle

ended her freshman season with 493 points, and this year ended with 666.

Although she faced a downfall at the end of the second quarter, Hilbert didn't allow a knee injury to get in the way of reaching her recent goal during the time in the January 20, 2018 home game against Camden County College. Hilbert fought through the game to help her teammates win the game. "We knew the game was going to be a tough one, no doubt about it, but we definitely knew we could win and create an upset. We knew that we had to play tough and that's what we did, but we just fell short," Hilbert said. The Skylanders lost the game.

"I was overthinking," Brielle said as she explained to be the reason behind her missed shots. But towards the end of the game, Brielle made a dribble drive up to the rim and scored her 1,000 points. "It



L-R: Coach Anthony Balough, Brenley Knakkagaard, Jeyleen Joaquin, Bryttany Wagner, Hannah-Rey Delbury, Brielle Hilbert, Keeley McGregor, Jelhanna Joaquin, Heather Seugling, Emily Ver-noski, and Coach Kaitlyn Gaffney. Not Pictured: Grace Thuen

was an amazing feeling getting my 1,000 points at our home court in front of all my supporters throughout my career. I give a huge thanks to my teammates, my coaches, my family and friends for always supporting me and pushing me to do bigger and better things, and not letting me settle for less."

The girls Skylanders basketball team made some great attributing factors this past season. An accomplishment was to beat the school record for wins. The record for wins is seven, but the team more than doubled that. The main goal, as she said, was to make the playoffs, and the team did just that.

Film Club Gives Members Experience with Media

By Sultan Destani

College Hill Writer

President John F. Kennedy once said, "One person can make a difference, and everyone should try." The SCCC Film Club is looking for new members to fill in for graduating students.

With little to no experience required, Film Club is here to help improve and benefit anyone that has the urge to write, film or edit media. Daniel

Mendes, Key editor at SCCC Film Club said, "Being on set, I know how to light things better, work sounds, slate and I've also obtained friendships because we all share the same likes and dislikes."

Countless opportunities such as working with DSLR's, drones, lighting kits, high grade editing software and other professional film equipment will give a hands-on experience, as well as receiving

constructive advice from the fellow club members.

Benefits are awaiting new members of the Film Club and it all starts with just walking in Room D114 to convene about joining. Mendes states, "Just show up" he goes on to explain how there are always people in the media room who are willing to help you get started, meetings are held every Thursday at 4:30p.m. and Film every Friday.

Film Clubs main objective is to get work done and expand. The Club was recently moved from Room E220 to D114 because the new workout facility was put in place, work space is not the biggest for the clubs new room.

The club is willing to create media for college events and doesn't believe the cost of hiring professional crew is worth it.⁸