SCCC video gamers entering eSports arena

Coed team to duel other schools

By Fred Clauss
College Hill Writer

New at SCCC this semester are the Skylanders esports teams, part of the Athletics department. The Skylanders are only the second team from a community college in New Jersey and one of six collegiate esports teams statewide.

The result of months of planning and coordination between departments, the co-ed teams contain a total of about 35 students, after tryouts were held in early October, with competition expected to begin early next year.

According to Joshua Todd, one of the coaches for the program, each team focuses on one of four games; chosen through an email poll sent to students: Counter Strike: Global Offensive (CS:GO), League of Legends (LoL) Overwatch, or Rocket League.

Todd, an IT Specialist in the college IT Department, said teams will be competing in official tournaments run by organizations such as NACE and Tespa, a Texas-based organization affiliated with Overwatch developer Blizzard.

In an email Todd stated that all prize money earned from competitions will be put back into the program, "in order to ensure that we keep up to date with the latest technology/trends", mentioning the possibility of upgrading the monitors the team uses to practice.

Todd said future plans for the program include continuing to provide an opportunity for students who are not interested in traditional sports to compete at collegiate level, with the hope that it will "gain the interest of students from local high schools, neighboring institutions, and beyond." He also mentioned an interest in

LEAGUE OF LEGENDS

Campus Clue offers school solutions

With welder's torch in hand, a SCCC student learns in the college's new Technical Studies course. **See story Page 4.**

By Sarah Haudek
College Hill Writer

Have you ever played the game Clue? It's a game in which players try to be the best detective in solving three questions about crime:

Who did it?

What was the weapon?

Where was it done?

Sussex County Community College has made this come true.

Students could be even better than Colonel Mustard, with Campus Clue. Campus Clue was a game created by Alyssa Hoekstra, of the Advising & Counseling center.

A Personal Counselor and Academic Advisor, she said she thought of this to help educate the students of the resources SCCC has to offer.

The game consisted of a situation written on paper, that was shaped in a magnifying glass, explaining an imaginary student who is having a problem.

The players had to go to tables staffed by an organization where they could get help to solve the problem.

For example, it was written on paper that a student was having anxiety about getting good grades.

So the student could go to places like the Advising counselor center, Degree UP, and the tutoring table.

At the Tutoring table was Kathleen Carr, assistant director of Testing Service and Academic Outreach.

She gave information on tutoring this school has to offer.

As she explained:

There is free tutoring in the Library in the L building on the second floor. There is a schedule on the school website showing times of when people are tutoring and what they are tutoring .

Also, there has been a recent update about online tutoring, she said.

She said they are starting it on Canvas, explaining is works very well for students who can't always get to the school with work or if it's a Friday night

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Student documentary to bring awareness of disability

By Mackenzie Bennett
College Hill Writer

Kellie Cusack, a 20-year-old Journalism student at SCCC, is in the process of writing a screenplay to make a film about her life living with Spinal Muscular Atrophy.

Cusack, who is from Vernon, has been dealing with the neuromuscular disease since she was three years old and all of the challenges that come with it, including having to use a wheelchair.

Her Intro to Mass Communications professor, Michael Hughes, was the one who inspired her to make a documentary about her struggles and triumphs.

"The film is based off of a book I'm writing called 'Warrior' and the film is going to be called 'Warrior Within.'

"It's going to be about myself and other people in the Spinal Muscular Atrophy community coming together to tell our stories and crush misconceptions [about physical disabilities] as well as to discuss other issues like discrimination amongst the disabled," Cusack explained.

Along with writing the script, Cusack is also editing the documentary herself and plans on filming it on her own with her iPhone, choosing to forego any professional filming equipment due to the expensive price tag that comes along with it.

She has already made a trailer for the movie and hopes to show it at an upcoming film festival in Newton during the month of December. She wants to see how people react to the trailer before starting the production of the full documentary.

Kellie Cusack

"I can't claim too much credit for Kellie's project. The ideas and most importantly the passion came from her," said her professor Michael Hughes.

Spinal Muscular Atrophy is a genetic neuromuscular disease that progressively weakens the muscles in the body. Children are often born completely healthy with no visible signs of it until they fail to meet developmental milestones like supporting their head, rolling over and crawling.

The lifespan for those affected by Spinal Muscular Atrophy can differ,depending on what type it is. Some people live only until age four while some live to see adulthood. Cusack's family was told she would die shortly after the day she was diagnosed at the age of three.

"Just like with my book, I hope that by watching my film, people will get a better understanding of my disease and stop treating disabled people poorly," she said .

These screenshots show the covers of some of the video games to be used in interscholastic competitions

eSports coming to SCCC

expanding the program into non-computer games such as Nintendo's popular Super Smash Brothers series.

Google defines an esport as "a multiplayer video game played competitively for spectators, typically by professional gamers." While public, professional videogame competitions have existed for decades, they have only gained major traction in the last few years, with the rise in popularity of multiplayer games that required teams to come up with strategies in a similar way to more traditional athletic teams.

In 2014 Robert Morris University Illinois became the first school in the US to create an esports team, with National Association for Collegiate Esports (NACE) being founded two years later in to fill the need for an official governing body for the events.

Since then esports have experienced a dramatic increase in popularity, with large investments from franchise owners of traditional sports teams such as the New England Patriots and the Los Angeles Rams, and investment from major companies such as Toyota and T-Mobile.

Here is a brief description of each game:

Counter-Strike: Global Offensive (CS:GO): This military style first-person shooter which sees two five-player teams, named either "Terrorists" or "Counter-Terrorists" competing try to eliminate the other while completing other objectives. For example: The "Terrorists" have to plant a bomb, while the "Counter-Terrorists" have to prevent the bomb from being planted or defuse it.

Minimum Requirements: OS: Windows XP or newer, Processor: Intel® Core™ 2 Duo E6600 or AMD Phenom™ X3 8750 processor or better, Memory: 2 GB RAM, Storage: 15 GB available space, Release Date: August 21, 2012 Price: Free-to-play

League of Legends (LoL): This "Multiplayer Online Battle Arena" (or MOBA) game pits two teams of five players against each other with the goal of destroying the other team's base, and the various obstacles placed in their way, all while defending their own.

Minimum Requirements: OS: Windows 7 or newer, Processor: 3GHz Processor (supporting SSE2 instruction set or higher), Memory: 2GB RAM, Storage: 12GB Free Space, Release Date: October 27, 2009 Price: Free-to-play

Overwatch: A colorful first person "hero shooter" where players choose one of 30 playable characters and one of the 17 maps and are sorted into two teams of six.

Teams work together to accomplish certain objectives, such as defending points on the map from the other team or escorting a payload across it, while defending against the other teams attempts to capture it.

Release Date: May 24, 2016 Price: $19.99. Minimum requirements: OS: Windows 7 or newer, Processor: Intel Core i3 or AMD Phenom X3 8650, Memory: 4GB RAM, Storage: 30GB Free Space

Rocket League: Described as a "vehicular soccer videogame", Rocket League two teams of three players take control of rocket-powered cars and attempt to score goals over a period of five minutes with a "sudden death" overtime if the match is tied after the time runs out.

Release Date: July 7, 2015 Price: $19.99. Minimum requirements OS: Windows 7 or Newer, Processor: 2.4 GHz Dual core, Memory: 2 GB RAM, Storage: 7 GB available space

Requests for additional information can be sent to esports@sussex.edu. The team can be followed on Instagram, Twitter and Twitch @sccc_esports

As in "Clue," students seek solutions

and they are uncertain about a topic.

This may make school less stressful. Or there's the option of trying out online tutoring or tutoring in the Library if one prefers in person studying, there is an option for everyone.

Even if the situation didn't fit exactly everyone was very helpful and referred to another person who could help.

If the table was relative to a student's topic, one even got a sticker.

There were also some games in which one student was very happy on getting a key chain.

Everyone seemed very excited and eager to find out information, the free goods definitely did help.

With the staff handing out bracelets, pens, and candy it made the students eager and happy to go around to each table.

Degree UP was a table where there was also tutoring that is offered and more.

They gave support if one was are having any issues with school and there was sometimes free food so that is a bonus.

It is located in E building in the basement. There is an option for any student to sign up to be a tutor, so one can go down and ask for an application.

There are so many helpful things this school has to offer and one should check them out.

At the Campus Clue event, students could learn more about life, resources and opportunities at SCCC.   Sarah Haudek Photos

Alex Martinez-Partida helps with information at Campus Clue.

Veterans Day at SCCC

The Honor Guard from American Legion Post #86, Newton, stands in tribute to the nation and those who have served for it.

"Taps" sounds as the flag is saluted in commemoration of those who have served in our nation's military.

College Hill Photos

Tony Gallopo, commander of Post #86, speaks on behalf of Veterans. Behind him, standing, is SCCC Veterans coordinator Jonathan Finocchiaro, also a vet, while Post Chaplain Jack Tripp is seated.

College roads being repaved

By Payton Terrat

College Hill Writer

For the first weeks of the semester, it could be rough going while navigating around potholes on College roads. But starting in late October SCCC began a project to repave

Before and after near E Building.

Payton Terrat Photos

some of the roads and lots on campus, and fill in some of those nasty pot holes that everyone's been complaining about too.

The areas that will be repaved are parts of the entrance from Plott's Rd., sections of the upper parking lots, portions of the hill leading down to the D and B buildings, and

sections of the lower parking lots. Also being paved for the first time is the Sussex Skylanders parking lot in front of the soccer fields.

These potholes around campus had been getting bad. The top of the hill on the entrance from Plotts Rd. has some that one almost have to go into the other lane to avoid! Not to mention, around the other side of the upper lot with the solar panels, there were two monsters where someone could lose a tire.

Worry no more! You are going to be safe from unwanted wear and tear right before the winter and spring semesters.

Also Sussex County has been doing a lot of repaving recently, hitting major stretches of Rt. 206 both north and south between Sparta and Montague, as well as resurfacing many side and back roads that have gotten a little rough over the years.

With all of this work, the drives around Sussex County have gotten much nicer as of late! And right before Winter, this could not be coming at a better time.

As much as people dislike the cold, flatting out a tire in a pothole is even worse! Well, not any more, not here at SCCC, at least.

SGA Halloween

On this year's Halloween, Thursday, October 31st, 2019, students gathered in the Skylanders Cafe to show off their costumes, mingle with friends, and have some spooky fun to kick off the holiday season! The SGA took part in holding the event, and it took place from 11:00 A.M. to 1:00 P.M. on

Students in costumes, entering Skylanders Café.
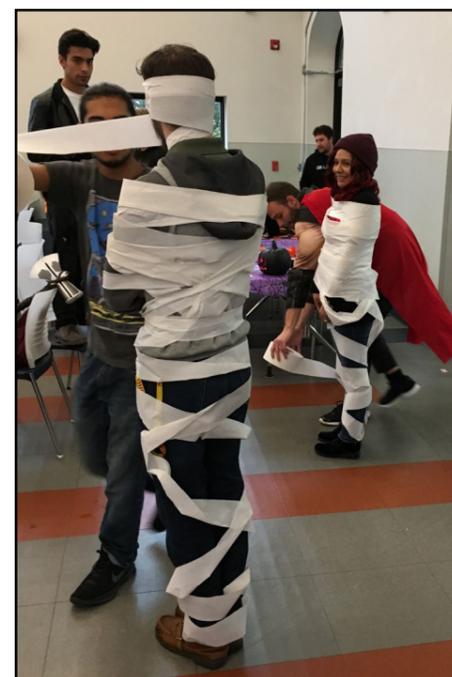
Thursday, this year's Halloween.

Students were encouraged to come take part in the event, especially those who chose to dress up for the occasion. Many lively costumes, colors, and chatter filled the room! There were also some fun games and activities that took place during the event. Featured are pictures of students being wrapped up "mummy-style" in toilet paper.

With the cold weather coming,

and this being the first in the line of holidays from now until the new year, students were able to dress up, come in and participate in the fun. Who doesn't love a good costume?

Students are always encouraged to dress up for Halloween here at SCCC! Taking part in social activities and holiday events around the campus helps students get to know each other.

It also gives students a chance to take a break from the hustle and busy grind of being a college student, and have a little fun once in a while.
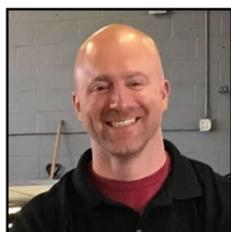

Students having fun while wrapped up like mummies in toilet paper.

Payton Terrat Photos

New Technical Studies course starts at SCCC

By Payton Terrat

College Hill Writer

Have you ever wanted to learn how to weld? Well, now you can! Here at Sussex County Community College, there are new courses open for students that are centered around learning trade skills and professions.

Jason Fruge

In a recent interview, the head of the newly established technical department at SCCC, Jason Fruge, explained what he hopes to achieve through these courses, as well as what he hopes for his students to achieve. He also recounted his responsibilities here as the new tech instructor, as well as how and why he got started here in 2015.

There are few opportunities for young people to get their feet in the door with various trades in the Sussex County area, said Fruge, Academic Affairs Program Supervisor - Automotive Technology.

As Fruge mentioned, there is also not another school in the area that offers such courses. He also explained that through completion of the course, students are encouraged to pursue and set up with internships, and possibly even paying jobs by the time they are done.

Fruge talked about how students get real, hands-on work experience within these courses. Students have various projects and tasks to complete such as working on and welding actual vehicles, tools, pieces of machinery, and other items of the same nature. He said there is a Facebook page for the new department that offers student course information, important event dates, and pictures of the students as they work and continue to learn their desired trades.

Automotive and welding are among the top courses provided, as there seemed to be a demand for such courses here at the college.

He said this area is filled with young minds who are able and ready to work, and lots of whom like to work hands-on, and would much rather prefer to take applicable, technical courses as opposed to standard academic courses that SCCC has only offered in the past.

The county has had a technical high school for years, which quite a lot of students from the area attend and begin to learn work in the field of their trade of choice.
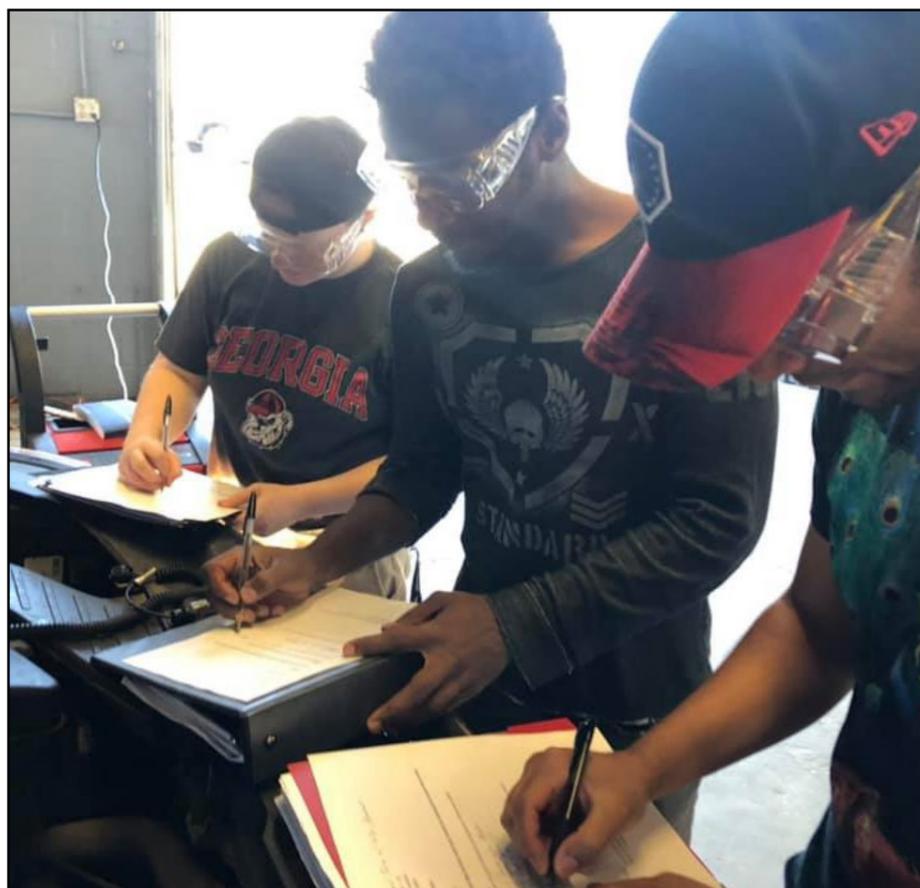
With Sussex County being as rural as it is, and there being such a big industry attached to the area for farming, mechanics, and other related trades, it only seems fitting that SCCC would offer courses in those fields for students.

Fruge stepped up to be the head of the new department and help students get the experience they need in order to advance their knowledge of these ever-so-important technical studies further.

As students complete their courses and get closer to graduation from the college here, they will be presented with opportunities to work for actual companies doing exactly what they have learned here through their courses.

He explained there are a few local businesses that work in association with the college and are here to provide students with jobs and experience as they develop their skills and move further on in the course.

This is a great system and opportunity. Not only do students get to learn doing hands-on work, but once they are finished, they are thrown right into the field to challenge themselves, and prove their knowledge of ability.

Hopefully this department only continues to grow, and more and more students take advantage of the courses that the college has to offer.

As recounted in his entry on the college website, Fruge graduated from Lincoln Technical Institute and began his automotive career with Lexus of Bridgewater. In 2003, he reenlisted in the U.S. Army in which he served in the Infantry in support of Operation Enduring Freedom. This was mainly the 13-year campaign in Afghanistan after the terrorist attacks on Sept. 11, 2001.

After leaving the Army, he returned to the automotive industry with Lexus. He spent the remainder of his career as a service technician as a Team Leader/A Level Technician.

Through completion of the course, students are encouraged to pursue and set up with intern-

SCCC students now get to learn and practice their welding abilities at the newly founded facility here on campus.

SCCC students reviewing notes together on the work site.

Students examine an old Honda Civic, as they prepare to dive in and practice their skills in a real-life application scenario. Facebook screenshots by Payton Terrat