The growing problem of opioid and heroin addiction has heavily impacted Long Island. Between 2009 and 2013, over three hundred deaths due to heroin overdose were reported in Suffolk County, the highest in any New York county. This has led officials in all levels of government to take steps towards fighting addiction.

In February, Suffolk County executive Steve Bellone announced a joint task force with Nassau County to investigate all heroin overdoses, with the goal of finding sources of the drug. Speaking at the announcement, he said “This issue, it knows no borders. It’s not just in one school district, it’s in every school district.”

There have also been efforts to make treatment more available for addicts. Both Nassau and Suffolk County have created programs to make addiction treatment drugs such as Vivitrol available to addicts. There has also been increased use of medications like Narcan, which can prevent death in the case of overdose. Most police departments on the island have been equipped with Narcan training in order to help patients going through an overdose as quickly as possible. Including the Public Safety officers on this very campus of Suffolk County Community College.

While it is still a major issue on the island, it is believed that these methods of fighting addiction and overdose are working. Nationwide heroin and opioid overdoses sharply increased from 2013 to 2014, but Long Island saw these deaths decrease in the same timeframe. This decrease in reports of overdose is promising, but some experts say that the actual number is higher than what is reported. Due partially to the stigma of addiction, it’s believed that many overdoses and deaths are not reported. Executive director of the Long Island Council on Alcoholism and Drug Dependence Steve Chassman said last year that lower overdose totals were “not reflective of what we’re seeing in our day-to-day operations.”

Progress has been made in the last few years, but hundreds of people continue to be affected by heroin and opioid addiction on Long Island. Information on treatment and signs of addiction can be found on Suffolk County’s website, heroinprevention.com and an eye-opening called suburbanheroin.com.
Internships are a great way to gain experience before you graduate. Not only that, but internships can help you decide whether or not that career is everything you dreamed it would be. No matter what degree you are going for now, there are opportunities! Personally, I know of three areas to look for internships:

The career center: They have loads of information and connections at their fingertips. They are waiting in their office in the Babylon Student Center now to talk to you. Your professors: They also know a lot of people, so don’t be afraid to ask. The worst they can say is no.

Join a national or international organization that is relevant to your major (if you have declared one). There was a time in the process of getting my first degree at Suffolk County Community College (SCCC), when I started looking for internships. I was directed towards a class HUM130, Career Internships: Equity, Choices and Professionalism In The Workplace. This class is an internship class and the Career Center’s job is to find you internships. Of course these internships are not handed to you. They also teach you successful interviewing skills so you can land the internships. I was given the opportunity to do job shadowing, which means I followed someone around for a few hours and they taught me what their job was like. This was an insightful experience for me because as much as I love weather, sitting in front of a computer is not my cup of tea. I learned being a forecaster was not my thing and that research was the path I should go on. As for other opportunities, I’m waiting until I finish learning some computer programing and Physics 1.

Bianca Paul is an amazing young woman. She is a Geology and Chemistry (GeoChem) major who has completed one internship so far and will complete two more this year. She is in STEM which stands for Science, Technology, Engineering and Math. Each month during the meetings Dr. C. Foley and Dean Nina Leonhardt let students know of upcoming internship opportunities. Ms. Paul applied to Pacific Northwest National Laboratory and last summer she was accepted. During her time there, she worked with scientists in researching and developing a new way to analyze chromium speciation. Which simply means, they are trying to make a way to easily measure the amount of each type of chromium that are in one sample they are looking at. After completing one internship, she has gone on to four conferences presenting her research. She was also invited to go back to Pacific Northwest to do more research and this year she will also do a yearlong internship with Stony Brook University. These experiences has helped her realize, “I really want to be a scientist.”

“Houston We Have a Problem”, one of the most famous lines in most movies about NASA. Ian Kotler, an Astrophysics major at SCCC had the chance to go to Houston, Texas to complete a NASA internship. This was not as easy as just applying and going, as most other places are. Over a period of five weeks he was quizzed on NASA history and specific details of all past missions. Specific details in why they were successful or why they failed. During his time there, Mr. Kotler and many others from across the country, got a sense of what goes on behind the scenes of a professional environment. Their goals were to plan a mission to Mars the same way NASA does. They had to go through every detail of the mission from requesting grants, budgeting, planning, hiring contractors who can do the job right for the cheapest price etc. etc. once their mock mission plan was complete they built and programmed their own Mars Rovers. These rovers had to be programmed to drive themselves through a mock Mars surface NASA made. In the end all rovers had to compete. Rovers were judged on how well they programed to stay on a specific course and how many samples were collected by the rovers. Ian is now home completing more classes and if all goes well, his next internship will be working with a scientist in Africa. “I can’t wait to see no light pollution”, Ian said.

Lucia Mallozzi is a down to Earth STEM student since 2015, and a rocky Geology major. She began her researching journey here at SCCC, Professor Sean Tvelia was doing some research and she joined in along with the Geology club who assisted them with collecting samples in the field. From there, she has traveled to five conferences across the state presenting her findings. At the monthly STEM meetings Dr. Foley introduced her to three more opportunities. Over winter break she did a one week BNL (Brookhaven National Laboratory) Intensive OEP Program. While she was there, Ms. Mallozzi gained insight into what the process was for doing research and internships at BNL. Her next adventure will be shared with Bianca Paul at Stony Brook University where for one year they will be interning for the Mineral Physics Institute. Lastly, over the summer Ms. Mallozzi will travel to Idaho and partake in a paid internship for ten weeks doing geothermal research. If this journey has taught her anything it’s that, going to conferences and networking has given her the confidence to push herself forward. “The opportunities I’ve had, the relationships I’ve made and the feeling I get from gaining new experiences, make me look forward to a successful academic future.”

Even if you are not a science major you can still do internships. Try searching for CCI’s which are Community College Internships. These are great because now the competition pool is smaller, and you don’t have to compete against grad students for a shot. My Political Science professor used to send us emails on internships that were available after Political Science majors and any non-Political Science majors. Talk to your professors and the Career Center. These opportunities will help you so much, but they do not just fall out of the sky you have to look.
During the early morning hours of Sunday, June 12, 2016, the deadliest mass shooting to ever take place in U.S. history took place at The Pulse nightclub in the heart of Orlando, Florida. As the citizens of the town in Florida were still grieving over a shooting that took place not even two days prior to that, the shooting of well-known YouTube pop star Christina Grimmie at her own concert, The Pulse shooting took place. At least 49 people were shot and killed by gunman 29-year-old Omar Mateen of Port St. Lucie, Florida, and dozens of people severely injured. Omar Mateen entered the bar with a .223 caliber AR type rifle and a 9mm semiautomatic pistol, and during his attack, he actually called 911 and pledged allegiance to ISIS: The Islamic slate of Iraq and the Levant, AKA: The terrorist organization responsible for so many of the tragedies happening in our country and others around the globe. Mateen was killed after hours of stand off with S.W.A.T. Mateen was an American citizen, raised by two Afghan immigrants and he grew up here on Long Island, in Westbury. He was a security guard who was able to access weaponry and he also had been investigated by the FBI before in recent years being suspected of having connections to ISIS linked to a case with a suicide bomber. The case was closed however, which is why he was able to get his hands on these guns legally. The Orlando Police Department and the FBI says that this had nothing to do with Mateens religious beliefs, only his strong dislike for the LGBT community. Although, It is not completely false that Mateen may have been in the closet himself. The people who survived from the shooting say that Mateen had been a regular at the club. In the immediate aftermath of the shootings, support poured in both in the United States and around the world. In the hours following the shooting, people from the Orlando area rushed to hospitals and blood banks to donate any blood they could for the injured victims. Across the country, many political figures and leaders weighed in to show support for the victims of the attacks. President Obama stressed the fact that the shooting did not only affect the victims and their families, but America as a whole. “This is a sobering reminder that attacks on any American, regardless of race, ethnicity, religion or sexual orientation is an attack on all of us and on the fundamental values of equality and dignity that define us as a country,” said President Obama. Hillary Clinton Democratic Presidential nominee showed her support for the victims and stressed the fact that we should take a moment today out of our busy lives to think about [the victims]. Clinton also thanked the first responders and the survivors of the attack for their courage in the minutes and hours following the attack by doing things such as helping wounded victims and consoling family members outside the nightclub. Clinton also discussed gun control saying “It’s essential that we stop terrorists from getting the tools they need to carry out the attacks.” On the other side of the political spectrum, Republican Presidential nominee Donald Trump said “we mourn as one people for our nation’s loss and pledge our support to any and all who need it.” Trump also stressed the fact that this wasn’t just an attack on our people but on the American way of life, saying “It’s a strike on the heart and soul of who we are as a nation, it’s an assault on the ability of free people to live their lives, love who they want and express their identity.” Trump also reiterated his plan to place a temporary ban on people from areas linked to terror from entering the country. Trump took a different approach on the gun control debate, saying the damage could have been minimized if more people were carrying firearms. One of the biggest events to take place in the aftermath of the shooting was a filibuster held by several Democratic senators. Led by Sen. Chris Murphy of Connecticut, Democratic senators spoke for almost 15 hours on issues relating to gun violence. The group felt that not enough was being done to limit gun control after attacks like Sandy Hook and Pulse. The filibuster was done to prevent people with criminal backgrounds and people suspected of terror from easily obtaining a gun.
My Advice to Incoming Freshmen

Bonnie Nielsen | Editor-In-Chief

My first year at Suffolk went by so much quicker than I had thought it would. I am now a third semester student here, and so I figured I would give some serious advice to you newbies on campus. Some stuff I find very important now that I have learned over the last few semesters. Believe it or not, it has been a wild ride so far, even though it has only been a little over a year here and I learn more and more about myself every single day. I wish there were certain things that were drilled into my mind before I started here at Suffolk, and this advice works for new college students in general.

You won’t keep all of your friends from high school, unfortunately, no matter how hard you try sometimes the effort really does have to come from both people to keep a friendship alive. You grow distant, whether it is because you are at different schools, or even if they go here with you. Schedules change, and you don’t see people every day for five days a week at the same times and same places. It’s probably better to be honest. Now you’ll learn who your real, ride or die friends are and hopefully you’ll learn who your real, ride or die friends are and hopefully make some new amazing ones.

Visit your professors during office hours or go to one of the tutoring centers on campus if you need help. It will show you CARE and you are concerned about your performance in the class. This cannot be stressed enough, we are so lucky to have such amazing tools to do well on this campus. In the Islip Arts building they have an amazing writing center for help with your essays. They have a biology lab in the William J. Lindsay building, they have a math lab in the Riverhead building, and so many other amazing people and places to help. And DO NOT be afraid to ask for help when you’re overwhelmed.

Don’t skip class when you do not need to, but that does not mean you shouldn’t take personal/mental relaxation days. With school, work, significant others, social lives, everything that is included in our hectic schedules I know it is SO hard to put a day aside to just detox the stress out of your life. But try. Make time for a one-hour nap, or time to read not your textbook but the next novel you’ve been dying to get a taste of, or catch up on your favorite new Netflix series. I know you can do it.

Do not be afraid to put yourself out there! A lot of times when people come here, they are too cool for clubs/organizations or to go to a campus play or volunteer to help out with an open mic night or festival. As the Editor-In-Chief of the campus newspaper I am telling you the best thing I ever did with my time at Suffolk is GET INVOLVED. I have met so many amazing individuals through it, and have gained so many opportunities through doing so. Plus, it looks really good on a resume.

Make the most out of your time here and in college in general before you really have to get out there and be an adult. Be serious about your classes but this is the time of our lives to actually go out and be free and have fun!
MySCCC, Undoubtedly The Most Useful Tool For Students

By Kevin J. Furey | Contributing Writer

While registering at Suffolk County Community College (SCCC), every student is required to create an account at www.sunysuffolk.edu. The creation of this account gives students access to their most important tool while attending college.

The MySCCC portal is how students register and pay for classes, view their grades, receive emails from professors, and, perhaps most important feature, access the virtual library as well as look up books at the campus libraries. The libraries both virtual and on campus, are key for acing any research paper or just finding information for a project. “The library is a great tool and they should all learn how to use it because one thing we’ve learned from research is that students who know how to use a library are much better students,” said Kevin Peterman, professor of the Library Services at SCCC.

The libraries at all three SCCC campuses use the Library of Congress classification system. This classification system organizes the materials inside the library using a system of call numbers to group books by their subject content, rather than in alphabetical order. Computers within the library allow students to look up the call numbers of the materials which they need. Students can also look up call numbers from their personal computers using the virtual library at MySCCC.

On the virtual library, accessible at www.sunysuffolk.edu/library, students also have access to over 70 databases, which are crucial for research. The college pays over $100,000 each year to have access to these databases, most of that money comes out of the technology fee which each student must pay. “A lot of students just go on Google and they think that’s good enough, but when using the databases you get scholarly journals and articles,” said Peterman.

The databases contain vast information on almost any research topic. Best of all, the information in the databases are reliable and most even offer the citations right below the content. The virtual library also offers tutorials on how to write a paper and perform research. The tutorials include everything from how to properly cite sources to how to use Wikipedia for research.

MySCCC is a great tool to use for research, and is a necessity for surviving college life. Although the system does have its flaws, it’s with out a doubt the most useful tool for students.

In the Event of an Emergency...

By Jordan Harff | Contributing Writer

For many students, the last time they heard about fire safety was in elementary school and perhaps a few times in high school, but in college, students are less likely to think of learning about campus fire safety.

Many would agree that it is imperative for students to take the time to learn and to understand the preventative measures that can be taken to save lives. While there are fire safety protocols for the college, most students are unaware of them. According to the Suffolk County Community College (SCCC) website, in the event of smoke or fire inside a building, the first step should be to dial 911. The second step is to activate the buildings nearest fire alarm pull box. If the smoke or fire is outdoors, students are to locate the nearest Blue Light emergency telephone.

“Providing our students with a safe learning environment is of paramount importance,” said Phillip Sandusky, Assistant Director of Public Safety and Environmental Health for SCCC, “The College is diligent about planning, prevention, preparation and response for a variety of situations that might arise.”

“All of the college’s buildings are regularly inspected by both Suffolk County and New York State Fire Marshals to ensure that we are meeting every standard currently in place. In the unlikely event of a fire on campus, every second counts, so students should respond promptly to fire alarms,” stated Sandusky.

In all cases of fire, public safety must be notified immediately after dialing 911. The emergency number for public safety on all three campuses is 311 from a college phone.

When reacting to smoke or fire, students should know the locations of fire extinguishers, building exits and fire alarm systems. Students must immediately evacuate all rooms and close all doors, but it is important that they remain unlocked. Students should exit the building calmly and quickly, and remain alert for further instructions from public safety.

Physically challenged students finding themselves unable to exit the building should wait near a safe haven telephone by the stairwell and use that telephone to notify public safety of their location.

Once outside, all students should move to a clear area, at least 200 yards away from the affected building and keep all streets, fire lanes, hydrants and walkways clear.

If a student is trapped in a building during a fire and a window is available, an article of clothing such as a jacket or shirt can be placed outside the window. This serves as a marker for rescue crews and helps them to pinpoint your location. If there is no window, the student is instructed to lie on the floor where the air is less toxic and advised to shout at regular intervals to alert emergency response crews of their whereabouts.

Students can find information by locating the Emergency Quick Reference Guide on the SCCC website. There is a layout of procedures to follow incase of an emergency, including what to do if there is a fire.

Several students were polled on whether or not they were aware of these fire safety protocols for the campus. Most students were not. “If there are specific protocols and regulations aside from ‘safely make your way to the nearest exit in a calm and controlled manner,’ I’m not aware of them,” said Rob Syskowski, an Ammerman Campus student. “I’ve never been informed by way of announcement, pamphlet or word of mouth.”

Mark Harrison, student of the Ammerman Campus, added, “I’ve never taken the time to look at what they are.” He then went on to suggest that SCCC should hand out flyers with information on the regulations.

Many students polled believe that if they knew the rules and procedures for campus fire safety they could be more prepared; others however, feel that making students more aware wouldn’t change much.

“I don’t think telling people about fire safety awareness is going to make them listen,” said Ammerman Campus student, Rachel Hodulick.

The Ammerman Campus depends on the Selden Fire Department to be ready and alert. Should an on-campus fire occur, chief Michael Matteo Jr., along with the rest of the department, is always prepared to lend a helping hand.

Students can also find information on college fire safety by visiting the website for the U.S. Fire Administration.
What is the Student Government Association?

By Amanda Koscik | Contributing Writer

The Student Government Association (SGA) is the top organization of each Suffolk County Community College (SCCC) campus that oversees the needs of the students and makes sure the student body is appropriately, fairly, and accurately represented. Having their voices heard, even to the top echelons of SCCC administration. Below is a brief explanation of the SGA, according to its mission and objectives.

The SGA consists of Executive Officers: President, Vice-President, Treasurer, and Secretary, that make up the Executive Board; some examples of the duties of the Executive Officers are as follows:

President: Serves as the primary representative of the organization to the campus and college community; organizes and presides over SGA and Executive Board meetings; serves as primary campus contact of the SUNY Student Assembly; appoints students to college, campus, academic, and campus committees.

Vice-President: Serves as primary public relations officer and communicates with campus press and college representatives, including the Office of Institutional Advancement; assists Secretary in maintaining and updating Senate By-Laws, policies and procedures; assumes the duties of the SGA President in the event of an illness, leave of absence, resignation, or removal from office.

Treasurer: Oversees all expenditures from the SGA; provides financial reports for each Senate and Executive Board meeting; prepares annual budget request for SGA for submission to Campus Association Advisory committee; prepares all financial resolutions for SGA.

Secretary: Takes and distributes all minutes at all SGA and Executive Board meetings; prepares agenda for SGA meetings in consultation with the President and Director of Campus Activities; maintains historical records and documentation of SGA correspondence, activities, and programs.

To be considered for candidacy for an Executive Office, the candidate must acquire a petition with 30 signatures approving his candidacy. To be eligible, a student must have completed a minimum of 12 credit hours carrying a minimum cumulative GPA of 2.5 and have registered for at least six non-developmental credit hours per semester while in office.

Further beyond – and in conjunction with the Executive Board – is the body of Senators-at-Large. In order to qualify as a Senator, you must attend at least two monthly Senate meetings and be appointed by the Executive Board. It is the responsibility of the Senators to maintain communication with the student body and serve on committees, as well as vote in the monthly Senate meetings. Potential Senators must have a minimum cumulative GPA of 2.0 and carry a minimum of three non-developmental credit hours while in office.

In the event that an Executive Office does not have a running or elected candidate, a special committee will choose a Senator-at-Large as a candidate for the office, and the chosen candidate will be voted on in the first SGA meeting of the semester.

Beyond the initial elected representatives of the SGA are the Club Senators. Club Senators are the chosen member from each campus club that must attend and vote in the monthly SGA meetings, held the first Wednesday of every month of the semester, during Common Hour (11:00a.m.-12:15p.m.). A major and vital part of the SGA functions and communicates through committees.

To read the full SGA Constitution and By-Laws, please visit www.sunysuffolk.edu and type the desired info into the search engine.

Don’t Worry, Help is Available

By Nancy P. Acosta | Contributing Writer

If you find yourself in danger of failing a class, and everything depends on how you do on your last paper or final exam, DO NOT PANIC, there is still hope. There are six places on campus where students can seek help, no matter what the subject is. As long as you have your Student ID card, you can get the help you need.

Most classes require several written papers and perhaps a PowerPoint or verbal presentation. Students typically have one of the following reactions:

Easy, not sure, or start sweating! Do you find yourself in the category of “not sure” or “start sweating?” If so, The Writing Center, located on the first floor of the Islip Arts Building, is there to help.

Once there, you may ask for a tutor for help. They will need the professor’s instructions for the assignment. If you’ve already started, that’s okay too. They can look it over and let you know how you’re doing.

If math is your weakness, The Math Lab is located on the second floor of the Riverhead Building. This lab offers tutoring sessions by appointment. They are typically 30-minute sessions. If you’re lucky, you may even be able to get a one on one session the same day that you make the appointment. Depending on cancellations and availability, The Math Lab also has computers located in the back of the lab.

Hola, como estas? That’s right, you guessed it! There’s even a Language Lab. This is located on the first floor of the Islip Arts Building. The Language Lab also offers help to ESL students.

For music majors out there, good news! Suffolk has a Music Lab, located on the first floor of the Southampton Building. This lab is only for students with music classes. The computers are connected to keyboards in case you need to practice your piece.

Science aid is available in the Smithtown Building, room T16, where you will find help for all your science classes. If science is not your strong point, you may ask for help at this lab.

The Financial Aid lab is located on the first floor of the Ammerman Building. This is helpful for those of you applying for financial aid and looking for scholarships. There are computers available for inquiries. If you find yourself confused, there’s always someone there to help you.

Labs are a great resource, but they’re not for everyone. Keep in mind that there are other options available too. You can visit your professor directly, make use of the computers at the Huntington Library or even join or form a study group with other students. Do not wait until it’s too late! This is college and your level of success is completely up to you.
Do you have a 2.5 GPA or higher? That alone means you can travel to Spain, St. Lucia, Peru, and soon even Japan. Suffolk County Community College (SCCC) offers a Study Abroad Program every summer where students can earn college credit. SCCC continues to show its worth as a community college by being one of few to have this program in place. College Associate Dean, Dr. Iaroslava Babenchuk, intends for students to realize the advantages that come with taking part in the Study Abroad Program. By going on a trip to Spain you don’t just get a month long vacation over the summer. A trip to Spain with SCCC teaches a student how to function in a “quickly changing environment”. Students have to adapt to speaking primarily Spanish daily.

In this day and age where social media plays a significant role in the lives of both students and employees, you’re constantly interacting with different cultures. A tweet worth 120 characters or a picture on Instagram shows how easy it is to communicate across the world. The Study Abroad Program provides an opportunity to understand that world and all the mannerisms that go with it.

“You learn to analyze people, what they do and why,” says Babenchuk. As Babenchuk describes the program, “You can’t explain the flavor of a Thai dish with them understanding.” When a student travels with the Study Abroad Program, they gain life skills from the adventure and “grow up” in the process. If you plan on transferring from SCCC to a four-year school, this is something that can push you toward that acceptance letter.

From not wearing flip flops while traveling to negotiating at work, you never know what you’ll learn. Regardless of which trip you embark on, you gain skills that will follow you for a life-time. The Study Abroad Program at SCCC is the platform for students to get an education they can’t elsewhere.

Everyone tends to get stuck in a mindset where “they think their world is the center of the world,” Babenchuk believes. The community you live in isn’t the only community you interact with for the rest of your life. Simply attending college, buying groceries, or getting a job puts you in contact with thousands of different people.

“It pushes you into this exploration zone,” explains Babenchuk. The Study Abroad Program forces students into a sink or swim situation where they learn to step up and get the most out of their journey. In the same way you get the most out of what you put into SCCC, you get the most of out that trip. Babenchuk says it shows a four-year college or future employer that you know how to extend yourself. From dorming at a university in Spain to migrating between villages in Peru, you create a relationship with the people you meet.

Taking the time to get in touch with the Study Abroad office as early as possible is important not only for spots, but to also be prepared. An advisor can work with you one on one about the trip you’re interested in as well as working it out financially. Financial aid is available along-side scholarship opportunities.

One of the benefits of traveling and studying through SCCC lies with affordability. Students don’t have to worry about gas or driving as they’re not traveling by car. And food is budgeted into the trip, rather than being another expense. This helps make it feasible for people to study abroad for even an entire semester.

Efforts are being made in introducing new trips to Japan, Poland, and Germany. These trips will focus on having an orientation beforehand to prepare students, allowing for a shorter, less expensive fee. Students looking to get some of the skills attained from travel without having to, will get a chance after integration of Collaborative Online International Learning (COIL).

COIL is a planned program through SUNY schools to promote international learning without needing to travel. Babenchuk noted that it allows, “Exposure without mobility.” COIL will be available sometime 2015 to 2016.

Take your education to a new level while exploring a new culture. Over 500 different trips are offered through the SUNY Study Abroad Consortium. The Study Abroad office at SCCC can be contacted for further information by phone: 631-451-4430 or email: studyabroad@sunysuffolk.edu.
Humans of Suffolk: A Sit-down with Peter Randazzo

By Ryan Pavich | Staff Writer

As Peter Randazzo walked into his first class at Suffolk, he knew he would be fighting an uphill battle all semester. Scanning the rows of chairs in his lofty rehearsal room, he could feel the difficulty of his task before him setting in. Twelve. There were just twelve of them.

Randazzo, the 59-year-old instructor for band at Suffolk, was tasked with performing whole pieces of symphonies with just twelve students assigned on to his roster. “That has been the biggest challenge.” Randazzo said regarding the volatile nature of his roster every semester “I have to make due with what I get, with what comes in the room, and then I have to start planning early for what kind of ringers we’re gonna get to fill the group in by the time the concert comes around.”

Randazzo credits those who played in his first band here with having a major impact on expanding the roster to a feasible amount. “I’m really grateful to the kids that keep playing, be they community members or they continue to be on the roster, I can count on them,” he said. “They all went out of their way to rustle some other kids to come in.”

This semester, Randazzo said that the roster is in the best shape it has been in the four and a half years that he has worked at Suffolk. “This semester with a whole party of kids and a lot of community comebackers, it’s been a blast right now,” he added.

Suffolk’s band has indeed seen a culture develop from within that allows participation even after taking the class for its credits. The spots that previously were dominated by the professionals that had to be hired to fill the sound have been gradually taken over by the community members and previous students with an intense desire to continue playing. Their contributions, combined with new waves of oncoming students, has grown the roster tremendously, to the point where most sections can perform without additional assistance.

The current semester that Randazzo refers to as his largest, has roughly 40 musicians at his disposal.

Part of the appeal in returning to the band is Randazzo’s ability to bring out their best. He said that he gets the most out of his students by giving them his best, by mirroring how much he wants from them with his intensity in rehearsal. There are often physical results, with sweat pouring from his face during every interception. He combines his strict demand for performance with an abundance of humor, and no one is safe from being the butt of one of his jokes, even himself. When asked about how his methods pan out, he said that, “I think the kids like those guidelines, and it helps them to get on a path to have some success.”

For Randazzo, this intensity to his rehearsals is a necessity, but it isn’t always guaranteed to work perfectly. He said, “I think maybe one or two concerts I pushed them, and I pushed them so hard that they didn’t have the chops in the concert. Or I pushed them just a little bit beyond them. But I’m never afraid of pushing them to their limits. Sometimes you win, sometimes you lose.”

More often than not, Randazzo won. He has had a long career, teaching as a professional since 1979, and he has made the most out of the groups that he has worked with. “I always like the challenge of getting kids to go to a higher level,” he said. “I think the reward comes in how much the kids progress.” Randazzo has made guest appearances conducting in All-County bands, and while he said that “that was just fun”, he felt that the work had already been done for him. “I like the product where I start, and take them from where they were, and get them to the best that they can be,” he said.

While Randazzo has had a multitude of success teaching kids in his career, he has made a few mistakes along the way. Some stay with him more than others do. “I’ll tell ya, the biggest mistake I regret as a teacher was using, – and I’ve redeemed myself, I’ve tried to redeem myself – I used to use Suffolk when I taught in high school as like, a negative point. And it’s the worst thing that I ever did, because once I started teaching here I realized what a gem this place is, and what it does for kids. It’s a great place for kids to do whatever they need to do to get started to go to the next place, so I regret saying to a kid, ‘yeah keep working like that, you’ll wind up going to Suffolk’, and that’s not such a bad thing, to go to Suffolk.” Randazzo said.

Randazzo went as far as to say in an open letter to faculty across Suffolk County, that he believed it was the worst thing he had ever done, and to let their kids know that Suffolk is a place to consider seriously. “I’ve been trying to make up for that ever since,” he said.

The students that Randazzo has worked with have been the motivating factor throughout his career, and it is for their sake that he works so vigorously. That relationship is something that is essential, and makes the job at hand easier to tackle. Developing it in the high school setting, however, is quite different than here in college. “When you teach at the high school [level], you see those kids all day long, ya know, and here in college kids come for the rehearsal, we chitchat and we have fun, and then they disappear,” he said. “I wish there was just more chances to build stronger relationships with the kids.”

“But,” he added, “That’s just the nature of the beast. It’s a reality that Randazzo knows well, and has succeeded in engaging his students regardless. This semester however, will be Randazzo’s last chance to engage those students, both new and old, before retiring in the winter. “My wife and I are gonna become snowbirds, we’re gonna go to Florida in the winter, to get out of the Long Island snow, and when I go down to the area where we’re living I’m gonna be bringing my saxophones, hopefully joining in the pit orchestras jazz bands, and rock bands down there,” he said. “And I’ll still have my contacts when I come back up here to continue to keep playing.”

Indeed, Randazzo plans to continue to be active in his retirement, following the music wherever it takes him and keeping up on his hobbies. He said that he enjoys casual sports that fat people can play, with a chuckle. He enjoys some golf, and is learning a game called pickleball, (a combination of tennis, badminton, and ping-pong,) which is popular down in Florida. He also said that he is looking forward to having a lot of fun with his wife, who retired earlier in the summer.

If you know any faculty/staff member or student on campus that you think is a hidden gem, please shoot us an email at compassnewspaper@hotmail.com.

You could help us choose our next two candidates for Humans Of Suffolk.
A Tuberculosis Sanatorium opened on the grounds of what is now SCC in the spring of 1916. The establishing of the sanatorium has much to do with doctors William H. Ross of Brentwood and Frank Overton, both who lobbied the County Legislature for the creation of the sanatorium. In fact, Ross previously ran a health resort in Brentwood. He strongly believed that breathing pine scented air was good for those suffering from respiratory issues. Much of his beliefs are the reason why the land was chosen. There was a general belief that you can get some relief from Tuberculosis if you were on high land, sandy land and piney land and this of course was perfect for that,” Albin Cofone, professor of social sciences, said.

Biology Professor Reynold Welch said the New York State Conservation Commission donated 10,000 Norway spruce and Scotch pine trees, thus, easing the pain of patients. An individual could contract Tuberculosis very easily so it was vital that those infected were isolated, History Professor Denise Haggerty, said. “In Suffolk County in the early part of the 20th Century we had a public health nurse who had the authority to go out in the community and if people showed signs of Tuberculosis she had the authority to force them into treatment,” Haggerty said. Dr. Edwin Kolb was the first superintendent of the sanatorium. He served as the superintendent for 33 years up until his retirement. He lived on campus in what is now known as the cottage. President Ammerman, Suffolk's first president, lived there as well. “Every Christmas he would host a Christmas party and he invited the entire faculty,” Haggerty said. The cottage still stands today where the college foundation office is located. The sanatorium's first buildings were constructed in 1916, said Welch. They consisted of an infirmary and dormitories for both men and women. These buildings were demolished in the 1970's and the Southampton Building currently is in place of them. In 1922, a new infirmary was built. This building, the oldest on campus, still stands today and is known as the Norman F. Lechtrecker (NFL) Building. It wasn’t until 1935 that the Ross Building, today known as the Ammerman Building, and Marshall Building, also known as Kreiling Hall, were erected. They were created as a result of President Franklin D. Roosevelt’s Works Progress Administration. The Ross building was consequently named after the doctor. Active in tuberculosis matters, William H. Ross.

While the Marshall Building was a memorial building dedicated to Dr. J.H. Marshall, once president of the Suffolk County Medical Association. The Ross building was for male patients while the Marshall building was for children. There was a one-room schoolhouse on the sanatorium property to teach the tubercular children. According to The Times of Middle Country, teacher Frannie Curtis taught an average of 22 students. Students even had the chance to use a playground thanks to donations from others.

Located on the roof of the Marshall Building was a “place for plane spotting during World War II. They were put on top of buildings all over the east coast during World War II to watch for invading Nazis,” Welch said. This can still be found today. You could also still find a small structure on the roof where a compass rose is located on the ceiling. A common myth that exists at the college is one that a morgue was located in Kreiling Hall. Welch disputed this myth by stating there were large walk in refrigerators were located in the basement of Kreiling Hall that resembled a morgue. When a patient died, an ambulance was called and the body was taken to a hospital, Welch said. The number of patients treated “Varied year by year. Treatment meant a number of things. For example, in 1933, a census of patients in November was 101 on-site patients, almost evenly divided male/female, but over the course of the year, about double that had been treated, as some do not stay that long, and, of course, some die,” Welch said.

The sanatorium began to lose its patients in the mid 1900's. “With the coming of the vaccination it was no longer necessary,” Haggerty said. All that was left in 1961 was an outpatient clinic. Suffolk County Community College was established December 18th, 1959 Haggerty said. Its first classes were held in October of 1960 at what's currently Sachem High School North in Ronkonkoma. In 1961, the Selden campus opened to 1,550 students. Shortly after in 1942, the first class graduated with 42 students.
OFF CAMPUS NEWS

The Villainous Ways of Childhood Heroes

By Mike Guido | Sports Editor

For as long as all of us can remember, sports have been an outlet, an escape, a sense of entertainment, a conversation starter, and more than anything else, an architect for communities. We have all been joyous and we have all been heartbroken, but our passion for sports has never faded. Parents pass along the fandom to their children and they pass it along generation to generation. Children dream of days where they meet their favorite athlete and strive to become them one day. Athletes become icons and more importantly, heroes.

Then we get older and we start seeing the reality in the world as a whole. The reality that children are blind to or protected from. We discover that athletes are human as well and not the superheros we thought they were. They are people who make mistakes just like everyone else. Worst case scenario, we see our Supermans turn into Lex Luthors. Some athletes have psychological concerns causing them to drink or become addicted to drugs. Some use performance enhancing drugs and get nailed by the executives of the league causing a suspension of some sort. Others find themselves with blood and tears dripping down their hands with the marks of domestic violence printed on them.

Domestic violence has been a growing issue for years inside and outside of the sports world. We hear about it every day and so much that television programs are centered around the ideas of these crimes. In sports, with the exception of PED use, domestic violence is the issue growing at the most unimaginable rate. It has gotten to the point where people are comparing cases as if it is a competition to see whose crime was worse. As if one needs to top the other for a prize at the end of this imaginary game show.

The case that seemed to have start the fire was the scandal surrounding pro bowl running back Ray Rice and his now ex-girlfriend. He had allegedly hit his girlfriend in a moving elevator; so hard to where she was passed out and escorted to the hospital. Rice has since not played another down in the National Football League. Rice had followed the necessary procedures taken by the league and other outside law enforcement officials and had notably been reinstated back into the NFL, however no team is willing to bite on his bate hook. This case also is responsible for the week long suspension of ESPN’s Stephen A. Smith after making comments that he later said was the most egregious mistake of his career. Smith was then backed by The View’s Whoopi Goldberg saying that he was not being crude in his comments and was only trying to point out the invincibility from physical harm that women have against men. Smith stated that women can not automatically assume that a man will not hit them just because society slaps the act on the wrist. Smith since then had been heckled and shamed for his comments by not only the public, but by his coworkers.

We then mention Greg Hardy’s name in a sentence and the world gasps in disgust. Greg Hardy was a pro bowl defensive end for the Carolina Panthers when the case allegedly took place. Hardy had physically mauled his girlfriend to the point where the scars are in need of discretionary warnings before being put on live television. He then reportedly threw her onto a bed covered in fully loaded automatic weapons. He was handed a year-long suspension as well as 11 games over the course of the following season where after appeal was reduced to a year and four games. Hardy then found himself dawning the big navy blue star on his helmet as he signed a one-year contract with the Dallas Cowboys that was fully nonguaranteed.

Following the appealing process conducted by the NFL, the league was criticized for its domestic violence policy. Roger Goodell, who never had a crook and a con-artist himself. We started hearing radio shows and news writers comparing the Hardy case to Deflategate based around the NFL’s pussywiazza and its anti-hyperactive punishment. The world was enraged when the NFL gave Brady the same suspension as Hardy given the worldwide opinion that Hardy should not have been reinstated in the first place. Hardy has not re-signed with the Cowboys nor any other franchise and his NFL career is growing closer to being non-existent.

People cannot utter the words without their attitude completely changing. As ugly as the words are, the act far surpasses anything spoken by a human mouth. The term is now as sensitive as a swear and people are afraid to utter the phrase in conversation. It often seems that the topics most worthy of conversation are the ones that people are afraid to touch on.

Sports have been a way of life, a builder of communities, and a creator of the world’s most iconic and idolized people. We all had that favorite player growing up. Derek Jeter, Lebron James, Peyton Manning, Kobe Bryant, etc. The question becomes, are we only seeing this now because we have gotten more mature and educated or has the planet turned upside down in the past few years? Has the world changed so much that we are in disbelief that we have been able to live in it for however man years we have been?

The conversations we all die to have, but hate having leave us speechless. Hearts are breaking as fast as the fibers in your muscles do with every inch of movement your body makes. Aside from sports, when this happens in real life, the world stops. Lives are changed and the eyes of the public shoot open once it hits the press. We all forget that sports are supposed to be a source of happiness in life and for the most part, it has remained that way. But we all want to remember the days where sports was an escape from the catastrophe in the real world, not a window to it. Sports used to be like, “The Sandlot,” where kids from every neighborhood dreamt of being major leaguers or professional athletes. Athletes now need to understand that they are anything but untouchable. They may be kings of the world now, but it only takes one mistake for that quick trip down the hill. Athletes need to remember what we all want to remember, “The Sandlot,” days. Heroes get remembered, but legends never die. Follow your heart kid and you can never go wrong.
Suffolk County Community College presents our 30th Annual Halloween Festival

SATURDAY
OCTOBER 29, 2016
11 a.m. - 3 p.m.
Veterans Plaza
(Ammerson Campus
533 College Road
Selden NY 11784
Park in Lot #7

FREE ADMISSION
Please bring an unexpired non-perishable food item for our food pantry.

Sword Swallower
Roderick Russell

Reptile World

Jester Jim the Juggler

Haunted House

Stylin’ Sounds DJ

Balloon Artistry
by Audrea

Caricatures
by Dylan

Stiltwalkers
the Amazing Wayne & Awesome Carol

Carnival Booths & Games

Petting Zoo

Inflatables

Please allow at least 2 hours to best enjoy the festival. All attractions will close promptly at 3 p.m.

RAIN OR SHINE EVENT

Please don’t forget UNICEF
Christina Grimmie: A shining star that was taken too soon

By Bonnie Nielsen | Editor-In-Chief

“Christina was a natural, a gifted talent that comes along so rarely. She was taken from us too soon. This is yet another senseless act of extreme violence. I am left stunned and confused how these things can conceivably continue to happen in this world.” Said Christina Grimmie’s coach from season 6 of The Voice, Adam Levine. Ms. Grimmie made it to the final three on The Voice that season. As well as her fame earned on the show, Christina was also extremely well known in the YouTube world. She had raked in millions of viewers on the site with her song covers, as well as the beautiful songs she wrote that had touched everyone. She also toured along with celebrity Selena Gomez, and was touring all over the world singing all her own songs and making people happy with her music and electric personality. On June 10, 2016 it was a normal concert day for the 22-year-old pop star. After her final show, which took place in Orlando, FL she went backstage to meet with her fans and sign autographs. Little did she know that she was going to be coming in contact with her killer. With the biggest smile on her face, she went to hug the 21-year-old man and he pulled out a gun and shot Ms. Grimmie in the head. Fans screamed frantic as they witnessed their favorite artist fall to the ground, and before the shooter could hurt anyone else, Christina Grimmie’s brother, 23-year-old Mark Grimmie, tackled the shooter to the ground. Once that happened, the shooter fatally shot himself in the head and ended it all. Grimmies’ brother Marcus is a hero to us all. He stopped any further tragedies from happening at that scene, being that the shooter, Kevin James Loibl, had two handguns, two additional loaded magazines, and a large hunting knife on him. He intended to do more damage than he had done. This is a tragic loss to the music world and with myself being someone who has followed Christina Grimmie as she had gained more and more fame over the years; I find it unacceptable that this horrific event took place. She deserved every single ounce of fame she earned and she was just getting more famous as the months went on. At 22 you still have so much to live for. Hell, you have barely even lived at that point and Kevin James Loibl took that away from her and her incredible family. He took away what could have been for the young pop star, and The Compass staffs’ hearts go out to her family and loved ones. Her memory and voice will live on forever in our hearts. She was a beautiful, young woman with tremendous talent. She truly was a shining star that was taken too soon.
A Woman’s Voice, Societies View

By Savannah Tejada | Staff writer

Through the ins and outs of the entertainment world, Amber Rose, model, actress and activist feminist has made waves for woman. She has took it upon herself to speak up for woman who, as herself, are slut-shamed and called other names because of what they choose to wear or do. Amber was a former stripper in her teens and has done many nude photoshoots now as a celebrity that always have people talking. She says that being in the position she is in the limelight she feels she has an upper hand to be the voice for woman in all circumstances.

Rose has formed a walk called, “The Slut Walk,” now it’s not what people may seem to think once they hear the name, there is more to it. The walk she has created is for woman to come out and voice themselves with the names they’ve been called and issues they’ve dealt with such as rape. She wants to make the change of allowing woman to come out of their shells and embracing themselves. During an interview Rose points out, “Channing Tatum was a stripper,” she says of his movie Magic Mike XXL. “He’s an established actor who’s at the Vanity Fair parties and at the Oscars, but for me, no matter how far I go in my life, I see these stories that keep referring to me as a ‘former stripper.’” No one says ‘former steward’ or ‘former McDonald’s worker’ about Brad Pitt. No one does that to men.” She also threw in singer Beyoncé’s provocative outfits during many of her performances that are never treated poor as the Kardashian’s and herself because of the pedestal Beyoncé is held upon in the media world.

Being a voice for woman all over Amber even took to stand up for Kim Kardashian, model, reality TV personality, who she does not entirely get along with. Kim had posted up a nude photo of herself on Instagram and was immediately hit with hate comments from fans and media outlets. She says, “...I hope that through this platform I have been given, I can encourage the same empowerment for girl and woman all over the world.” Rose defends Kim by making a post saying, “...being slut shamed and ridiculed is not fun, it’s hurtful and mean. Us woman deal with it every day, and I am happy you can speak openly on this now, because if anyone knows what it’s like to be slut shamed it’s you! Live it Kim! Make a difference and speak on it! Not only when it’s convenient for you, but when you can help others.” Our society has taken a different outlook on portraying woman and judging by the way they may dress, where they’ve been or even the way they may take a picture.

Part of society doesn’t agree with allowing your body to be free for the public, and part look at it as embracing your sexuality and loving yourself as Amber and Kim both do. Both of these women are only two of the many who take a stand for themselves and other woman even with the negative baggage that it may carry to prove to society we are all one in the same and no one should be judged by their appearance or past struggles.

Get Involved on Campus

By Dan Howlin | Staff writer

Students across the country, at both community colleges and four year universities need to be more involved. For students at a community college, getting involved with a club or organization can be tough. Community college students are often stuck in the never ending cycle of school, work and homework. Some students feel they don’t have the time, and some think joining a club is “nerdy” or “stupid” and just want to go to school, and leave as soon as possible. In reality, it’s not as time consuming as people think and can actually have a positive impact on students.

More students need to participate within the school. Joining a club or organization gives students a sense of accomplishment and fulfillment. Seeing a group of people work hard to accomplish something often brings people closer together. This is why joining a club that actually works toward and produces something, such as a publication or community service club are often the most rewarding clubs to join. Students get a sense of fulfillment that they wouldn’t get by just hanging out in the library or cafeteria. Students feel they won’t fit in when they join a club but in reality, joining a club is the best way to make friends at a community college, because when students join a club they share interests and have a lot in common with those around them.

Students have a million different reasons for not joining a club, saying things like “I won’t fit in,” “It’s too time consuming,” “I don’t like the way the run things” but the excuses must stop. You will get nowhere in life by making excuses. The best way to get involved is to actually go to a meeting, don’t just go by what you hear. It’s easy to make assumptions from the outside, you’ll never know until you try it.

There are many solutions to the problem of students not participating on campus. One idea is giving students who participate some kind of internship credit. If a student joins something like a publication or a community service club there should be options to earn something like internship credits or money off their tuition, but only if they truly participate. Another way to help with the problem is raising awareness. Schools can raise awareness for their clubs by having club representatives at things like open houses and orientations. Clubs could also set up certain times to go into things like freshmen seminar classes to talk with students about joining their respective club.

College can be a stressful time for everyone, join a club and see where it takes you, you never know who you might meet or the opportunities that will come from it.
There are many conflicting emotions that arise when I think about leaving this school. On one hand, commuting to school has been the constant source of my anger, frustration, and angst. On the other hand, writing for the paper here has improved my life immensely, and I wouldn’t trade my experiences for anything. When it comes to actually missing this place it isn’t the school that I would miss, but the wonderful people that I have met. I am going to miss all of the people that I have interacted with, and that’s because this is where I got my start. This school will forever stay in my mind as the place where it all began.

This college is simply a comfortable place to be. This level of comfort is made possible by the outstanding faculty that I have dealt with in my four semesters here. In the first three of my four semesters I attended both Ammerman and Eastern campus, but I have to say I enjoyed my time here, at Ammerman campus, much more. The faculty at this campus has made me feel at home, even though this campus is much larger than Eastern. Coming from a small High School I was honestly intimidated on my first day of college, and I was lost. Even though I attended orientation my first day on campus was full of checking my schedule and saying to myself “I hope this is the right classroom, please be the right classroom.”

It was then revealed to me when I entered a class that the faculty here truly wants their students to succeed. Unfortunately I cannot speak for the other departments, but the English department at the school has made my experience here a more than pleasant one. It was an English course that I took here that made me realize how much I truly enjoyed writing. Along with that the English courses I have taken here have helped me to sharpen my skills when it comes to writing, and the feedback that I have received from the faculty has been helpful to say the least.

One thing that the college does an excellent job at is emphasizing the importance of interacting with your classmates. As many of you know, this is at the very roots of building a successful career in whatever you are trying to do. Just because it is a commuter school doesn’t mean that you shouldn’t interact with the school. Interaction enhances the whole college experience, and when you are looking to transfer out having interaction skills will help you move forward.

I can honestly say without a doubt that joining Compass is the sole reason that my experience here was a positive one. I completely encourage all students to explore what you’re into. You never know where it could lead you, and if you have a career in mind then this is your perfect opportunity to gain experience. The college tries to cater to everyone’s interest and there is over 70 different clubs on this campus, both professional and recreational. On the school website under student life you can find the full list of clubs at the school. For the most part, the school clubs meet during common hour every Wednesday.

In my specific case it was the people that I met and worked with at the Compass who made my experience what it was. It was honestly exhilarating to meet people that are interested in all the same things that I am. Among all else that is what I am going to miss the most, and it is going to be difficult to start over somewhere else. I feel this sense of sadness to leave this familiar place but at the same time, living somewhere else is just so enticing to me at this point. Living on my own is something I haven’t experienced before and I am definitely looking forward to that. It’s the starting over that worries me. The familiarity just makes me feel so comfortable, and I walk around campus with a similar feeling as when I would around my High School.

That being said, because I live 30 minutes from Ammerman Campus and 30 minutes from Eastern Campus I am not going to miss the commute. After four semesters of doing it I honestly felt like it was just eating chunks of my life. Hours seemingly wasted, but put to excellent use. To obtain the education and experience that I did at the college I’d be willing to drive an hour each way, and I mean that. I just want to thank everyone who helped me along the way; I really am going to miss you.
When I was younger I never would imagine my current twenty something-year-old-self having anything negative to say about video games. After all, I have been in love with the realm of gaming ever since I was able to hold a NES controller. My love hasn’t faltered in over twenty years but the industry has. I’m not complaining about the quality nor price of games today, as they are cheaper than ever and the amount of triple A titles is higher than ever before. I often find myself overwhelmed with the amount of high quality gaming experiences today.

I could sit here and fanboy over my recent obsessions with The Division, Fallout 4, and Rocket League but with each great game I have purchased within the last few years I have had to make great sacrifices. This is because there are more games coming out today than ever before and as a broke college student with a full time job I don’t have the time nor energy to game as I would like. In fact even if I was unemployed and not attending school I doubt it would be possible to be able to play as much as the industry expects me to.

Every time I log into steam, or turn on a console, I instantly feel overwhelmed by my incredible backlog of games. I look and shutter when I see how many incredible experiences have been left half experienced, how many games I haven’t beaten and how many I have never even touched. The numbers are in the dozens, possibly the hundreds, and as a gamer today I can’t be expected to play each and every game that is recommended to me by the industry. It wasn’t until early last year when I realized a very simple truth: I don’t have to.

I was filled with regret when I think of my recent decisions to not purchase Dark Souls 3 and to bypass Enter The Gungeon completely. When I look on Steam and realize I still haven’t completed Ori and the Blind Forest, Crypt of the NecroDancer or even Far Cry: Blood Dragon, I am ashamed. I spent good money on these experiences that promised hours of enjoyment. It’s sad to say it but there are just too many games.

I never would have thought that my building of a gaming PC and my purchases of a PS4 and Xbox One would have been mistakes but today I feel that I have put myself into a tough spot. I was planning on giving myself the tools necessary to play all exclusives and have access to all games but all I did was shoot myself in the foot. Each Tuesday I turn on my PS4 and Xbox One and am greeted with upwards of a dozen new releases; each and every day Steam totes a new sale. How are gamers expected to play these games? Better yet how are we expected to sort through the mess and find that one hidden gem amongst them? Here’s a secret, we’re not.

Gamers like myself have to learn to say no. They have to choose a side, find a console they can get behind and stick with it. We need to stop buying everything and take time to enjoy the few games we can actually sink time into. Of course I want to be able to discuss the next plethora of impossible challenges that await me in Dark Souls 3 but if I’m honest with myself I’m more than happy to continue wondering the Commonwealth or teaming up with friends to take down rouges in an outbreak ridden New York City for months to come.

As student gamers we need to start thinking with our heads and wallets and not with our impulsive hearts. We have to be able to stand up and say no to another disappointment; I’m looking at you The Order 1886 and Evolve. Find your niche, be the next person to put in hundreds of hours into a new game. Keep with the games you love and stop getting sucked in to the abyss that modern gaming experiences have become. Learn to say no to all games and say yes to a select few. Trust me, both your wallet and sanity will thank you.
By Otis Pickett | Staff writer

Supergiant Games announced their new game, Pyre, which means that my inevitable overdose on caffeine will have to wait till 2017 (it’s a shame because I was pretty close too). And since I’ve just decided to embrace life, I figured that I would use position at the Compass and my disgusting amount of free time to take a look at the works of this great team of game devs.

I love my girlfriend. I love her because she’s kind, supportive, sexy, funny, clever and you get the idea. But if I could take Transistor and “weird science” into a human facsimile, I would leave her in a heartbeat. The only problem with that scenario—I mean, the only one—is that I think Transistor would be out of my league. Before Transistor, Supergiant Games threw down Bastion and the entire gaming community hasn’t stopped praising its name, since. With good reason, too. Bastion took the top-down action RPG, cut off the fat, gussied it up and gave it a compelling narrative. Supergiant crafted one of the best games in this medium’s history—and then they had to make another one. With Sony footing the bill (to some extent), Supergiant went to work and banged out a better game than Bastion...by making Bastion again—hear me out.

Gameplay in both Bastion and Transistor takes place from the top-down isometric perspective. They both center on a world in chaos and a silent protagonist who has lost something to that chaos. They both have spectacular sound, in both vocal and musical aspects; the music of Transistor is a particular standout, especially considering how much of that game in particular centers on music. It’s impossible to cast a light on Transistor’s similarities to Bastion, without illuminating the deviations. However, it’s in those deviations, where Trans really shines. For example, Bastion’s combat had depth but you couldn’t drown in it like you almost have to in Transistor. Kid and Red (Bastion’s and Transistor’s protagonists, respectively) control the same but operate under different restrictions. Kid was able to get away with some ridiculous nonsense in Bastion. Mashing melee attacks while only occasionally running ranged fared you well throughout most to that game. Not to say there was no incentive to truly perform (pride can be its own motivator) and there were definitely times you had to come correct, but you could stick to your particular build (carbine and musket, all day) and chug through to the end. It was simple. It was fun. It was what it was but Transistor was better. Transistor took a slightly slower approach, giving you the ability to freeze time and plan your attacks before executing them in one fluid motion. Trans’ large catalog of difficult enemies combined with rearranging arenas made every fight feel like a scrap, like I had just gotten through by the skin of my teeth. The sensation of barely surviving a fight is, at times, more satisfying than just having total control over the situation, although the sensation of walking into a room of enemies and knowing you’re the only one walking out can be just as well.

A cybernetic sword that contains the consciousness of her dead lover, The Transistor serves as Red’s emotional rock and has her best interests at heart. It’s clear that he loves her and the game does a fantastic job of conveying that without succumbing to tropes and cheese. Having the controller emit his voice threw me into a deeper level of immersion and single-handedly justified the Dualshock’s integrated speakers. The Transistor is one of the best supporting characters I’ve seen in a game but that doesn’t mean homemgir doesn’t get her 15 minutes. Supergiant provides many opportunities for Red to express herself; both in and out of gameplay. Red’s plight—her lost voice, her “lost” lover—is so devastating in concept that her willingness to fight proves heartening, but it takes The Transistor to keep her strong (and vice versa). The relationship is held together by one-sided conversations and tag team cybernetic sword fights. Their dynamic is such: with Red’s body and lack of voice and Trans’ voice but lack of body, it takes the two of them to survive. It’s rare to see aspects of a relationship so well executed in a game. Games tend to paint female characters as weak; something that needs saving. Just as common is the portrayal of male characters as strong, confident and incapable of showing vulnerability. Transistor finds balance by making its two protagonists opposing but somehow equally broken. It’s taken the two of them, together, to form a single, functioning hero.

I could spend all day talking about Supergiant’s games. Now that I think about it, I actually have; but let me put a bow on this bad boy so we can go our separate ways. Supergiant’s first game, Bastion, was a revolution for me. It forced me to focus on the “indie” genre and changed what I find appealing in games as a whole. Bastion changed how and why I play games and still Transistor is better. Transistor is the closest thing to what I would call a perfect game. The gameplay is deep and satisfying and works in tandem with the story. It looks like spring and sounds like June (hey, hey). The protagonist looks like if the barista you have a crush on (but never hit on because come on, who wants to get hit on at work?) had the fashion sense of a cyberpunk Cyd Charisse. Her sword is basically the concept of the Matrix inside of body Hal 90000 with the voice of Marlon Brando—but like, a young Marlon Brando. These games--but specifically Transistor--have reached the likes of Jojo’s Bizarre Adventure, Star Wars, and Singin’ in the Rain in that it’s just a constant inhabitant of my immediate thought apropos of literally nothing (I think I might be going crazy). There are games that I go back to often, there are games I wish I could go back to more often than I do. But Transistor is my “deathbed game”. It’s everything I love about games done so well that playing it is the actual last thing I want to do with my time on this planet. I might not even wait for a weird science situation, I might just try to bed a copy of Transistor, right now; an act made doubly difficult because it’s a digital-only game. But “fortune favors the bold”, right?
Every millennial has been on the edge of their seats anticipating the sequel to “Finding Nemo” coming out, and now it is here! Finding Nemo alone grossed 895.6 million in the box office when it had released in 2003, and it taught kids a few life lessons. It taught them how important it is to work with other people, and that teamwork is more effective than trying to do something on your own. Accept the help you’re offered. It also tells kids that even when you think your parents are just trying to ruin your life, you should listen to them. They just want to keep you safe and out of trouble. The movie really displays the lengths a parent would go to for their child. Marlin travels across the whole ocean to find his only son Nemo with the help of a fish with short-term memory named Dory.

When Nemo fanatics found out that a sequel would be coming out, or even that the idea was being swished around the minds of the creators, social media blew up with excitement and anticipation. The movie “Finding Dory,” which is very different than “Finding Nemo,” really portrays how much Dory struggles with her disability of short-term memory loss and how hard she works throughout the movie to overcome it. She questions whether or not she can find her family while she has no one else to “Just keep swimming” next to her at certain parts of the movie and guide her the whole way along. It brings her a very strong sense of accomplishment and it really teaches children that even when they get discouraged, they can still overcome their disabilities and achieve any and every goal they set their mind to. We are also introduced to an Octopus by the name of Hank who learns to let Dory warm his seemingly cold hearts. Yes, Octopi have more than one heart, three to be exact. The relationship between Hank and Dory within the movie shows kids that you never have to be alone, and to let people love you.

After years of anticipation, my friends and I went to go see “Finding Dory” the Friday after the premiere and it was more than we all had hoped for. There were moments that I would be clutching my friends’ arm during a tense scene. There was laughter, actual tears rolling down my face, laughter, and almost more tears and I walked away from it with my heart warmed by all of the meaning the movie had. The long awaited movie has lived up to all of the hype it has created. It has set the record for the biggest animated film box office opening with over $130 million dollars.

“In a way that is both emphatic and subtle, “Finding Dory” is a celebration of cognitive and physical differences. It argues, with lovely ingenuity and understatement, that what appear to be impairments might better be understood as strengths.”

– A.O. Scott, New York Times
Dario Argento’s Dracula

By William Burns | Faculty Advisor

Ughhh. Do you have a friend that, for some masochistic reason, you need to defend in the face of irresistible evidence of their faults? Everyone else has pointed out, quite correctly, that this person has character flaws that can be easily addressed and rectified but you make excuses for them, coddle them, and protect them from criticisms that might actually be valid? Like how Lester Bangs used to beg Lou Reed to torture him by throwing away his god-like talent on mediocre albums? I am a Dario Argento enabler. I’ve never met the man but feel an extreme loyalty to him for changing the way that I not only look at horror but the entire medium of cinema. Though it’s unnecessary, I feel the need to list his absolute triumphs, films that elevated the genre and filmmaking to a higher level: The Bird with the Crystal Plumage, Deep Red, Suspiria, Inferno, Tenebre, Opera. Most directors would kill to have one of these films in their oeuvre. He nurtured the talents of Michele Soavi, encouraged Goblin to do soundtracks, and is the father of an artistic dynamo named Asia. Even his lesser films are still entertaining achievements. A girl that can communicate with insects? A razor welding chimp? C’mon, you’re not going to see that in any JJ Abrams or Joss Wedon flick. Yet around 1993 with the disappointing Trauma, fans started to doubt the maestro’s formidable powers and with each subsequent release bemoan the decline of a once great visionary. I think the films Argento made in the 90’s and 00’s are ripe for revaluation. The Black Cat, The Stendhal Syndrome, Sleepless, and his two Masters of Horror episodes are underrated and represent a different, maturing directing style. I loved The Mother of Tears, which many fans attacked mercilessly because it wasn’t Suspiria or Inferno but that’s like hating Touch of Evil for not being Citizen Kane or The Magnificent Ambersons. Granted there are some clinkers in Argento’s career, but I don’t believe they are entirely his fault. Reports of Adrien Brody’s prima donna antics and the producers’ chicanery pretty much sunk Giallo right out of the gate. Which brings us to his latest film, another version of Bram Stoker’s iconic character. Though Argento has often confessed his love for Edgar Allan Poe and Gothic romanticism, when I first heard about this project I didn’t see it as a good fit. Argento’s artistry comes from his ability to depict the intrusion of the irrational, the nightmarish, and the brutal into modern environments and situations that should be ordered and protected by logic, law, science, or art. Detectives, doctors, scientists, police, musicians, and teachers all follow certain rules and procedures. Schools, theaters, and museums are all structured around rigidly acceptable forms of behavior. It is the incursion of the chaotic, represented by insanity or the supernatural, onto these rational characters and into these controlled and regulated settings that creates the horror in Argento’s films. The period setting of Argento’s Dracula takes that motif away from his artistic palate and what we get is a contrived, cliché depiction of some Transylvanian village where the viewer expects something supernatural to happen. Argento’s screenplay doesn’t even follow Stoker’s narrative to London, the capital of decorum and repressive reason during the Victorian Age, which would have been the perfect environment to unleash the irrational on a society that was obsessed with rules and regulations. That’s just the tip of the iceberg in terms of what’s wrong with this film. While Thomas Kretschmann as Dracula and Asia Argento as Lucy are hammy but fun in their roles, the rest of the acting is either bland or histrionic. What has happened to Rutger Hauer? I thought Anthony Hopkins was over the top as Van Helsing but at least he did something with the role. Hauer alternates between narcolepsy and sleepwalking with a few detours to chew the cheap scenery. The dubbing is atrocious so that certainly doesn’t help the performances. Argento’s directing is quite American: flat and boring. If someone would have told me this film was a Sy-Fy production I wouldn’t have been batted an eye. Some critics have condemned the unnecessary nudity, the gratuitous gore during Dracula’s attack on the town’s leaders (which was the film’s only interesting addition as the town’s leading citizens have been in collusion with Dracula to save themselves), and Dracula’s CGI morphing into a praying mantis, but thank goodness these scenes were in the film because something half way interesting was being displayed on screen to break up the monotonity. If you want Dracula, don’t start here. Watch Terrence Fisher’s Horror of Dracula to truly experience the grandeur and the darkness as well as the heroic and the virtuous. Argento’s entire film can’t even measure up to the smallest moments from Horror of Dracula: the blood dripping down the stone eagle, Harker’s realization of his vampiric infection, Van Helsing giving the little girl his coat and crucifix, and of course one of the most rousing climaxes in cinema history. Fischer’s belief in the innate goodness of humanity, despite our weaknesses and ignorance, is perfectly realized by Peter Cushing’s performance as Van Helsing: a man of science but open-minded, a thinker but ready for action, a man of compassion but a destroyer of the contagion of evil. So, to misquote Simone de Beauvoir, should we burn Argento? Are his days of unbridled creativity far behind him, ancient history in terms of the short term memories of the digital age? Horror fans should be wary of certainties and absolutes because if there is one genre where anything can happen and the repressed can return in gloriously shocking fashion, it’s horror. Still, after watching Argento’s Dracula, I’ve decided that maybe enabling and blindly defending someone might not be the best way to help them.
Suffolk County Community College
Office of Planning and Institutional Effectiveness

SHARK BYTES

Your weekly dose of institutional data...

Did you know?
More than 83% of Suffolk County Community College students are employed while enrolled, which is over 8% higher than the national average for community college students.

Over 52% of SCCC students are employed part-time, and 31% of students are employed full-time while studying here – both totals significantly higher than the national average.*

* source: 2016 SUNY Student Opinion Survey
By Mike Guido | Sports Editor

In sports, athletes are looked at as people with extraordinary talents that far surpass the generic person. Children see them as role models and as mere figures fitting directly into their imaginations where they aspire to be like them as they age. Sometimes as spectators, we are blinded by the elegance of their talent causing us to discard their character off the field. Athletes know all of this as well. Some of them just simply choose to not portray a decent image. But the ones that do represent clear role models get overshadowed by the ones who do not. There is one particular sports icon that refused to be overshadowed and that was Muhammad Ali. This past June, the man known as the greatest of all time passed away at the age of 74.

On June 3, 2016, the world stopped turning when the news broke that Muhammad Ali had moved on. In a year that has so far been riddled with the deaths of athletes, this one seems to have hit home to most people. His death has not only reached the hearts of sports fans, but it reached to the people who stood up for and admire for the things he fought for throughout his career. Ali was an ambassador for not only African Americans, but for Muslims as well making him one of the most if not the most respected African American and Muslim athlete to ever live. Alongside Malcolm X, Muhammad Ali became one of the most famous and well respected civil rights activists in the country. He brought a lot of attention to this subject throughout the sports world. Ali’s name has been tied to other legendary sports figures that made a difference in the social aspect of sports. Jackie Robinson, Bill Russell, Kareem Abdul-Jabbar, and Muhammad Ali have all been mentioned in the same breath for what they have done for their sports and communities.

Aside from Ali’s life as an activist, his career as a boxer may be just as memorable. Ali made his professional boxing debut in 1960 after he defeated Tunney Hunsaker in six rounds. He also made his boxing start under his birth name, Cassius Clay Jr, being named after his father. After his debut, he won 19 straight fights with 15 of them being by knockout. It was not long after until he was set to fight heavyweight champion Sonny Liston in February of 1964. His fight against Liston is one of the most memorable fights in boxing history. Ali defeated Liston in six rounds after Liston bowed out of the fight heading into the seventh round. Following the fight, Ali was found at the edge of the ring yelling to the crowd, “Eat your words! I am the greatest! I shook up the world. I’m the prettiest thing that ever lived.” That victory made him the youngest fighter to rip the belt off of the defending champion at age 22. Also during this fight, he was still known as Cassius Clay.

Not too long after the fight, he converted to Islam therefore changing his name permanently to Muhammad Ali. Ali remained known as the best heavyweight boxer in the world for the next couple of years until about 1967 where one of his most historic moments occurred. In 1967, he faced Ernie Terrell, the former WBA heavyweight champion. The fight was a very popular one due to the media claiming that Terrell would be Ali’s toughest matchup. The fight was a 15 round thriller, but it wasn’t primarily remembered for the fight itself. It is mostly remembered by the words the two exchanged with each other during the fight. Ali would throw jabs at Terrell and scream, “What’s my name Uncle Tom?” Terrell would reply, “Cassius Clay,” multiple times. As the later rounds started approaching in the fight, the same dialogue would be exchanged until one punch put Ernie Terrell to the end of his rope where he eventually said, “Muhammad Ali.”

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The fight between Muhammad Ali and Joe Frazier. Just like the traditional Ali fight, the trash talk immediately took shape. Ali stated that Frazier was too ugly to become champion and called him a dumb tool of the white establishment. The fight came around and it lived up to the expectations to say the least. The two had agreed to three fights over the span of their careers. During the third fight, also nicknamed the, “Thrilla in Manilla,” the famous call was made by the commentator. “Down goes Frazier.” The fight of the century had concluded and Muhammad Ali again emerged victorious.

Arguably the most exciting boxing match to ever take place occurred on October 30, 1974. Muhammad Ali was set to fight heavyweight champion, George Foreman in, “The Rumble in the Jungle.” In front of 60,000 fans, Ali was sticking to his aggressive strategy taking multiple shots toward Foreman’s face. The fight would conclude by knockout with Foreman going down just after the eighth round. The fight then would become one of the most famous sporting events in history. Ali’s passing has left a sore spot in not only the hearts of sports fans, but in the hearts of people who admire what he stood for. On June 6, 2016, Ali passed away from septic shock after being hospitalized for a respiratory issue the day prior. Muhammad Ali’s legacy has been left on the world outside of the boxing ring just as much, if not more so, than within it. We all must remember the messages that he left with us and apply them to our own lives. Ali’s number one goal was not to become the greatest boxer of all time, but to bring peace to a world riddled with crime and adversity. We remember the legacy as the world mourns the loss of the greatest of all time.