In-Person vs. Online: Are Students Happy to be Back on Campus?

By SYDNEY CHERWIEN
Staff Writer

After being virtual for nearly two years, it may not be a big shock if some students are content to wait and see how they react when the campus fully reopens.

Darlene Abriola, who teaches social work at Rowan College of South Jersey (RCSJ), says that some students may find it easier to work on their own pace with traditional online courses, some find it much harder to stay focused and motivated.

There are many different types of learning styles, such as visual, auditory, reading, writing, and kinesthetic. So it truly does depend on each individual and what they prefer to stay focused.

Abriola had her first in-person class last fall after taking mostly traditional online classes. She was “nervous for icebreakers and had first day jitters”, but was also looking forward to being on campus for the first time.

“I also had my first class under her belt, Abriola now feels more comfortable being back on campus and surrounded by peers.

When asked, she stated that she “would much rather be in the classroom now because it’s so much easier to pay attention. I’d say I’m a visual learner so it’s easier to be in class.” For students like Abriola, being in-person allows her attention to stay focused and retain the information easier.

“I’d much rather be in the classroom now because it’s so much easier to pay attention,” says RCSJ sophomore, Darlene Abriola.

In doing so, tuition-free education on both campuses provides guidance on which educational benefits to pursue a degree.

The office also works to provide scholastic assistance through academic advising, encourage support and continuity through military-specific campus organizations and events, and connect students with available resources within their local community.

“Veterans are treated like extended family from the moment they arrive, are treated like extended family as they now use their hard-earned educational benefits to pursue a degree,” remarked RCSJ President, Frederick Keating, Ed. D. “For any veteran who is ready to expand their career opportuni-
ties through higher education, RCSJ stands ready to provide support and guidance.”

RCSJ has long been committed to the positive outcomes VIQTORY seeks for student-veterans in higher educa-
tion and explore their career opportuni-
ties through higher education, RCSJ stands ready to provide support and guidance.

“Our military students are treated like extended family from the moment they arrive, right up to their graduation. RCSJ has a Student Veterans Association sponsored, a veterans’ bookshelf, priority registration and many other resources that create a Mili-
tary Friendly culture to help these students succeed in their academic goals,” remarked John Ryder, Director of Military Services at RCSJ. “I’m proud of our Military Services team and we are honored to rank #3 in the country within our category. We look forward to continuing to support our military students as part of our commit-
tment to serve those whose have served their country.”

To learn more about programs, ser ices and support for student-veterans at Rowan College of South Jersey, visit RCSJ.edu.

Can the U. S. “Build Back Better” without Free Community College?

By BRITTANY BROLEY
Staff Writer

The economy to a greater degree than high school-educated work-

ers, according to research by the Economic Policy Institute. And, of course, workers who make more pay more in taxes, which further fuels the economy. Indeed, Brown Center Chalkboard’s multiple analyses of tuition-free college programs found that the benefits outweigh the costs.

Sadly, an increasing number of people have already started forgoing higher education. One reason, NPR reported, is cost. As state investment in college decreases (as has been occurring), tuition increases – and Americans must choose between paying for the increasing cost of schooling or entering the workforce. Although two-year col-

lege offers a more affordable way to obtain higher education, enroll-

ment at community colleges has waned to an even greater degree compared to four-year universi-
ties. What’s more, as community colleges enroll a greater number of low-income students and students of color, they are disproportionately affected. Roughly 45% of community college students are people of color, and 66% have a household income of $50,000 or less.

Even if the amended Build Back Better bill passes in Congress, truly improving the country will remain impossible without bracing the backbone of our communities: our two-year colleges.

Rowan College of South Jersey’s Award-Winning Newspaper

Spring 2022
rsjvoice.wordpress.com

Vol. 33, Edition 2

Souls Shot Portrait Project

Volume 33, Edition 3

Club Spotlight on PTK

p. 2

p. 5

Rowan College of South Jersey’s Award-Winning Newspaper

Supporting Those Who Serve: RCSJ Ranks #3 on National List

By RCSJ PR DEPT.
Staff Writer

Rowan College of South Jersey (RCSJ) is proud to be named among VIQTORY’s G.I. Jobs Magazine list of top ten Military Friendly® Schools for 2022-2023. Out of the 1,800 institutions participating from across the nation, RCSJ ranked #3 within its category for leading institutions participating from across the nation.

In-Person vs. Online: Are Students Happy to be Back on Campus? By SYDNEY CHERWIEN
Staff Writer

After being virtual for nearly two years, it may not be a big shock if some students are content to wait and see how they react when the campus fully reopens.

Darlene Abriola, who teaches social work at Rowan College of South Jersey (RCSJ), says that some students may find it easier to work on their own pace with traditional online courses, some find it much harder to stay focused and motivated.

There are many different types of learning styles, such as visual, auditory, reading, writing, and kinesthetic. So it truly does depend on each individual and what they prefer to stay focused.

Abriola had her first in-person class last fall after taking mostly traditional online classes. She was “nervous for icebreakers and had first day jitters”, but was also looking forward to being on campus for the first time.

“I also had my first class under her belt, Abriola now feels more comfortable being back on campus and surrounded by peers.

When asked, she stated that she “would much rather be in the classroom now because it’s so much easier to pay attention. I’d say I’m a visual learner so it’s easier to be in class.” For students like Abriola, being in-person allows her attention to stay focused and retain the information easier.

“As I return to college, I read that the pandemic on the rise, virtual learning was the best option in her opinion.

However, after a year of

logging into Blackboard week after
week, it is very easy to become too comfortable with virtual learning.

While some students

may find it easier to work on

their own pace with traditional online courses, some find it much harder to stay focused and motivated.

There are many different types of learning styles, such as visual, auditory, reading, writing, and kinesthetic. So it truly does depend on each individual and what they prefer to stay focused.

Abriola had her first in-person class last fall after taking mostly traditional online classes. She was “nervous for icebreakers and had first day jitters”, but was also looking forward to being on campus for the first time.

“I also had my first class under her belt, Abriola now feels more comfortable being back on campus and surrounded by peers.

When asked, she stated that she “would much rather be in the classroom now because it’s so much easier to pay attention. I’d say I’m a visual learner so it’s easier to be in class.” For students like Abriola, being in-person allows her attention to stay focused and retain the information easier.

“As I return to college, I read that the pandemic on the rise, virtual learning was the best option in her opinion.

However, after a year of
Reflect on the Pandemic with RCSJ’s “Last Year” Exhibition

By BRITTANY BROLLEY
Staff Writer

Over two years ago, the CDC declared the first case of COVID-19 in the United States. As we begin to embrace our “new normal,” this semester offers faculty and students a unique opportunity to reflect on the pandemic and the social challenges accompanying it.

When Rowan County’s South Jersey Chapter and Cumberland campuses resumed in-person learning in fall 2021, the connections and conversations for a poignant storytelling exhibition titled “Stories of Our ‘Lost Year.’” As part of the project, faculty, staff, and students could safely share their thoughts and experiences over the previous 18 months, from March 2020 to August 2021. Anyone who wished to participate was encouraged to fill out a questionnaire online or on campus, and/or add photographs or artwork representing their experiences. The form was broken into four sections: pandemic, social issues, the pandemic/social justice/election cycle, and moving forward. Those who participated could choose to provide responses in any or all categories.

According to Patt Schmid, head librarian of RCSJ Cumberland, the three main themes emerged from the responses: educators, family, and friends, and mental health. Regarding education, Schmid said, “Some people really had a tough time the first year of the pandemic, which lasted a little longer than everyone thought it would.”

According to Schmid’s analysis, “There was no family and friends- related conversations, but we also talked about family and friends and the impact they had on us. As part of the survey, we asked about family and friends who we lost during the pandemic and how that affected us.”

RCSJ faculty and staff were also encouraged to share their experiences. “I think it’s important to reflect on what happened during the pandemic and what it means for the future,” Schmid said. “It’s important to acknowledge the impact of the pandemic on the entire community and how it shaped our lives.”

Holocaust Rememberance Day - January 27th

By BRITTANY BROLLEY
Staff Writer

January 27th is Holocaust Remembrance Day. It is an opportunity to remember victims and survivors as we continue to learn about this unforgettable moment in history. This year, RCSJ’s Office of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion hosted a webinar with special guest speaker Charles Middelburg and David Austin to share their stories.

Middelburg described himself as a witness to the Holocaust. At only 11 years old, he experienced the beginning of the war in Paris. He retells stories of growing up in a loving home as a working-class family with his parents and his older brother. Middelburg shares his story of hiding from German and French officers, escaping to a farm with his brother outside of the city, and separation from his parents.

Middleburg’s story is unique and emotional, and caught the attention of David Austin. Austin is a middle-school history teacher in Madison, New Jersey. He met Charles Middleburg through a local organization. Austin would invite Middleburg to come into class to share his experience with students.

In May of 2020, Austin published his first book “Small Miracles” that tells the incredible journey of Middleburg and his family and their escaping to WW II Paris. The book is available on Amazon.com for $16.00.

The conversation was put together by Kelly Briggs with the help of Judy Mackenzie. This was Briggs’ second presentation with the Office of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion.

“My main goal is to acknowledge different events and cultures,” Briggs says. The committee works to host events during months or days of remembrance to bring awareness and recognize different cultures. This year A Holocaust Story from France emphasized this goal by sharing the incredible narrative of Middleburg as he experienced the limitations and violence that came with the war in France. “It’s a story that needs to be told,” Briggs says. “It’s a story that one should not forget, and it should never happen again.”

Holocaust Rememberance Day comes at a time when lessons learned feel like they have been forgotten. It feels like no surprise to see hate and violence against one another on the news or spread across social media. Days like January 27th, remind people that evil should not be tolerated. RCSJ’s Office of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion expresses their goal to acknowledge history and bring awareness during times of remembrance. “It encourages a lot of conversations to be had,” Briggs says. Events like these bring different perspectives and knowledge about history and culture. “It is important to learn from history. Even through dark and tragic times, people are able to help and care for each other,” Briggs said. Middleburg’s reminder to us stand together.

For more programs like this one, visit https://www.rcsj.edu/CAMPUSNEWS

RCSJ Club Spotlight: Phi Theta Kappa Honor Society (PTK)

By SYDNEY CHERWIN
Staff Writer

School clubs can be hit or miss. Will it be worth it? Will it be boring? What if I don’t know anyone who’s in it? While those are all very valid questions, when it comes to Phi Theta Kappa (PTK), you won’t have to worry about it. I sat down with RCSJ’s chapter advisor, Shanice Ruiz, to discuss all of the details of PTK and what students should look for to join.

First things first, what is PTK? Ruiz defined it as, “the international honor society for two-year colleges.” PTK is an interactive club that provides students with leadership experiences, networking opportunities, social engagement, and gives them a professional development aspect. The standard requirement for eligibility is that students must have a 3.5 GPA. For RCSJ’s chapter at Cumberlands, Rho Gamma, students must also have completed at least 12 college credits. The requirements are similar for the Gloucester campus as well.

PTK offers a range of benefits to its members. Not only does it offer leadership opportunities, but program planning and “allowing them to understand how to facilitate a program” as well, said Ruiz.

PTK also has student delegates who are given opportunities to decide the “who’s” and “what’s” for events. Delegates, as well as other members, are also given the chance to influence their college environment and give administration the student’s perspective.

The most influential benefit of joining PTK is all of the scholarship opportunities it offers. “PTK keeps a database of scholarships to the students that those different organizations providing those funds,” Ruiz said. “PTK plays a major role in aiding students looking to transfer to four-year colleges as well.” Schools will recognize that a student is a member of PTK and offer them scholarship money based solely on their membership.

On the Cumberland campus, they also collaborate with other clubs. Cumberland’s Rho Gamma chapter will also collaborate with the sister Gloucester chapter Alpha Psi Pi, who also have regular meetings. They will do joined fellowship events such as game night, and will also do an upcoming induction ceremony. Ruiz explained that due to the pandemic, this year’s “first time ever that the two chapters are in person doing an induction together.”

Current and potential members: be sure to leave April 25 open for this year’s induction ceremony.

In the past, PTK has facilitated events such as blood drives, which has been an annual event for the last few years, and hosted an off-campus College Project this semester.

College Project is how the delegates of RCSJ’s Rho Gamma chapter will communicate with administration and strengthen their relationship. This year, PTK plans to help with student engagement and enrollment for College Project. When asked how PTK has helped her, Ruiz stated, “It allowed me to meet with other people and realize the passion for service and volunteer- ing.”

She said it also strengthened her ability to work on a team as well as learning how to work for the things she wanted. She also emphasized how enjoyable and how much fun she had during her time in PTK, and that she is now “glad [she] can be an advisor for Rho Gamma.”

PTK Rho Gamma meetings are held every other Tuesday at 7 p.m. via Zoom. You can also email any questions to Shanice Ruiz at PTKCumberland@rcsj.edu for Rho Gamma. More information can be found at ruiter@rcsj.edu or Alejandro Valencia at avalenci@rcsj.edu for Alpha Psi Pi.
**Sports Recap: Winter Sports Updates**

**By Athletics Dept. Staff Writer**

The RCSJ-Cumberland baseball team played host to the Landmark conference over this past weekend, and delivered 4 wins to take their overall record to 7-1.

Andrew Simone had a historic day on the mound for the Ducks. The right handed pitcher from Vineland, NJ delivered a unforgettable performance as he threw a no-hitter vs. the Suffolk county offense. In the game he struck out 13 batters, and only surrendered 1 walk.

Simone's key to success was his ability to jump ahead of batters with 4 strike outs while also throwing his repertoire of pitches for strikes. He faced the minimum amount of pitches for strikes. He would finish the Sharks offense off with a 1-2-3 inning. The offense left something to be desired for Cumberland this year. Due to injuries, this year's lineup has seen some turnover on the mound.

Head Coach Marco Carolla commented on the performance after the game, “It’s an awesome accomplishment for Andrew and our program. It couldn’t have been a better win for the team and that kid that worked hard at his craft”. The game 1 offense was led primarily by infielder Kevin Kline. He went 4 for 4 with 4 RBIs, and also drove in 2 of our outs with a sacrifice fly. His offense was also known for his ability to cover the bases. He also added 2 RBIs and scored 1 run. Gemmill’s day would also translate to the plate as he went 2 for 3 with one walk and one run.

Ben Maurer also would return to the starting lineup as he went 2 for 4 with 2 doubles. Mike Guazzo and Matt Shepherd also had an RBI in the contest. 6-0 would be the final score in favor of the Ducks. John Liberto and Nick Robinson would combine for a 2 earned run outing in game 2. Liberto racked up 8 strikeouts over 4 innings and surrendered 1 walk. Robinson would finish the Sparks offense off with a 1-2-3 inning. The offense was highlighted by freshman Nathaniel Figuero. Figuero hit a base clearing double that scored all base runners. He would end the game 1 for 2 with 3 RBIs while scoring twice. Mercado and Gambino would again have a multi-hit game in game 3, as they would hit for a .500 batting average last year and accrued 4 homeruns, 20 RBIs.

In the 4th inning, a walk-off double off the left field fence ended with some hardware of our own – our baseball team comes out on top 10-1 opposing batters and only committing 40 walks.

Powers would end the year with a 3.32 ERA, appearing in 24 games. She averaged 5 strikeouts per 7 innings. At the plate, Pennino hit for .395 batting average with 4 homeruns, 5 doubles, and 21 RBIs.

Dukes are expected to see time in the middle of the infield for Cumberland this year. The Lower Cape May graduate hit for a .300 batting average last year and accrued 4 homeruns, 20 RBIs proved to be the difference maker as Peacock delivered a walk-off double off the left field fence that would score Devon Koger and complete the sweep for Cumberland. Jacobs Shapley, Nick Chiolaos and Jeremiah Labron would hold down the Sparks offense. The trio only allowed 1 earned run (4 total) over 8 innings. Overall, Coach Carolla was pleased with the pitching and defense over the weekend, but said the offense left something to be desired.

The team will have no games during the week before they welcome in this weekend in the Region 19 next weekend. In the latest NJCAA baseball rankings, Cumberland held their #4 spot. Full 2022 Baseball Schedule can be found at ucrd.dukesathletics.com/sports/softball/2022-22/schedule.

Duck’s next opponent looking to make another run at the Region 19 title. The 2022 Softball season is set to begin for the reigning Region 19 softball champions! The Cumberland Dukes will face off for a double-header against the Delaware Tech Spart on Saturday, March 26th, beginning at 12PM. Like the Dukes, Delaware Tech is coming off of a very impressive season that ended with a trip to the NJCAA World Series. Come out to the 2022 season, Head Coach Michael Speicher brings back some key returning players who will also play in their first year of their own. The Spirit won the Region 19 championship at the NJCAA World Series. All five players went to win the Mid-America District Tournament to qualify for the NJCAA DI World Series. Come out to the 2022 season, Head Coach Michael Speicher brings back some key returning players who will also play in their first year of their own. The Spirit won the Region 19 championship at the NJCAA World Series. All five players went to win the Mid-America District Tournament to qualify for the NJCAA DI World Series.

The team also won the District Championship. The Runners scored a major run in the season. They went 3-3 and finished as the Runner-Up in NJCAA Region 19. Sophomores Nick DiGiacomo (125) and Jadon Roberts (184) earned seeds in their respective weight classes and will look to lead the way. Shamar Baines (133), Andrew Knorr (141), Justin Dougherty (165), and Tim Cherry (197) also will compete at the championships. Wrestling is scheduled to begin on Friday and concludes on Saturday at the Midlands area progression.

Our Women’s Basketball team has earned the #2 seed in their NJCAA Region III National Tournament. This is the second trip in as many years for our Lady Roadrunners and head coach Rich Cooper. The team also won the Garden State Athletic Conference championship this season and made their second trip to the NJCAA Region 19. Sophomores and website www.RCRoadrunners.com.

The team won the Garden State Athletic Conference Championship this season and made their second trip to region and will prepare for the District Championship Tournament. The Runners are now 2-3 this season.

Tournament updates for both sports will be available via our social media @RCRoadrunners and website www.RCRoadrunners.com.
**OPINION**

**No More Expensive Gym Memberships**

**By ASHLEY KELLMYER**

Staff Writer

The New Year brings a time of resolutions. The chance to start fresh encourages people to set new goals for themselves. One of the most common changes we see is the increase in gym memberships.

I find it really exciting to see the physical goals people set and how they incorporate a healthy change into their normal routine. However, there are many alternatives to gym memberships that I feel will be more productive in your fitness journey.

Gyms see an exponential spike in memberships in the month of January, but according to CouponCabin, fourteen percent of those members will stop going after February. The International Health, Racquet, and Sports club Association estimates about fifty percent of those new members stop going after six months. So why do people continue to abandon their fitness goals?

Many chains like Planet Fitness market themselves to be a “judgement-free” environment. However, some people experience feelings of insecurity, embarrassment, or intimidation from other members.

Not to mention, reports of sexual harassment and bullying in many public gyms. Most gyms in many public gyms.

In an article written by Chet Gresham on the Draft-Kings Nation website, “Under the current overtime rules, the win-loss record for teams that win the coin toss is 86-67-30, per NFL Research. There is an advantage to winning the coin toss, but only at 52.8%. But, and this is an interesting fact, if you just look at playoff games, the team that wins the coin flip has won 10 out of 11 games. Seven of those wins came on the first drive and didn’t give the other team a chance to have the ball. If a team scores a touchdown and they stop the opposing team from scoring, then they win. If not, the game keeps going until a team stops the other. Those are the current rules in college football, so I don’t think it would be a big problem to implement it in the NFL. Another very popular idea that I have seen is the “judgement-free” environment. That was the start to my deep dive into the fantastic community of online fitness.

Over the past year and a half, I have been able to get the full gym experience with my phone and some websites from Target. The YouTube channel “Ma’dFit” has over six million subscribers with over a hundred videos.

The exercises range from 5 to 30 minutes, and target all kinds of areas such as abs, legs, arms, and cardio. The channel is also home to the famous 15-minute dance party workouts that will leave you with a smile on your face while breaking a sweat.

Start the New Year right with an affordable and more comfortable workout experience that will ease you into reaching your new fitness goals.

---

Dear NFL, Change the Rules!

**By TYRELL DUNN**

Staff Writer

If you are an NFL fan, you know that there are many rules that should be either updated or changed altogether. Some involve first down rules or changing some rules about penalties. However, in my opinion, the overtime rule absolutely needs to be changed as soon as possible.

The current overtime rule is whichever team scores the first touchdown wins the game. This rule is probably to prevent longer NFL games, so people don’t lose interest. But I think more people would watch the game because they are so invested on who is going to win the game.

One main reason I believe this rule should be changed is because too many times a team comes down to who wins the coin toss in overtime. Whoever wins the coin toss is going to choose to receive the half 95 percent of the time. Having the first half gives you a big advantage because all you need to do is score a touchdown and you win the game. No, it’s not easy to score a touchdown in the NFL, but you still have the upper hand. Also, if a team has a quarterback like Patrick Mahomes, Josh Allen, or Tom Brady, they are most likely going to score on the first drive.

Another reason for this rule to be changed is because it gives both teams a chance to prove that they deserve to win that game. If the team that wins the coin toss scores first, then the other team doesn’t even get the chance to get the ball. Imagine how exciting it would be to see both teams dual back and forth for a basic plan. Gyms add on extra cost for exclusive amenities, trainers, or classes. The IHRSA reveals about 46% of ex members stopped going because of cost. People should not have to give up or adjust their goals because of expensive or difficult membership packages.

A couple years ago, I signed up for a free month trial at a public gym near my house. After about two weeks, I decided to go. It took time to drive over and get set up, I could never find available equipment, and I was constantly being asked by trainers if I wanted to sign up for their programs for additional costs. I still wanted to be active, so I looked to alternatives.

Scrolling through Instagram one day, I found a post about a dance workout that was on YouTube. It was about 15 minutes long, and played music by One Direction, the Jonas Brothers, etc., so I had to try it out. That was the start to my deep dive to the fantastic community of online fitness.

In an article written by Britton Rolle on the DraftKings Nation website, “Under the current overtime rules, the win-loss record for teams that win the coin toss is 86-67-30, per NFL Research. There is an advantage to winning the coin toss, but only at 52.8%. But, and this is an interesting fact, if you just look at playoff games, the team that wins the coin flip has won 10 out of 11 games. Seven of those wins came on the first drive and didn’t give the other team a chance. So that’s the number we probably want to exceed. Anyways, I do have some ideas on what they could do instead of what they are doing now. The first one, as stated before, is to give both teams a chance to have the ball. If a team scores a touchdown and they stop the opposing team from scoring, then they win. If not, the game keeps going until a team stops the other. Those are the current rules in college football, so I don’t think it would be a big problem to implement it in the NFL. Another very popular idea that I have seen is the “judgement-free” environment. That was the start to my deep dive into the fantastic community of online fitness.

Over the past year and a half, I have been able to get the full gym experience with my phone and some websites from Target. The YouTube channel “Ma’dFit” has over six million subscribers with over a hundred videos.

The exercises range from 5 to 30 minutes, and target all kinds of areas such as abs, legs, arms, and cardio. The channel is also home to the famous 15-minute dance party workouts that will leave you with a smile on your face while breaking a sweat.

Start the New Year right with an affordable and more comfortable workout experience that will ease you into reaching your new fitness goals.

---

**The Voice**

The Voice is the student newspaper of Rowan College of South Jersey and opinions expressed therein are not the opinions of Rowan College of South Jersey.

The Voice welcomes responses to our editorial pages and strives to present its readers with accurate and fair reporting. If you should wish to submit a letter to the editor, request a correction or contribute a story idea, please email the faculty advisor directly. All articles and letters submitted to *The Voice* may be edited for clarity, professional standards, correctness and space restrictions.

---

Staff Writers:

- Brittany Brolley
- Sydney Cherwein
- Logan Cook
- Tyrell Dunn
- Ashley Kellmyer
- Andre Matthews
- Javier Ruesga-Diaz
- Rachel Sampson
- Promise Smith

Editors/Designers:

- Sydney Cherwein
- Andre Matthews

Faculty Advisor:

Dr. Renee J. Post

post@rcsj.edu
Movies in 2022

Black Panther: Wakanda Forever 2022

Nothing bears the feeling of the moments after watching a movie at the theater and immersing oneself into a fictional world for a few hours. Here is a list of some highly anticipated movies coming your way in 2022.

Doctor Strange in the Multi-verse of Madness - Releasing May 6

Benedict Cumberbatch, as Doctor Stephen Strange, casts a spell that opens the multiverse and lands him and his team in a danger that may be too big to handle. Starring along Cumberbatch is Elizabeth Olsen as Wanda Maximoff. Top Gun: Maverick - Releasing May 27

Tom Cruise is pushing to do his own stunts in this time he has to train a group of newcomers for a perilous mission. This time he has to train a group of newcomers for a perilous mission.

Jurassic World: Dominion - Releasing June 10

For the third installment of the Jurassic World series, but they are also getting really immune to the situations. This time he has to train a group of newcomers for a perilous mission.

While at the movies, keep your eyes out for the highly anticipated Top Gun sequel. The "Souls Shot Portrait Project" at RCSJ is Facing Gun Violence Head On

By BRITTANY BROLEY Staff Writer

Approximately 110 Americans are killed with guns each and every day, but those who’ve lost their lives are more than just a statistic. The "Souls Shot Portrait Project" at RCSJ’s Arts and Innovation Center is shining a light on the faces behind those figures.

The heart-rending exhibit features 23 portraits by artists who were paired with relatives or friends of victims of gun violence. Using mediums ranging from acrylic to oil to mixed media, each participating artist encapsulated the essence of their subject.

Being able to connect with the victims in this way helps the observer get just a glimmer about these incredible individuals, but it also serves as a stark reminder of the prevalence of gun violence. "Every day [you hear] of this shooting, that shooting, a mass shooting every day -- we’re getting really immune to the situation," Jackie Sandro-Greenwell, director of Fine Arts and Clal College, said. Viewing this collection of artwork and reading the placards accompanying each portrait, which details information about the victim, offers an opportunity for reflection, according to Sandro-Greenwell.

The "Souls Shot" exhibit, which opened on Friday, January 21, has already been having a meaningful and significant impact on the local community: "We’ve received more emails and comments about this show than any other show," Sandro-Greenwell revealed. "It’s really powerful and moving for people." Indeed, the exhibit’s guestbook contains numerous comments from visitors who remarked on the beautiful yet tragic collection.

By PROMISE SMITH Staff Writer

The Arts and Innovation Center in downtown Millville, New Jersey is absolutely in energy and zeal for the arts. After more than two years break, the Rowan College of South Jersey’s Art Club is beginning again with a fresh perspective. If you are a fan of the arts and would like to take your interest a step farther, this club is a place where you can have fun taking that step.

The backbone of the plan to reignite the Art Club was developed by three important people at RCSJ: Jackie Sandro-Greenwell, Renee Post, and Deborah Bradshaw. In a recent interview with Sandro-Greenwell, the director of Fine Arts at The Arts and Innovation Center, she revealed that she and Kandice Portalatin are both eager to get the Art Club up and running. Sandro-Greenwell has worked at RCSJ since 2002 as Director of Ceramics. She is currently the Director of Fine Arts. She received an MFA from Tyler School of Art. Kandice Portalatin studied at The Pennsylvania Academy of Fine Arts in Philadelphia where she received both a BFA and an MFA degree. Sandro-Greenwell and Portalatin share the vision to reawaken the Art Club and provide a creative environment and opportunities for students to connect.

Overall, Sandro-Greenwell says she hopes the exhibit serves as a reminder for change: "Hopefully, I’ll be highlighted or get the attention of politicians or people that can create a change." From now until February 27, students and members of the public alike can visit the "Souls Shot Portrait Project: New Jersey Chapter" at Rowan College of South Jersey - Cumberland campus’ Arts and Innovation Center located at 321 N. High Street in Millville. The gallery is open from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Monday through Friday and 12 p.m. to 5 p.m. on Saturdays. For those unable to attend in person, the exhibit is also available for purchase, with 100% of the proceeds going toward the “Souls Shot Portrait Project.”

Art Club activities will encourage a creative atmosphere in the midst of a diverse college population.

Art Club will shine a light on the fine arts and the ever expanding world of media and tech. Sandro-Greenwell expressed that because the arts are always changing and growing, the content and ideas presented by the club will follow suit. For example, in the past two years because of the isolation brought about by pandemic restrictions, the arts have broadened to encompass various kinds of media, such as podcasts, and virtual and filmed performances and classes.

While at times providing a larger audience for the arts, these new platforms are often lacking in the areas of interaction and discussion. These weaknesses can be improved upon, and a club that gathers artists and their ideas is a positive step. Sandro-Greenwell reflected, "It would be great if you could get all of the students to interrogate and create a good vibe." She continued, "Do the last two or more years I feel like there is definitely a disconnect with the students.

Art Club at RCSJ will create an atmosphere where students can freely express themselves and connect with others. Art Club will present all visual and performing artists.

Furthermore, students who have an interest in art, but may not be pursuing a career in the arts are welcome to join. Participants will further their knowledge and increase their appreciation of the various art forms.

Art Club is set to happen every Wednesday at 4 p.m in The Arts and Innovations Center in Millville, New Jersey. The theme of the first meeting of Art Club is "game night." Subsequent meetings will present new themes based on student interest.

The benefits of Art Club are endless. Nevertheless, the most important point of the meetings is bringing the students of RCSJ together with a focus on creativity. Sandro-Greenwell remarked, “It builds a creative unity.”

She expressed concern regarding the lack of opportunities to socialize at RCSJ during the past two years, "I feel like being in the house, and being removed you lose touch, and we have lost that time," She lamented, "You almost feel helpless." One goal of this club is to provide a creative and relaxing program in which students can socialize and have fun while learning.

Time lost to the pandemic or other negative experiences can be gained back by the choices we make and the paths we choose presently and in the future.

The “Souls Shot Portrait Project” at RCSJ is Facing Gun Violence Head On

Graphic courtesy of Google Images

Artwork from the "Souls Shot Portrait Project" Exhibit

Each participant who received both a BA and an MFA from Tyler School of Art. Kandice Portalatin studied at The Pennsylvania Academy of Fine Arts in Philadelphia where she received both a BFA and an MFA degree. Sandro-Greenwell and Portalatin share the vision to reawaken the Art Club and provide a creative environment and opportunities for students to connect.

Something different, but the overarching message is clear: Gun violence needs to end. Laura Madeleine, executive director and curator of the "Souls Shot Portrait Project," said she hopes the exhibit will both raise greater awareness about gun violence and inspire people to act.

Sandro-Greenwell is hopeful that Cumberland County residents and visitors take away a similar message. "There could be reasonable gun laws put into place," she detailed. While she recognizes that hunters and others may not be willing to give up their guns, many could benefit from having reasonable gun laws tech in place for people who have guns that shouldn’t.

Art Club will shine a light on the fine arts and the ever expanding world of media and tech. Sandro-Greenwell expressed that because the arts are always changing and growing, the content and ideas presented by the club will follow suit. For example, in the past two years because of the isolation brought about by pandemic restrictions, the arts have broadened to encompass various kinds of media, such as podcasts, and virtual and filmed performances and classes.

While at times providing a larger audience for the arts, these new platforms are often lacking in the areas of interaction and discussion. These weaknesses can be improved upon, and a club that gathers artists and their ideas is a positive step. Sandro-Greenwell reflected, "It would be great if you could get all of the students to interrogate and create a good vibe." She continued, "Do the last two or more years I feel like there is definitely a disconnect with the students.

Art Club at RCSJ will create an atmosphere where students can freely express themselves and connect with others. Art Club will present all visual and performing artists.

Furthermore, students who have an interest in art, but may not be pursuing a career in the arts are welcome to join. Participants will further their knowledge and increase their appreciation of the various art forms.

Art Club is set to happen every Wednesday at 4 p.m in The Arts and Innovations Center in Millville, New Jersey. The theme of the first meeting of Art Club is "game night." Subsequent meetings will present new themes based on student interest.

The benefits of Art Club are endless. Nevertheless, the most important point of the meetings is bringing the students of RCSJ together with a focus on creativity. Sandro-Greenwell remarked, “It builds a creative unity.”

She expressed concern regarding the lack of opportunities to socialize at RCSJ during the past two years, "I feel like being in the house, and being removed you lose touch, and we have lost that time," She lamented, “You almost feel helpless.” One goal of this club is to provide a creative and relaxing program in which students can socialize and have fun while learning.

Time lost to the pandemic or other negative experiences can be gained back by the choices we make and the paths we choose presently and in the future.
Meet Isabelle Nicholas RCSJ-Cumberland’s
New Student Life Staff Member

By RACHEL SAMPSON

Staff Writer

“And the Oscar goes to...” As the winner goes up to collect their Oscar for "Best Picture," their mind reflects on the journey from their first film class to this moment. As they take the microphone, they thank David Coates. David Coates is a Communications Professor at Rowan College of Gloucester County (GCC).

In his freshman year of college, he enjoyed his Graphics Arts class where he learned about photography and printmaking. During this time, he got a job at a printing shop. It was this foundation that led to Coates’ first obstacle after graduating college. Coates began his time at RCSJ, like most of us do, as a student.

The West Deptford native graduated from what was then Gloucester County College (GCC) in 1981 with a Liberal Arts degree. After graduating, Coates held a part-time job at the school until February 8, 1982.

One opportunity changed his whole outlook on his career path, a full-time Media Technician position opened up at GCC. Coates took the job but not without hesitation, “I left a full-time job, I’d really left what I thought was going to be a career, in the printing industry, and most people in my family, because I am a first-generation college graduate, they just thought you get a good job and stay with it. So, the fact that I left that, I always was a little nervous about this thing that I was doing.”

As a Media Technician, Coates would help out in the classrooms by loading projectors and working with cameras. Around this time, the college got its first personal computer. Looking back, Coates wishes he had learned more about computer programming, but he continued with photography.

While working as a Media Technician, Coates earned his teaching degree in a non-traditional way by taking classes without the intention of landing a different full-time job. He worked as a technician for five years before going to Temple University for his bachelor’s degree in Radio, Television, and Film (RTF).

However, at Temple, Coates took an “Elementary Education” elective class and was required to do an internship in a fourth-grade classroom in North Philadelphia. “It was sort of an eye opener; you know what, I thought, wow, I need to change my direction. I need to become an elementary school teacher.” But instead of becoming an elementary school teacher, Coates decided to continue working at GCC. “It was just sort of the fear of the unknown, that just kept me in the department that I was... I didn’t even flip a coin, I just figured like I job this too much.”

After graduating from Temple in 1990, Coates spent the next 20 years working as an adjunct professor in photography at GCC. Because of this degree, Coates was able to teach the first photography class at the school. In 2010, he applied to Wilkes University for his Master’s degree in Education. In 2014, GCC began their partnership with Rowan University and changed their name to Rowan College of Gloucester County (RCGCC). In 2015, Coates helped write the curriculum that would form the 3+1 Program for the RTF Degree that would take off in 2016. So before taking on a whole new role at RCCG in 2016, Coates spent 35 years in the same office, room 435.

While teaching, Coates became the head of the RTF club (RCCG) after a merger with Cumberland County College in 2019, a position that he still holds to this day. Coates admits that he likes to take more of a relaxed role in the club, because he wants the students to be in charge creatively.

Coates also acknowledges the challenges that the current pandemic puts on the group, but highlights the importance of being present. “My idea behind being involved with clubs is all about going places, so I keep my name on the list to drive the vans, the vans are cool. In the past I had an like outdoors club, and we had a photography club. I would still like to get back and going.” He further alluded to trips to New York and Philadelphia where he enjoyed bringing people to new places. Coates also wants students to know that the RTF degree is “a multifaceted kind of thing, that you can go in many different directions. You know even if you open a coffee shop in a small town, its gonna help with your YouTube channel that you might have for that coffee shop.”

He also mentions how he keeps an eye out for all walks of life that started with RTF degrees such as Principals and a Superintendent. He notes that this is a world of “visual communication,” so RTF encompasses a wide variety of people.

One way the world “communicates visually” is through film and Coates’ favorite film is the 1988 film “Cinema Paradise” directed by Giuseppe Tornatore.

According to IMDb.com, the film follows, “A film-maker [that] recalls his childhood when falling in love with the pictures at the cinema of his home village and forms a deep friendship with the cinema’s projectionist.”

In a way Coates is the projectionist that encourages students to explore their interests whether it be through the RTF club or one of his classes, “My lifelong dream is to see, I know all students, many, many students are successful, and we don’t hear about their stories but yeah, just to hear about a student that perhaps you know has found success...”

He adds, “I guess being invited to the Oscars wouldn’t be a bad thing.”

CURRENTLY, Nicholas is gearing up to compete in her biggest competition yet, Miss New Jersey, taking place in Atlantic City, New Jersey the week of June 21-26. Nicholas is one of 25 contestants that are vying to impress the judges and their audience. The competition is a preliminary to the Miss America Organization (MAO).

Nicholas is a major advocate for what MAO represents, advocating for women in positions of leadership, business, and education. The MAO helps to even the playing field for women to engage in debt-free educations to better society.

Lastly, when Nicholas was asked about her biggest takeaway from competing she shared, “At the end of the day, win or lose, Miss America is not about wearing a crown on our heads or being the most beautiful woman on stage. It is about fostering a better world for all of America. Women are leaders and we are making tomorrow brighter.”

On behalf of everyone at RCSJ, we wish Nicholas luck, not just in the Miss New Jersey competition, but on her RCSJ journey as well.
Fast Fashion is So Last Season, Haven’t You Heard?

By SYDNEY CHERWIEN
Staff Writer

Fast fashion is the term created to describe a company’s ability to rapidly produce mass amounts of clothing while staying easily accessible and affordable to the general public.

As you are reading this editorial, the fashion industry is creating new styles. People are buying and wearing these fashions, but they often end up in landfills. The garment business creates and sells many styles, which are worn for short periods, causing the fashion industry to have a huge impact on the environment.

Podcasting: What’s All the Noise About?

By ASHLEY KELLMER
Staff Writer

Noise gets a bad reputation. Many people do not feel comfortable in loud, crowded spaces. Others prefer complete silence while working or relaxing. However, some people experience high sensitivity levels while working accompanied by music or background noise. It can also add motivation and increase creativity to projects. So, what kind of noise is best?

Podcasts are the game of background noise. Podcasts are episode style audio files that can be streamed or downloaded from a device. Many mainstream music platforms such as Spotify, Apple Music, and many radio apps make streaming podcasts easily accessible. Some podcasts are suggested based on your music choice, what is trending, or what your friends and contacts are listening to. So, what kind of noise is best?

Podcasts have been around for a long time longer than you would think. Apple iTunes first started its podcast support in 2005. So why all the hype now? Podcasts are one of the easiest forms of content to access and create. Podcasts are one of the easiest forms of content to access and create. Podcasts started podcast support in 2005. Podcasts have been making people stay home and listen to a podcast.

The V oice

Whitney Houston

Podcasts are a fun and interesting way for people to connect. There are literally hundreds of different genres and topics that speak to anyone’s interests. Many news stations upload five-to-ten-minute episodes that summarize today’s top stories.

The big question is: what can we do to fix this? Luckily, there are a few things that you can integrate into your life to help turn this round.

Second hand shopping, or thrift shopping, is the easiest and most affordable way to reduce your footprint in the fast fashion world. Buying clothes that have already been made pushes the brakes on the fast fashion cycle and demands on the low-paid workers in the industry.

Thrift shopping is also more accessible now than ever. With websites such as eBay, Depop, ThrupUp, and The Real Real, you can look through thousands of items in the comfort of your own home.

With how accessible and affordable the fast fashion market is, it may sound too intimidating to start shopping ethically. However, you don’t have to completely cut out shopping at your favorite stores, but keep in mind the benefits of shopping.
Printmaking at Rowan College of South Jersey

By PROMISE SMITH

Staff Writer

If you are looking for a class that includes hands-on techniques and results in brilliant finished products, printmaking is the class for you.

Printmaking has been offered by RCSJ before, but this semester a new teacher has taken on the class. This semester is showing her knowledge of the art of printmaking with students.

Portaltalin, a professor of Art, began teaching printmaking classes at Rowan this semester. A/In addition to Art History, Art Appreciation and Drawing I, Portaltalin is an amazing teacher who brings her love of the arts to every class.

Printmaking is a passion for Portaltalin. In a past interview, Portaltalin said that printmaking is an exciting artform that is unique because the results of making a print are often exhilarating artform. The benefits of printmaking are endless. Portaltalin says “I think printmaking is important to people because it is a passionate artist is a treasure. Printmaking is an exciting, exhilarating artform. The results of making a print are often unique and unexpected, and often leave the artist feeling refreshed. In Kandice’s words, “printmaking is the study of a few artforms that allows the artist to feel free.”

At times, a student may have the idea that printmaking is a particular artform with a preconceived concept of how the finished product should look. But that is not true. Printmaking can be a process. In a printmaking class, part of the creative process is attacking the project with an open mind.

Because of the nature of the projects, students find this is a natural way to work. Portaltalin says of studying printmaking, “You usually don’t have some preconceived notion about what you’re going for, and that is a clean experience.”

This freedom, coupled with the necessary printmaking skills of planning and responsibility as found in a printmaking class taught by a passionate artist teacher may just be what is needed to enable the student to enlarge their personal creative process and jump into art, print first.

Does RCSJ Cumberland need a Farmers’ Market?

By ANDRE MATTHEWS

Staff Writer

With the addition of the School of Veterinary Medicine and the new Medicine Center here in Cumberland, it is evident that RCSJ is spreading its roots throughout South Jersey.

It’s about time we see the fruits of Rowan’s labor, along with some vegetables, honey, and other produce in the way of a weekend farmer’s market.

Farms not only provide fresh air, but fresh goods and services that they would not otherwise have access to at their local grocery store, but also, they also have a way of connecting people and connecting different groups from surrounding neighborhoods.

In addition to offerings you would see at a farmer’s market, you would feel like an isolated world separate from its communities; a campus can either remain that way or become an integral part of said community.

Unlike other campuses, such as Rowan proper, Cumberland is not surrounded by a bustling urban area to expand on and build on. Cumberland is in the middle of both rural and beautiful farmers. A weekend farmers’ market would not only build a sense of community but stimulate the local economy in a meaningful way.

Farmers’ markets are a direct marketing outlet, and by cutting out the middlemen, they offer farmers a more beneficial way to sell their crops. A weekend farmers’ market gives farmers and people in the surrounding areas a unique way to get to know each other and learn about each other’s needs with the campus being the facilitator.

Hosting a club built around running, coo-