



FALL 2019

# Tools of the Trade

A Publication of the Southern Westchester BOCES Center for Career Services



Sound Production student Morgan Solomon tries out a Telefunken microphone at the AES Convention.

## A LOOK INSIDE THE INDUSTRY AT THE AES CONVENTION



Microphones in all shapes and sizes. Boards almost as big as a car. Guitars, keyboards, miles of wires and cords. It was all there at the AES Convention at the Javits Center in New York, and students in the Sound Production classes were there to take it all in on a recent field trip.

The annual Audio Engineering Society Convention is a mecca for technicians and musicians and serves as a way to show off what is new in the industry. For Sean Harty, who teaches Sound Production at the Center for Career Services, it allows his students to get a broader view of how the industry works and the equipment available and is a great way to network with those who live and work in the field every day.

"The AES Convention is where manufacturers from the industry, producers, artists that are working engineers, they see what is available, what new stuff is coming in. For people like me, we make connections," Mr. Harty said when the group of 21 students returned to campus after their adventure to the city.

This is the second year Mr. Harty has taken students to the convention. He wants the juniors in his class to get a glimpse of how the industry works and a look at the equipment. For seniors, he said, he hopes they go back to the convention and recognize some of the equipment they have used and know they can use any piece on display.

The trip is also an opportunity for students to network and meet industry professionals.

AES CONVENTION, continues page 2

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## A Message from the Director



The 2019-2020 school year is in full swing, and the first few months have enabled our students to venture out into the broader community to share their talents and expand their learning.

Our Sound Production students received firsthand knowledge of the industry and its future during a trip to the AES Convention in New York City.

Students in the Cosmetology, Culinary Arts and TV and Sound Production programs lent their skills to the community at the White Plains Wellness Family Fun Festival. It was a wonderful opportunity for students to practice their skills while supporting a fun community event.

A group of enthusiastic Culinary students were on the road again, serving the Town of Greenburgh Community Breakfast. The breakfast was held to celebrate heroes that graduated from the community center and became successful and gave back to the community. Students not only prepared and served the food, but also had an opportunity to meet local and county representatives, including Senator Andrea Stewart-Cousins.

Parents and families attended a Back to School Night, meeting with teachers who presented details about their programs and the work their children will be doing throughout the school year. They were also able to get a glimpse of what their child has been doing through student demonstrations. It was a well-attended event by our families and a wonderful opportunity to share the amazing work our staff and students do every day.

We are delighted to welcome some new faces to our campus. Former student Mike May has joined our faculty as the new TV Production teacher. Our guidance department now includes Monica Johnson, an 11-year SWBOCES veteran who worked previously at our Center for Special Services, Irvington High School. And, Michele Hamilton is here as our new High School Equivalency TASC and English Consultant.

No doubt the year will continue to be one of on-campus practical learning and new adventures for our students as they explore the broader community and share their knowledge. I look forward to seeing what the rest of the year brings!

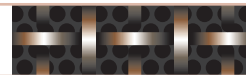
Sincerely,

*Dahlia A. Jackson*

Director, Southern Westchester BOCES Center for Career Services



## A LOOK INSIDE THE INDUSTRY AT THE AES CONVENTION



AES CONVENTION, continued from page 1

When students first arrived at the site, Mr. Harty gave them a quick tour of the venue before he let them explore on their own. Students spent the day checking out and trying equipment and speaking with representatives. They tried on headphones, spoke into microphones and operated boards. They sat in on demonstrations and tested keyboards.

"Mr. Harty told us we were going to see a bunch of cool stuff. We are going to meet people, to go around the booths and ask questions and learn," Morgan Solomon of Sleepy Hollow High School said. "It's a really good learning opportunity. I thought it would be cool to come."

"This year I got to try out the Virtual Reality section. That was really cool. That was a field of audio I wasn't able to see before," Adam Pascual from White Plains High School said about his second trip to the convention.

"I got to talk to the people, look at everything, it's amazing," he continued.



Teacher Sean Harty introduces some of his students to a vendor at the AES Convention.

Student Michael Asher said he wanted to take a closer look at headphones during what was his second visit to AES.

"The Seinhauser and Noman headphones, they have such astonishing design, and the quality of their sound is phenomenal," he said.

Edwin Leon of New Rochelle High School was excited to come to the convention for the first time.



Sound Production students try out a keyboard at the AES Convention.

He especially enjoyed the exhibit on sound radiance. He also said he learned how different microphones are used for different purposes. There are designs for singing, voice acting or broadcasting.

"I want to come back here again," he said just before boarding the bus to return to campus.

To see a video about this exciting experience, visit

[https://careers.swboces.org/groups/75868/news\\_feed\\_center\\_for\\_career\\_services\\_201920/aes\\_conventionsound\\_production](https://careers.swboces.org/groups/75868/news_feed_center_for_career_services_201920/aes_conventionsound_production)

## Auto Group Hiring Event



Automotive students had an opportunity to learn more about jobs available at New Country Motor Car Group.



Nine students from our auto classes attended an automotive career fair hosted by the New Country Motor Car Group. The privately held event was hosted at the auto groups Hawthorne location. New Country Motor Car Group has more than 25 locations in the tri-state area. They are interested in hiring service managers, sales representatives and technicians for their the state-of-the-art facilities.





# Careers students help community get healthy



**Chef & Student**

Chef Peter Tomaskovic and culinary student Victor Silva prepared an Asian Noodle Salad for guests to enjoy.



**Cosmetology**

Cosmetology students showcased their talents with face painting at the Wellness Fair.



**Sound Production**

Sound Production students Jordan Dawkins and Adam Pascual recorded the entertainment at the Wellness Festival.



**TV Production**

TV Production teacher Mike May was joined by a student and fellow teacher Sean Harty as they video recorded the vendors.



Students at the Center for Career Services helped to celebrate National Wellness Week with their participation in the White Plains Family Fun Wellness Festival on Sept. 14.

Tibbits Park in downtown White Plains was transformed into a health center as local fitness groups, hospitals and health-related businesses gathered to share their expertise and inspire guests to think about their health.

Students from the center offered a healthy food option and a reminder about the importance of self-care. They also used their skills to create a video of the event for the events' host.

The Culinary Arts program offered an Asian Noodle Salad. Those in Cosmetology provided manicures, facials, face painting and temporary tattoos for children. Both proved to be quite popular as children lined up to get a colorful decorative accessory and several adults complimented the food.

One satisfied guest compared the salad to a disappointing meal she had the night before. "This was so much better," she told Chef Peter Tomaskovic.

Away from the booth, students in the Sound Production class as well as Television Production filmed and recorded the event.

Sean Harty, who teaches Sound Production, worked closely with Michael May, the new Television Production teacher. Together with several of their students, they visited each booth at the fair to interview the proprietor in order to create a video of the event.

There were also students from the Commercial Art program who captured the day in still photographs.

Culinary student Victor Silva, a senior from White Plains High School, said these types of events are fun since he is a people person. He spent the day cutting vegetables, serving the salad and chatting with guests. Initially, he said, he came to the center to study Security, Law and Policing but changed to the culinary program because he enjoys cooking so much. He still intends to be a police officer one day.

For Cosmetology student Isabella Masucci, a senior at Valhalla High School, she has always loved the salon environment. As a child, she said, she would go with her mother when she had a salon appointment and would help sweep the floors. She had never heard of BOCES until her guidance counselor spoke to her about it. She opted to take classes in order to earn a certificate in cosmetology.

"It's always a good thing to have if you want to go into the profession," she said.

As she painted rainbows, unicorns and other fanciful designs on the cheeks of her young clients at the fair, Isabella said she loves to help people and make them happy.

"You get to see that joy," she said.

Students Jordan Dawkins and Adam Pascual, both seniors at Woodlands High School, were in the center of it all, literally standing on the event stage that hosted dance demonstrations, a Zumba class and more. Together they were working on recording all of the activity that took place there.

Jordan was behind the camera, and Adam was responsible for recording the sound.

"It's fun," Jordan said of putting the skills she's learned to use.

"It's fun for me to be working with new people," added Adam.

Helena Marescot, who helps organize the fair for the White Plains Youth Bureau, said Southern Westchester BOCES has been a part of the event for past five years. As a center for learning they represent intellectual wellness and the importance of self-care with the healthy food provided by the culinary program and cosmetology inspiring guests to take time to look good to feel good.

"Wellness comes in many different ways," Ms. Marescot said.





Culinary Arts students made and served breakfast at the Town of Greenburgh's Community Breakfast. The event enabled them to meet several local and county officials.

## Culinary Students Share Talents at Breakfast to Celebrate Community



Several students in the Career Services Culinary Arts program were 'up and at 'em' early on the morning of Oct. 5 to assist with the Town of Greenburgh's Community Breakfast.

The semi-annual event celebrates the establishment of the Theodore D. Young Community Center, Terrance Jackson, deputy commissioner of the department of community resources, said.

Community officials, residents and county and state representatives gathered to enjoy roasted vegetable and cheese frittatas, bacon, sausage, potatoes and a selection of pastries all made and served by the students.

The center's ovens were working overtime as students heated and plated food in the kitchen. Soon there was a steady stream of platters coming to the center's gym, which had been turned into a dining room for the occasion. Once the meal had been served, students ensured everyone had all the coffee or tea they wanted.

Joining the Culinary students were a small group from the TV Production and Sound Production classes who recorded the morning's event.

"It's a wonderful relationship we have with BOCES," Mr. Jackson said, adding that culinary students have assisted with the breakfast in the past.

Animal Science teacher Michael D'Abruzzo introduces parents to the class snake.



Parents with students in the Cosmetology program were introduced to the kinds of skills their student will learn throughout the year in the program.

## Time to learn about learning at the Fall Back to School Night

Automotive Technology & Automotive Trades and Maintenance teacher Peter Schwartzott talks to parents.



Letizia Noce introduces parents to her Pre-Engineering course.

Families had a wonderful evening to come on out to the Center for Career Services on Oct. 10 for the annual Fall Back to School event! Following dinner, parents enjoyed visiting classrooms throughout campus where the instructor shared details about the specific class. Students were also available to demonstrate some of their skills.

For example, cosmetology students providing paraffin treatments to some lucky guests. Those visiting the Animal Science classroom met the menagerie of critters they have on hand, including a chinchilla and a snake.

## BOCES student named to county youth advisory board



Deciding to attend BOCES was a smart decision, said Eris Neder, a senior at Edgemont High School. When she learned what classes were offered, she realized she could take a course that would put her in a position to pursue professional job opportunities once she graduated from high school.

Eris initially considered becoming a nursing assistant student, but later opted to study Computer Information System Medical Administrative Assistant, or CISMAA. This, she said, would help her become familiar with office work, especially as it related to the medical field.

However, what she didn't know is that the experience would also help her get out of her comfort zone, and be appointed to the Westchester County Youth Advisory Board.

"I'm on the board to help people," Eris said, adding that as a bonus she feels she will personally benefit as the work will help her get out of her comfort zone.

"I look forward to meeting others on the board and doing something to help," she said. "I hope I can do something on behalf of the youth."

"Why not," Eris said to herself when approached about being nominated for the board. Her mother encouraged her, saying it would be a great experience to work with government officials, especially as she plans to one day become a paralegal.

"I didn't think I would be accepted," Eris said. "I am very honored. It's a big deal in my view."

As a member of the youth board, Eris will be part of a group meeting with state and county officials to discuss important issues that impact area youth.

"We will be working to determine what we can do to help the youth in our county thrive," Eris said. "How can we improve what we already have?"

Eris said she hopes the board can address mental health issues she sees her peers struggle with, especially the pressure they are under that impacts their day-to-day life.

Her appointment is just one way the Center for Career Services is working to meet its goal of connecting students to leadership positions within the county, said Garrett Jennings, Work-Based Learning Coordinator at the Center.

"It was a very selective process and came down to a few candidates for the board," he said. "The screening process was the New York State Senate and Assembly members and legislators. She was nominated by one of our community partners and the staff at Southern Westchester BOCES."

**CISMAA student Eris Neder, a senior at Edgemont High School, was recently named to the Westchester County Youth Advisory Board.**



The Festival of San Gennaro came to campus when culinary students whipped up an Italian feast to share with the campus.



Staff members stopped in to enjoy the delicious Italian fare made by culinary students to celebrate The Festival of San Gennaro.

## Feast of San Gennaro a welcome event on campus

Mangiare! Or "eat up." Those were the instructions given by the chefs and students in the Culinary Arts program. Since they could not get to the Italian San Gennaro festival in Little Italy, the festival came to the campus.

Students in the program spent time making pepperoni rolls, meatball parmigiana, zeppola, assorted cookies and cannoli. All the classes on campus were then invited in to enjoy the delicacies as Italian music wafted through the air.

Every item available was sold for \$1 each. It did not take long before most of the food was gone.

Arai Nunez, a senior at New Rochelle High School, said she helped make the cookies and the zeppola. She has plans to become a pastry chef after graduation and this special project was perfect for the aspiring baker.

"The zeppola are absolutely one of my favorites," she said.

John Bobolakakis, a senior at Tuckahoe High School, was busy serving pepperoni rolls.

"I've always had a passion for the culinary arts and hospitality," John said. "I like to make people happy with food."

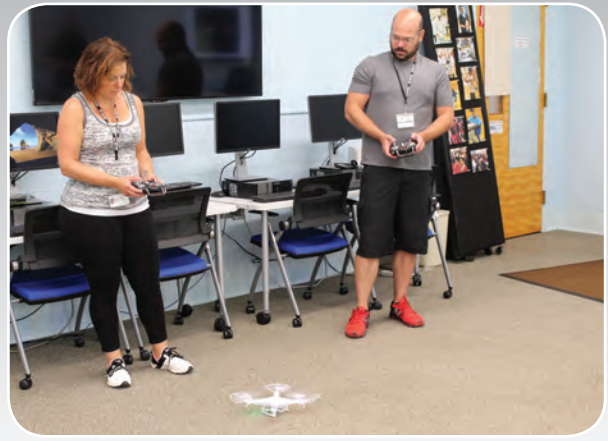
The smiles on the students' faces after enjoying the impromptu feast showed they were enjoying the delicacies.

"It's exciting having a big crowd," John said as the conference room filled as class after class came in to participate.





It took some getting used to, but it was not long before teachers had their drones flying around the room.



Teachers Christine Ireland and Jason Poniatowski try their luck at flying a drone.

## What's the buzz? Drones!



The Center for Career Services in Valhalla was all abuzz this summer as drones took over campus.

Three intrepid teachers at the technical school took the lead, or in this case the remote control, to learn how to operate a small drone for future use in their classrooms.

The three-day workshop consisted of training with Jon Thies of SkyOp, a training facility specializing in drone operation.

After carefully assembling the X5C-1 Explorers, which is a small, lightweight craft, Sean Harty, Christine Ireland and Jason Poniatowski, rested their aircraft on the floor and synched their controls. Soon the room was full of a loud buzz as each machine slowly lifted off its resting spot and hesitantly took to the air. Some soared right to the ceiling, others stayed inches off the ground and some hovered neatly in mid-air.

Each operator admitted it was harder than it looked to control the drone and required a light touch.

As the day went on, the trainees worked their way through a series of exercises that became increasingly more difficult.

They started with the Pitre Hop in which operators gently launched their drones into the air, about 4' above the ground and gently placed it back on the ground.

"We are not expecting you to be drone

pilots at this time," Mr. Thies said. "It's all about getting stick time today."

Eventually the operators were making their drones hop through the room in an exercise appropriately named the Bunny Hop.

As each new drone operator mastered a new skill they smiled at their success and occasionally had a frown of frustration on when the aircraft did not cooperate with their commands.

In addition to learning how to launch, hover, move and land the aircraft, the operators also had to learn how the drone was impacted by its surroundings. The machine would react differently to directions depending on if it was close to the floor or ceiling, which direction the air was moving when pushed by the air conditioner and if it was unimpeded by obstacles around the room.

Operating drones also requires learning about where they can be operated and any federal or local restrictions that may be in place.

The teachers are working together to learn how to use the technology with the hopes of incorporating it into their classroom work.

Mr. Harty, a Sound Production teacher, said the technology is used by several studios, specifically Foley studios, when doing field production out of the studio.

"I figured instead of waiting for it to become

a huge thing I'd get out in the forefront," Mr. Harty said as to why he wanted to learn how to use the technology. In addition, he will be working with the television production classes, a field where drone use is becoming increasingly more common.

For the Architecture and Interior Design class, Ms. Ireland envisions using the technology for photography to capture images of different styles of architecture in some of the large estates in the area.

Mr. Poniatowski, who teaches Office Skills & Occupations & CISMAA, acknowledges more and more industries are using the technology and he is hoping mastering flying the crafts will be a skill his students can take with them when they enter a variety of different fields and industries.

"Fifteen years ago we didn't know people would have jobs as social media experts," he said. "Where is this going to go in 15 years? The jobs we are preparing for now don't even exist yet. I want to open up my students to what may come."

"And," he admitted, "they are fun to fly."

The three teachers are planning on co-teaching their students on how to operate the aircraft. After, they will return to their respective classes to use the technology as they see fit. They will keep a record of how popular the technology is with the students and gauge the interest for future expansion of drones in the classroom.



## Positive BOCES experience allows alum to shine



As a student at White Plains High School, Raiza Farfan noticed some students would leave school during the day and wondered why. She soon learned those students were attending BOCES and the Center for Career Services.

Little did she know this observation would help find a path for her future. Ms. Farfan was accepted into the Honors College at Westchester Community College and plans to become an architect. She attributes her success to her time at BOCES.

After looking into what courses BOCES had to offer, Ms. Farfan was attracted by the idea that students worked toward a specific career and classes were more hands-on than the teacher lecture she was used to at her home school.

She investigated both the Pre-Engineering, and Architecture and Interior Design classes.

"I loved all the creativity and the projects they did," Ms. Farfan said. "I am more of a hands-on person, which is what led me to the architecture program."

During her two years at BOCES, as part of her school work, she collaborated with students in the Pre-Engineering class to work on joint projects. One involved designing floor plans for a pizzeria.

"That definitely opened my eyes. I really wanted to do this in the future," Ms. Farfan said.

In addition, she and her classmates worked on a similar project with cosmetology students. In this instance, she helped to design a salon, creating floor designs, and interior decorating plans. She created a story board and developed a budget to furnish the business. In her first year, Ms. Farfan worked on designing two salons. Her second, due to her admitted over-achiever tendencies, she designed four.

"Our projects would collide with their projects," Ms. Farfan said of students in other disciplines at BOCES.

The hands-on work together with opportunities to meet other students, is part of what made BOCES so special for her. She said the experience helped her to develop a sense of confidence and feel more comfortable meeting new people. She also credits the support from BOCES teachers and staff.

"I definitely feel surer of myself, I've grown out of my shell," she said.

While at BOCES, she was involved in planning special events, such as helping put together the annual Haunted Hallway. She served as president of the National Technical Honor Society and as vice president of SkillsUSA.

Ms. Farfan, now a freshman at WCC, said she was notified she qualified for the Honors

College over the summer. She was required to fill out an application and have an interview. She was one of 12 students, out of 50 who submitted applications, to be accepted.

"I was really excited," she said when learning she would be part of this exclusive group.

Honors College members must maintain a 3.5 GPA and take eight honors courses in order to be eligible for graduation with an Honors-Designated Degree.



Ms. Farfan is currently enrolled in the Liberal Arts-Social Science track. Throughout her first semester she took English 101 Honors, Political Science Honors, Calculus 1 and Architectural Drawing.

For her drawing class, Ms. Farfan said she feels she has an advantage over her classmates due to her studying the subject at BOCES. She is familiar with the terms and has been able to finish assignments faster because she recognizes the material.

Her goal is to become an architect one day. Following her time at WCC, she hopes to attend the New York Institute of Technology to study architecture.

When she was not busy with her school work, Ms. Farfan was a member of her home school's swim and track teams. She continues to practice Marinera Norteña, a Peruvian cultural dance.

The cultural dance is a way for her to stay connected to her roots. Ms. Farfan was born in Cusco, Peru, and came to this country when she was 4.

"She was definitely one of the hardest working students," Christine Ireland, who teaches Architecture at BOCES, said. "She had a really good attitude about everything. She could always be relied on to lead an activity or an event."

Center for Career Services graduate Raiza Farfan is now a freshman at Westchester Community College. She is enrolled in the Honors College and is studying architecture. She credits her success with her time at BOCES.



From the Tools of the Trade Archives: Spring 2018  
"Raiza Farfan of White Plains High School, shows off her winning architectural drawing."





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This policy of nondiscrimination includes access by students to educational programs; counseling services for students; course offerings and student activities; recruitment, appointment and promotion of employees; and employment pay and benefits. This policy also provides equal access to the Boy Scouts and other designated youth groups.

Inquiries regarding this policy should be directed to the Compliance Officers at Southern Westchester BOCES, 17 Berkley Drive, Rye Brook, NY 10573. (914) 937-3820.

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"The job of BOCES is to support the work being done in schools by providing services and supports they are not able to provide for themselves."

## MEET THE NEW STAFF!



Former TV/Production student, Mike May, is now the teacher of the program.



Monica Johnson joins the Center for Career Services staff as a guidance counselor after having spent 11 years at the Center for Special Services in Irvington.



Michele Hamilton joins the staff as the new High School Equivalency and English Consultant teacher.

### MIKE MAY

Mike May, the new TV/Production teacher, felt right at home when he walked into his classroom in Building B. It was the same classroom where he had spent two years as a student learning about video production under the direction of recently retired teacher Tony Ely.

### MONICA JOHNSON

Monica Johnson is no stranger to Southern Westchester BOCES as she has been with the organization for 11 years working for the Center for Special Services in Irvington.

This year she has a new role as a school counselor at Career Services.

### MICHELE HAMILTON

For 14 years Michele Hamilton taught English in the New York City Public Schools in the Bronx. Her main goal there, she said, was to ensure the content she taught was relevant to her students.

"One of the reasons I came here is I really do believe truly students learn better when they have a concrete appreciation for what they are doing in the classroom," the new High School Equivalency TASC and English Consultant said.

To learn more about the new faces around campus visit

[https://careers.swboces.org/groups/75868/news\\_feed\\_center\\_for\\_career\\_services\\_201920/new\\_staff\\_2019](https://careers.swboces.org/groups/75868/news_feed_center_for_career_services_201920/new_staff_2019)