

SUMMER 2019

# Tools of the Trade

## A Message from the Director



The Center for Career Services celebrated the accomplishments of our students during the annual Recognition Ceremony on June 13 at the Westchester County Center. Honored guests, former graduates and one of their own, Valedictorian Gianna Bencivengo, all shared unique perspectives with them during the ceremony and wished them success in their future endeavors. It certainly was a memorable evening, and I add my own congratulations and well wishes!

While the graduates look ahead, the end-of-year offers a time to reflect and to consider all the hard work that went into making the 2018-19 school year a success.

Students had several opportunities to showcase the skills they have learned. Among them were the Collision Technology students who refurbished a vehicle for the Rye Police Department. Students in the Fashion Design and Merchandising program designed and sewed costumes for the annual ComicFest in White Plains, and students in Commercial Arts designed a vehicle wrap for a local business.

The students represented their programs well during the annual HOSA competition, in which students in medical-related fields competed with peers from throughout the state. Center for Career Services students returned with many first- and second-place prizes.

Commercial Art student Wesley Cortes took first place among Hudson Valley entries in the fourth annual eSchoolData Login Art Contest.

The weather cooperated and brought a beautiful spring day for guests to enjoy our annual Car Show and Open House. There were hot rods and classic rides to view thanks to the Rock n' Rods Car Club. The event was also an opportunity for students in our programs to demonstrate their skills.

I would like to take a moment to wish four of our staff all the best and congratulate them on their retirement. Television Production teacher Clinton "Tony" Ely, school secretary Michele Linker-Rackoff, English teacher Chris Kincart and school counselor Mayner Loria. Enjoy your well-deserved retirement!

The summer break will no doubt be an enjoyable, relaxing time. I look forward to the students coming back in the fall for another great year of learning and growing!

Sincerely,

*Dahlia A. Jackson*

**Director, Southern Westchester BOCES Center for Career Services**

A Publication of the Southern Westchester BOCES Center for Career Services



Students in the Nursing Assistant program celebrate with their teacher Alison Keane.

## CELEBRATING THE CLASS OF 2019



There was a festive atmosphere in the Westchester County Center on June 13 when the Center for Career Services Class of 2019 celebrated their Recognition Ceremony.

Parents, many carrying balloons and flowers, filed into the arena minutes before their sons and daughters processed to their seats. Students were led by Silvia Magailon from New Rochelle High School and Kevin Merchan, from Sleepy Hollow High School, both students in the Security, Law and Policing Program.

Director of Career Services Dahlia Jackson referred to Silvia and Kevin as "true leaders," as both had been recruited by the United States Marine Corps. Kevin carried the

American flag, and both were escorted by Sgt. Cody Tilley, USMC.

A salutation was offered by Ken Jones, Esq., a council member for the Town of Greenburgh.

"This ceremony marks the next step in your growth," Mr. Jones said. "Congratulations to the graduating Class of 2019. We wish you all health, wealth and good fortune on the next leg of your journey."

Several students were presented with special awards, including Carpentry student Thomas Moran who was awarded a scholarship and paid internship from Belfour Property and Restoration, a national restoration company.

Valedictorian Gianna Bencivengo reflected on her time as a student at Career Services.

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# CELEBRATING THE CLASS OF 2019



Valedictorian Gianna Bencivengo, a pre-engineering student, spoke about the family atmosphere at CCS and how her teacher inspired her.

## GRADUATION, continued from page 1

“CCS developed my passion,” Gianna, a pre-engineering student, said.

Two former students returned to share their experiences.

Kaylah Jones, an EMS student and member of the Class of '18, became a nurse practitioner and is currently studying biology.

Ms. Jones, a nursing student at Medgar Evers College, shared her four universal truths: They consist of having trust, not being afraid of falling, knowing your limits and being free to be yourself.

“I hope you remember my four universal rules to life,” Ms. Jones said. “And remember, all diamonds are made from high pressure.”

Culinary Arts student Brandon Howard Dunkley, Class of 2009, returned to share his perspective too.

Mr. Dunkley held up a spring-form pan and asked the audience if they knew what it was. He said he loves this pan because it helps to make his favorite dessert — cheesecake. But, he said, he also likes its shape.

“I love the shape of a circle. It represents continuity and infinity. Without anything, the

circle travels a steady, smooth path only to arrive at its place of origin to begin yet another journey,” Mr. Dunkley said.

“Life is not as predictable, direct and smooth as a circle,” he continued. “Life gives us many turns and unexpected pit stops.”

District Superintendent Dr. Harold Coles shared with students some words that have meaning to him in the hope they might also find them inspiring.

Quoting Louis Cass, he said, “People may doubt what you say, but they will believe what you do.”

“What does that really mean,” Dr. Coles asked. “Integrity, character, believing in being real, walking the talk and what we do really matters,” he said.

“Lead by example as you go out in the world,” he continued. “Remember, the skills you have learned will take you far.”

Before long, it was the moment students, and their families, had been waiting for: the distribution of their certificates.

Each class, from Animal Science to Video Production was called on stage as their families clapped their support.



Students from the Sound Production class get ready for their big moment—getting their diplomas.

## Students inducted into NTHS



A celebratory evening took place on May 9 when family and friends gathered to witness the Class of 2019 induction into the National Technical Honor Society.

Thirty-three students pledged to uphold the seven principles of the NTHS: Leadership, Scholarship, Skills, Honesty, Citizenship, Service and Responsibility.

NTHS officers shared what each of these principles embodies while a fellow officer lit a purple candle. Each candle represented one of the principles.

“With this new accolade comes a responsibility to give back to your family and your community,” Director Dahlia Jackson told students. “The National Technical Honor Society is an exclusive group.”

Induction into the society, Ms. Jackson said, proves that students have completed “a robust and rigorous academic program.”

“Today’s students will be expected to be global citizens,” she said. “Successful 21st century employers are looking for people with the ability to critically think and solve problems, be agile and adaptive and work efficiently.”

Ms. Jackson reminded students to “always remain curious and imaginative.”

“Your future is bright, and your responsibility is remarkable,” she said. “Failure is not an option.”



The ceremony included an introduction to the NTHS principles, each represented by a candle.

Each inductee was presented with a certificate, and all senior inductees received their graduation stole.

Once they were officially members, students stood and recited the pledge, promising to “maintain the highest standard of personal conduct,” as well as continue their academic success, by “invest[ing] their talents and skills in a career of their choosing.”

## NTHS Class of 2019

- Joseph Aratingi, Collision Technology, Edgemont
- Jack Bollas, CISMMA, Hamilton
- Saniyah Brinney, Animal Science, Woodlands
- Jocelyn Calderon, Emergency Medical Services, Woodlands
- Leslie Calderon, Emergency Medical Services, Woodlands
- Estafany Diaz, Culinary Arts, New Rochelle
- Kaitlyn Elliott, Nursing Assistant, Edgemont
- Marco Flores, Collision Technology, New Rochelle
- Valerie Godoy, Animal Science, New Rochelle
- Khari Grant, Pre-Engineering/CAD, Woodlands
- Jennifer Huerta-Solis, Emergency Medical Services, Westlake
- Krishal KC, Pre-Engineering/CAD, Pleasantville
- Sasha Logan, Culinary Arts, New Rochelle
- Megan Lopez, Nursing Assistant, White Plains
- Keyla Lopez Hernandez, Nursing Assistant, New Rochelle
- Kemie Luangisa, Pre-Engineering, Pelham
- Isabella Masucci, Cosmetology, Valhalla
- Emmanuel Mato, Pre-Engineering/CAD, New Rochelle
- Rhyle McSpedon, Emergency Medical Services, Eastchester
- Samantha Mendez, Emergency Medical Services, New Rochelle
- Virginia Meuse, Animal Science, New Rochelle
- Sophia Parente, Cosmetology, New Rochelle
- Adam Pasqual, Sound Production, Woodlands
- David Percinio, Culinary Arts, New Rochelle
- Candelaria Sanchez-Anaya, Cosmetology, New Rochelle
- Gabriela Sandoval, Animal Science, White Plains
- Kyle Saul, Emergency Medical Services, Pleasantville
- Fonzy Solomon, Pre-Engineering/CAD, New Rochelle
- Rikia Sullivan, Nursing Assistant, New Rochelle
- Shannon To, Commercial Art/Multimedia, New Rochelle
- Guadalupe Valencia Resendiz, Nursing Assistant, New Rochelle
- Daniela Valencia, Culinary Arts, New Rochelle
- Angie Zapata, Nursing Assistant, White Plains

# Health related fields well represented at HOSA



Health Occupations Students of America, a student organization with a chapter at the Valhalla campus, provides an opportunity for students to be tested in their knowledge at the annual spring convention in Syracuse. Careers students in the Emergency Medical Services, Animal Science and Nursing Assistant programs competed in April, earning high marks.

The competition enables students to show off their skills and compete with other students from throughout New York.

Several students in the EMS program said they were nervous before the competition began because they did not know ahead of time what they would be tested on.

Most, however, said they felt prepared.

"It was a good experience," Jennifer Huerta-Solis said.

The EMS students worked in teams, and many have the goal of one day working in law enforcement or as firefighters.

"You definitely learn how to work under pressure," Vexsanna Jackson, a student at Martin Luther King High School in Hastings-On-Hudson, said.

Students were presented with a hypothetical situation and were judged on how well they

assessed the patient and what care they would provide under the circumstances.

Those competing in Animal Science each took an individual test as well as a skill test during the competition.

"It was a good experience," Jasmine Damian, who won second place said, adding that she appreciated meeting other kids with similar interests.

"The skills test was hard. We were asked to do things we had never seen before," first place winner Miranda Reynolds said. The test, she said, made her realize just how much more schooling in veterinary tech she has to go. However, she is determined and will be attending Wilson College for pre-veterinary studies.



Students tested their skills at the annual HOSA competition in Syracuse.

Both Juliette Suarez, who won a third place, and Jasmine will be attending SUNY Dehli, enrolling in the school's veterinarian technology program.

"It boosts your confidence," Fatima Juarez, a senior at New Rochelle High School and Nursing Assistant student, said of the competition. "At that moment you are in front of people you don't even know."

Madelyn Espada, a senior at Woodlands High School and Nursing Assistant student, said she appreciates the competition because there is a lot of

positive feedback given to participants.

Madelyn earned a first-place prize for Medical Reading, and Janice earned a second place. Both Fatima and Kimberly Barjas, a senior at New Rochelle High School, each received a HOSA Achievement Award.

## The HOSA winners:

### EMS

Scott Weaver and Johnny Oquendo, First Place, CPR and First Aid

Diego Sanchez and Kayla Lopez, Second Place, CPR and First Aid

Vexsanna Jackson and Rhyle McSpedon, First Place, EMT

Leslie Calderon and Jennifer Huerta, Second Place, EMT

Jeremy Marrero and Antonio Calderon, Third Place, EMT

### Animal Science

Miranda Reynolds, First Place

Jasmine Damian, Second Place

Juliette Suarez, Third Place

### Nursing Assistant

Madelyn Espada, First Place, Medical Reading

Janice Rodriguez, Second Place, Medical Reading

Fatima Juarez and Kimberly Barjas, HOSA Achievement Award

# Job fair offers opportunities for summer, career goals



The second annual Center for Career Services Job Fair held on May 2 consisted of a heavy stream of students filing into the conference room looking for job opportunities. The event offered them time to speak with representatives of a variety of employers in different fields to help them find a summer job, or an opportunity for long-term employment.

This year, Garrett Jennings, Work Based Learning Coordinator, said the number of vendors at the fair increased to almost 30, up from about 20 in the previous year.

"It's a great opportunity for students to have a face-to-face with someone," Mr. Jennings said.

"My goal is to connect students with local companies, companies that will hire them, connect them to companies that will train them," Mr. Jennings said.

This year the career fair also included recruiters from both the Army National Guard and the U.S. Marines. There were also several colleges on hand for those students looking to continue their education.

"It's awesome," Mr. Jennings said of the turnout among the vendors.

Veronica Molina, Human Resources Manager with Summit Security Services, was at the fair for the first time. Her company hires security



Members of the National Guard answered students questions during the annual Job Fair.

guards, and she spoke with students about what the business does and what jobs were available.

"I think it's important, especially as students, they don't always know what they want to do," Ms. Molina said of hosting a job fair.

Diane DaCosta, owner of SimpleeBeautiful was also at the fair for the first time, however,

she has worked with Careers students who have interned for her.

Ms. DaCosta said the fair was a great way to meet and talk with students and a better way to get to know them than simply having them fill out a sheet of paper and telling them to call you. Meeting a student in person, she said, better helped her to see how motivated they truly were.

Cosmetology student Danae Hardy, a junior at New Rochelle High School, said she spoke with Ms. DaCosta and learned more about the business.

"I think it was a good conversation," Danae said. "Especially because I really want to learn more about textured hair."

Animal Science student Toly Howard, a senior at Rye High School, said he stopped by the job fair to see what was available. Right now, he said, he has five summer jobs but wanted to talk to some of the representatives at the fair to see if there was a more career-orientated job available.

"It got my eyes open for what kinds of jobs are out there," Toly said.

## Collaborative community project complete



This spring students in the Collision Technology classes worked on a special community project that assisted the Rye Police Department with the renovation of a future police vehicle.

The Rye Police Department obtained a Chevy Tahoe through a grant program that they wished to become part of their auxiliary fleet. The department wanted to have the vehicle repainted in black and white to match its existing vehicles.

Through a chance encounter at a conference, Lt. Scott Craig of the Rye Police Department met Principal James Matera who told him about CTE and courses offered at the Center for Career Services. To Lt. Craig, it seemed like a perfect fit.

"We are very excited about this joint effort between the Rye Police Department and the kids," Lt. Craig said. "We have a lot of outreach programs that we work side-by-side with the kids in our community and this gives us another opportunity to work with kids in another community. It's exciting for us and

I'm sure it will be exciting for them to be part of this journey to get this into service for the department."

In April the vehicle was brought to the collision garage where students conducted a thorough inspection. They looked to see what shape the vehicle was in and what supplies they would need to do the necessary work.

than some of the cars in our fleet right now."

The project had several benefits for both students and the police department.

Teacher Paul Casagrande said it was something every student in his classes contributed to right from the start.

"It's an opportunity to do a community project and have all the kids work on it," Mr. Casagrande said.



The goal was to paint the vehicle and have it road ready for the Rye Police Department.



The finished vehicle is ready to go.

For Mr. Matera the project was one of many community projects that enabled his students to interact and contribute to the broader community.

"They are really taking the lead on this," Mr. Matera said. Some students, in general, shy away from the police.

Developing better relationships with them is a side goal."

The shiny "new" vehicle left campus on June 6, the student's work done. It will eventually have the appropriate decals, stripes and lights added by the police department before being put into service.

## It was a beautiful day to showcase skills and classic cars



Fins, flames and fun were all part of the annual Car Show and Open House held on May 19 at the Southern Westchester BOCES Center for Career Services. Guests had an opportunity to cruise through the campus viewing an array of classic cars and enjoying some early rock n' roll tunes. They also saw first-hand the impressive work done by students in a variety of programs offered by the center.

Students in the Cosmetology program provided manicures, face painting and temporary tattoos. Their booth saw a steady stream of guests interested in trying a new spring look, while children walked away from the table with colorful, decorated faces.

Collision Technology students were busy in their shop, washing and waxing a vehicle to ensure it looked great and was protected from the dirt and dust it might pick up on the road.

For those interested in a bite to eat, they enjoyed fare offered by the Culinary Arts students. Burgers, hotdogs, pulled pork sandwiches, and potato and macaroni salads were on the menu and grilled to order.

Several of the car enthusiasts who were showing off their rides were interviewed and filmed by students in the television production classes.

Career Services staff and administrators were on hand to support their students. Many manned the booths, selling food and working at the tag sale, which was a new part of the event this year.

Members of the Yonkers-based Rock n' Rods of New York Collector



A student video tapes one car owner during the annual Car Show and Open House.

Car Club brought their beautiful cars to campus where guests saw an array of vehicles from Model Ts and hot rods to Camaros and Corvettes.

Money raised from the event supports the campus' chapter of SkillsUSA. In addition, students who volunteered at the car show earned work-based learning hours.

# LOOK! UP IN THE SKY... IT'S A CUSTOM-MADE COSTUME!

## STUDENTS DESIGN, MAKE CLOTHING FOR COMICFEST



They may not possess any super powers in the traditional sense, but the work Fashion Design and Merchandising students can do with a needle and thread could very well be categorized as one.

As the year progresses and students develop their skills, their final project is to design and make a garment. This year students worked on a special project.

The theme was cosplay, the art of dressing up as a certain character, and students were tasked with designing and making a costume. Many of them worked on commissioned pieces — creating costumes that were worn by administrators and teachers at the White Plains ComicFest on April 27.

“The costumes are the first garments they are making,” teacher Carmen Galiano said in the weeks leading up to the event.

Students worked in pairs or small groups. They began thinking about the individual who would wear the costume they wanted to design and gave the character a back-story. From there, students designed a costume that reflected who the character was. One requirement was it had to start out as an ordinary outfit and then transform into a costume.

Geo Abrigo, a junior at Ardsley High School, was working on a costume for Principal James Matera. Inspiration came from Southern Westchester BOCES.

Geo’s idea required a pattern to be ordered online. From there he selected fabric, affixed the pattern and one afternoon was in the process of notching the pieces — putting marks on the fabric indicating where the two sides of the garment lined up.

Stephen Cunza, a senior at White Plains High School, made his own pattern for the special costume he was creating for Assistant Principal Evangelo Michas.

“It’s kind of exciting,” Stephen said as he laid out the pattern he created on top of a large piece of blue fabric.

He said he had to find inspiration for the character who will wear his finished piece and develop a backstory.



**New Rochelle High School junior Leslie Valdovinos worked on a cape that was part of a costume for teacher Christine Ireland.**

This project was also one he worked on for the state SkillsUSA competition April 24, 25, and 26. The theme for the fashion competition this year just happened to also be cosplay.

Leslie Valdovinos, a junior at New Rochelle High School, was making a costume for a BOCES teacher. She was aware of this superheroine’s back story and how it involves nature.

Leslie was working on a piece that transforms from an ordinary article of clothing to a superhero cape.

One of the challenges she faced was ensuring the ordinary piece was long enough to serve as a cape after the character’s transformation from person to superhero. The challenge came in ensuring the skirt was not too long.

Working with Leslie was Ariel Garcia, a senior from Eastchester High School.

She was working on another piece of the costume, a blouse.

“It’s fun because I just got to learn to do new things,” she said. “I can make my own clothing in the future and can use these techniques.”

Melanie Lopez, a junior at New Rochelle High School, was putting together a pair of pants for a costume she intended to wear.

One of the challenges she faced was putting a stripe down the sides of each leg. She had to be careful so the stripe was the same width on both sides.

“It’s fun and stressful,” Melanie said.

Adrianna Weekes, a senior at Woodlands High School, was working on another commissioned piece. In this instance, Adrianna could not consult with anyone to develop a backstory for the character. The only information she had was a vague idea of what the character looked like.

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**Geo Abrigo, a junior at Ardsley High School, worked on a custom made costume for Principal James Matera.**

“ComicFest has a mascot,” Ms. Galiano said. “They asked us to make the costume for the mascot. We don’t know the story. She is a mysterious hero.”

The only thing Adrianna said she had to work with was that the character has some fire and ice elements. She was thinking of representing these two elements in some kind of arm warmer design or maybe gloves.

This is not the first time Adrianna has worked on costumes. Earlier in the year she helped make costumes for a school play. Both projects, she said, are similar in that she was working on clothing for someone else.

Mr. Matera said he has not seen the costume he will be wearing and is looking forward to it. The only thing he knows about it is it will have props representing BOCES courses.



**Ariel Garcia, a senior at Eastchester High School, worked with a partner on multiple pieces of a costume.**

“We have a nice partnership with the White Plains Youth Bureau and we partner with them on a number of things,” Mr. Matera said. “The Wellness Fair in the Fall at Tibbetts Park in White Plains, and the ComicFest are the two big events.”

This was the second year the center has been participating in ComicFest, Mr. Matera said, adding that other disciplines from the

center are also involved, including Cosmetology, Culinary Arts, Commercial Art and Architecture & Interior Design.

## Cosmetology students learn more about job opportunities at Ulta Beauty



Representatives from Ulta Beauty met with cosmetology students to share information about the company and its many career opportunities. They shared valuable information, from their personal experience breaking into the beauty industry to the value of working for a generous company.

Susanne DeBlasio, Andrea Costello and Stephany Ramirez have each developed a career at Ulta and all agreed it was the best decision they made.

"Ulta, what we offer is making your own business," Ms. DeBlasio, a hairdresser, said. "You are supported, educated and compensated."

For hairdressers working in a private salon, Ms. DeBlasio said the average age is 25, they work in the industry for an average of five years and make an average salary of about \$25,000.

But at Ulta, the women said, the experience is very different. It offers employees a base salary and commission. Depending which is more, the employee will receive one or the other. New employees can build their client list by interacting with guests when they come into the stores, whether they are there to get their hair done or not. Benefits include unlimited earning potential, paid time off, insurance for medical, vision and dental, a 401K as well as pet and car insurance.

In addition, employees can enjoy the Ulta Academy and participate in a number of monthly training workshops at no cost.

As part of the presentation, Ms. DeBlasio gave a tutorial on a special "up do" technique, something she has taught as a teacher in the Ulta Academy. She walked the students through each step of the process explaining why she was doing what she did.

Success, at Ulta or elsewhere, Ms. Costello said, begins with how you present yourself.

"You need to come to work with a mindset of being confident and presentable," she said.

Students were informed once they earned their cosmetology license, just about any position would be available to them at Ulta. They encouraged students to get their license whether they end up having a job in cosmetology or in another industry. As they said, once you have the license, you have it for life.



ULTA Beauty Representatives spoke with students from the cosmetology classes to discuss what it is like working for the cosmetic company and the many job opportunities that are available.

Work Base Learning Coordinator Garret Jennings said he had hoped to have representatives from Ulta Beauty at the career fair, but they were not able to attend. They agreed to come to campus another time.

"I wanted to beef up the educational side," Mr. Jennings said, explaining how this visit helped do that.

"The benefits and flexible schedule, I like that," Stephany Ortiz, a senior at New Rochelle High School, said after learning more about Ulta Beauty.

## And the winner is... Cupcake Wars celebrate deliciousness and creativity



Guests came into the room and quietly took a seat. They spoke in whispers.

In the front of the room was a table on which sat five plates of different types of cupcakes.

"I'm so nervous," whispered one apron-clad student sitting in the front row. She grabbed the hands of the student next to her for support.

It was not long before several staff members entered the room and took a seat at the table with the sweet confections.

They joked with one another, and with those in the crowd, helping everyone to relax. These lucky few were about to enjoy a repast of cupcakes. Their mission: select a winner.

This was the third annual Cupcake Wars and students in Lisa Rudner's Baking Food and Retail class had spent the past two weeks trying recipes, creating unique frosting flavors and otherwise hoping to create a winner.

"These look amazing," school monitor Jen Keating said as she took her seat at the judge's table.

"They're beautiful," added fellow judge and school counselor Lori Aufiero.

Joining these two in the judging process were Assistant Principal Evangelo Michas,



The judges included Principal James Matera, Security Guard Reggie Pierce, Assistant Principal Evangelo Michas, School Counselor Lori Aufiero and School Monitor Jen Keating.

Security Guard Reggie Pierce and Principal James Matera.

The selections during this annual event included the following submissions of cupcakes: S'mores, Banana Split, Apple

Pie, Raspberry Swirl and Chocolate Covered Strawberry.

Judges were asked to evaluate each one based on appearance, texture, flavor,

moisture and creativity. The cupcake with the most points after the tasting would be declared the winner.

Each judge had their own technique, some using a knife and fork to take careful bites, others digging in with their fingers.

"This is hard," Ms. Aufiero said between mouthfuls.

The principal noted it was odd to be eating with so many people watching.

"This is the first time ever we have a tie," Ms. Rudner announced after tallying the votes.

In the end it was baking partners Shakira Autoy and Dylan Pryor who were victorious with their Raspberry Swirl cupcake. They claimed their gift-card award earning applause from the crowd.

# Students receive tutorial in vehicle wrapping



The assignment seemed simple enough: wrap the vinyl around the vehicle.

As students learned recently, the job is not so easy. There are doors, windows, a gas cap and more that must be factored into the process.

The details on how to place a wrap on a vehicle were shared with students when Al Chieco from the graphic installations company Application Unlimited, based in Dobbs Ferry, visited the Center for Careers Services on June 6. He met with students in the Commercial Art class as well as students in the Collision Technology class.

The tutorial is the next step for a special collaborative project the two classes undertook earlier this year.

In the spring Commercial Art students were assigned with designing a vehicle wrap, an ad that covers the entire or partial exterior of a vehicle. The wrap assignment came from The Color Group, based in Hawthorne. The students' designs went before a panel of judges comprised of staff at the center, and five were selected to present to the client.

With a design selection made, the next step will be to place the wrap on the van. Students in Collision Technology will help with this part of the project.

Mr. Chieco stopped by the garage to show students how a wrap is applied.

"Take the overall measurements of the entire van," Mr. Chieco said, referring to the first step.

With a tape measure in hand, Mr. Chieco measured each portion of the vehicle — length, height, width — factoring in things like the van's windows and area for the license plate. These measurements will be sent to the designer who makes the physical wrap.

Mr. Chieco also discussed the difference between bleeding and overlap, two options the students will have to consider before they place the order to have the wrap pieces made.

Bleeding, Mr. Chieco said, is when the background color is "longer" than the other colors on the material so it can be wrapped around the vehicle and tucked into parts that will not be seen on the outside. Overlap refers to panels that comprise the wrap that are made one quarter of an inch or a half inch longer, allowing one panel to be laid on top of the other to ensure continuity in the design.

Before anything can be done, Mr. Chieco said the most important step the students must do, and the one thing he does first, is to clean the vehicle. He said a superficial wipe down of the outside is not appropriate. The job requires meticulous care of the surface.

"A van like this should take an hour to clean," he said. "You want to be confident the wrap will stick."

"Get it into your head — cleaning, cleaning, cleaning," he stressed. "It's so important."

The cleaning extends to the wheel wells, behind the gas cap and the door handles too.

"If you don't clean it well you'll have a nightmare on your hands," Mr. Chieco said.

Once the vehicle, in this instance a Ford E-150 van, is cleaned the vinyl panels that comprise the entire design can be taped to the vehicle. This will enable the customer to see it and get a sense of what the overall look will be. He advised to stand back at least 20 feet to get a real good sense of what the entire design will look like.

"Then it just becomes work," Mr. Chieco said.

As the panels are put in place, Mr. Chieco said he prefers not to do any trimming until the very end. This enables adjustments to be made if necessary. Once any cutting is done, there is no going back. If there is a mistake and the wrap does not fit, it will have to be reprinted, which becomes an expensive and timely problem.

"You have to focus because this job is intense," he told the students. "Any problems you have create a waterfall of issues."

In his estimate this particular van would take about five hours for one person to complete the wrap.

Students will adhere the panels to the van, being sure to tuck the ends of the vinyl under surfaces and using a squeegee to flatten the panels and tuck them around indentations that are part of the sides of the van.

If a mistake is made, Mr. Chieco said, and it happens sometimes even after being in the business for 40 years, the best thing the students can do is have a good attitude.

"Your attitude will guide you in how you deal with the problem," he said.

The project will continue in the fall when students return to classes.



Al Chieco of Application Unlimited demonstrated to students how to measure a vehicle for a van wrap.



Students were instructed in how to measure a vehicle for a van wrap, being told they needed to be careful of getting all the measurements correct.



Al Chieco of Application Unlimited talked to students about the different components of a van wrap.

# LEARNING ON THE ROAD AT KALEIDOSCOPE SOUND



A recent trip to Kaleidoscope Sound helped students in Sean Harty's Sound Production class put together all the information they learned this year, expand their knowledge, and start a new journey into the professional world of audio production.

The studio, located in Union City, New Jersey, is an award-winning production space that specializes in rock, jazz, fusion and pop, along with some Broadway post-production work.

The studio is owned by Randy Crafton, who, according to the studio's website, wanted it

received an in-depth look at a drum set.

Engineers talked about what size drums to choose depending on musical styles, placement of the drums and type of music being played, as well as choosing the right microphones for the job, capturing the sound of the room and organization.

The studio was rearranged so the students could see Head Engineer Kyle Cassel's computer presentation as they learned and practiced setting up the drums and microphones. Senior Anthony DiGilio tried miking the tom drum but had some issues. Thankfully, Mr. Cassel and Assistant Engineer Jeremy Delaney helped him out.

Student Adam Pascual was interested in seeing how a drum set was set up and how different microphones were included. The experience was hands-on and students were surrounded by guitar cabinets, organs, Leslie cabinets (a loudspeaker that projects the signal from an electronic instrument and modifies the sound by rotating a baffle chamber in front of the loudspeakers), drum gear, a grand piano and more.

After setting up the drums, the students followed the engineers to the control room, where the learning became more intense and comprehensive. There is a mix of cutting-edge technology and vintage gear in the control room, which was big enough to accommodate all 25 students. The studio also uses a 48-channel API Legacy Plus console.

In the control room, Mr. Cassel started going drum by drum, having guest drummer Dan Drew hit each drum while he set up the gain levels to hear what the drum sounded like through the microphone. It was a real-life music session, even with Mr. Delaney having to move some microphones and create a makeshift tunnel between the kick drum and microphone to get a better sound and less bleed through from other drum parts. It was a long process that taught the students about the patience and discipline that is needed.

Next, they got a chance to use the console, equalizers and compressors to get the right balance among the drum parts. Mr. Cassel

explained what each gear does and how they work together.

The last part of the trip was learning how to use the patch bay. Students had a chance to listen to the drums being recorded digitally and then on a reel-to-reel tape recorder. The patch bay is a device that allows them to send the signal of the microphone to any studio gear and back to the console. Students had a chance to get hands-on experience on complicated devices.

"I didn't think it was this complicated but it's great to see how it all works. I love the patch bay, but it's really tough, I need more time using it," said Liam Vanderberg, a senior from New Rochelle High School.

Students also learned more about the business and customer service side of owning and working at a studio. Mr. Cassel was determined to make this trip a journey through what a typical day in a studio looks like, what it takes to make it in the business, the jobs of an intern and the skills they need to develop to be successful.

The trip ended with comparing the drums in a digital signal versus analog using the Otari M90 reel-to-reel recorder. There was also a question and answer period during



Students in the Sound Production class visited Kaleidoscope Studio in Union City, NJ. Among the highlights were seeing a drum kit be put together and fitted for microphones.

to operate with a simple premise: "All music, no attitude."

"Topics that Sean Harty has been discussing throughout the year started to make sense," student Michael Asher said after the tour on April 25.

Mr. Harty said the trip not only showed his students more about what they have learned, but also provided an opportunity for them to see a full drum set put together, the techniques you need to know and the daily happenings of a studio which is something they can't do on campus. In addition, he said, students heard and got a hands-on lesson on how to do a live pre-mix and see a reel-to-reel analogue recorder in action.

The day started with the students taking a tour of the facilities. The studio consists of the main studio "A" and the newer studio "the patio."

Most of the lessons for the day were in the live room in studio "A," where students



Sound students got an inside look at a sound studio

which students asked about internships, the personal journeys of the engineers and for any advice they can give them.

"Every second I was learning something new," Paul Ingrassia, a senior at Valhalla High School, said.

"I think it was a very useful tour," Taykeme Griffith, a junior at New Rochelle High School, said. "It showed you what it is like to be in a studio, how stressful it can be and how to make it sound good on the spot."

## ABOUT TONY DOFAT

Tony Dofat's career as a music producer began when someone passed a cassette of his own work to Uptown Music. Suddenly he found himself working alongside Puff Daddy. "I didn't know I was going to be a producer. I didn't even know what a producer was," Mr. Dofat told students during his visit to a Sound Production class. "Luckyly, I loved it."



Producer Tony Dofat worked with some of the biggest names in hip-hop.

# Buon appetito! Café dishes up experience and good food



Running to the kitchen for some extra parmesan cheese, squeezing filling into a cannoli shell and checking the temperature of the cooked chicken were all things that kept students in the Culinary Arts class busy on May 28. They were experiencing what life is like running a restaurant.

The morning and afternoon classes were divided up between those working in the kitchen, or back of the house, as it's called in the industry, and those in the front of the house, or in the dining room taking orders and serving the food. They were "working" at Pappa T's Ristorante and Pizzeria, and diners included four students from several other classes around campus.

Before the guests arrived, students put in what seemed like a full day's work. There was parsley and lettuce to chop, sauce to purée and fresh lemonade and iced tea to make. Tables needed to be set with tablecloths, napkins and silverware. It was all hands on deck.

"Our kids get to experience working à la carte most of the time, we do a buffet," Chef Peter Tomaskovic, or Chef T, said. "This time we have extended it. We are having them take orders. We want to get that experience for them."

This is the first year the "restaurant" has been in operation this year, and students and staff enjoyed coming in to the dining room for a meal over the course of several days.

Guests had a choice of items for three courses. Among them were fried calamari, mozzarella sticks or a Caesar salad for an appetizer. Entrées included a choice of chicken parmigiana, penne alla vodka or spaghetti and meatballs. Dessert options included gelato, zeppola or cannoli.

"It's nine o'clock people, we are in good shape," Chef Tomaskovic announced. The "restaurant" opened at 9:30 a.m. on this day.

A check at the dessert station had him instructing students to plate at least 10 of each type of dessert.

In the meantime, Chef John Damiani

instructed another student on how set up ingredients to have them ready to make a Caesar salad.

The morning also included a quick tutorial for the students who were working as servers. They were instructed to introduce themselves, first take drink orders and go back for the appetizer and then the entrée orders.

"Let's go class!" one culinary student said as the doors opened and students came in for their meal.

The number of used pots and pans added up quickly.

As empty dishes were returned to the kitchen, a student rinsed them and sent them through the high powered dishwasher. Cannolis were being filled at a quick clip and last-minute touches added to the desserts, such as whipped topping and a dash of powdered sugar.

Chef Tomaskovic said he took a page from the Culinary Institute of America in order to decide what items would be put on the

menu. Students at CIA can drop suggestions off at a kiosk for food they would like to make or be served. The items are counted, and the top contenders are made. He opted to have an Italian theme and offered students throughout campus an opportunity to vote on their top choices, being sure to include dishes that used different cooking methods.

"It really is so complete and gives students a chance to sit down with a tablecloth, silverware," he said of the guests.

Back in the kitchen, Chef Damiani was letting the cooks know that there is a fine line when cooking mozzarella sticks — if they are left in too long the cheese will begin to melt out.

"Excuse me!" said a student carrying a tray of food as she hustled out of the kitchen, alerting everyone to clear a path.

Just like in any restaurant, there were a few glitches that had to be worked around. For example one guest changed their order and another asked for their chicken to be cooked more.

"See how one item can hold up the line," Chef Tomaskovic said to the

cook, adding that is how it goes at the stove on some days.

"It was good," one guest said of the surprise meal he had just enjoyed.

"It was fun," culinary student Stefani Diaz, who waited tables, said as she cleared.

Chef Damiani said the department hopes to offer a similar "restaurant" experience several times throughout the year. "It brings to life everything we are doing," he said.



**Chef Peter Tomaskovic shows a student how to make zeppola.**



**Students were invited to "Pappa T's Ristorante and Pizzeria." The experience enabled students in the Culinary Arts program to get a sense of what it is like operating a restaurant.**

From the moment guests were seated, it was as if the "restaurant" staff were running on high speed. Orders were taken and brought to the kitchen, water glasses were refilled and extra napkins brought to tables.

In the kitchen, things were just as busy. The deep fryer was working overtime churning out fried mozzarella and calamari, while the lettuce being mixed with dressing was a blur. Spaghetti was being scooped onto plates, sauce added on top and a piece of chicken placed gently on the side.

**MEANWHILE...**

# SUPERHERO FASHION ON DISPLAY AT FASHION EXPO



Fresh off the annual ComicFest, the SWBOCES superhero costumes were the highlight of the Fashion Expo held on campus on May 23.

During the event the work of students in the Fashion Design and Merchandising classes was on display. Students, faculty and staff were invited to walk through and enjoy the creative work students had done throughout the school year.

"I think it came out pretty good," Stephen Cunzo, a senior at White Plains High School, said of the costume he created. "It came out better than I thought it would."

The red, white and blue ensemble was created as part of the SkillsUSA competition held this spring. The theme this year was cosplay, and each submission had to be reversible.

Liam McGee, a junior at White Plains High School, said the shirt for his costume was the most challenging aspect. His design featured a shirt and pants, which converted into a bird-like superhero.



Students Liam McGee, left, and Stephen Cunzo with their teacher Carmen Galiano at the Fashion Expo.

This was the last project for Stephen, who is graduating this year and plans to go into the ROTC program for the Air Force.

"I think clothes are cool," he said of studying fashion design at BOCES.

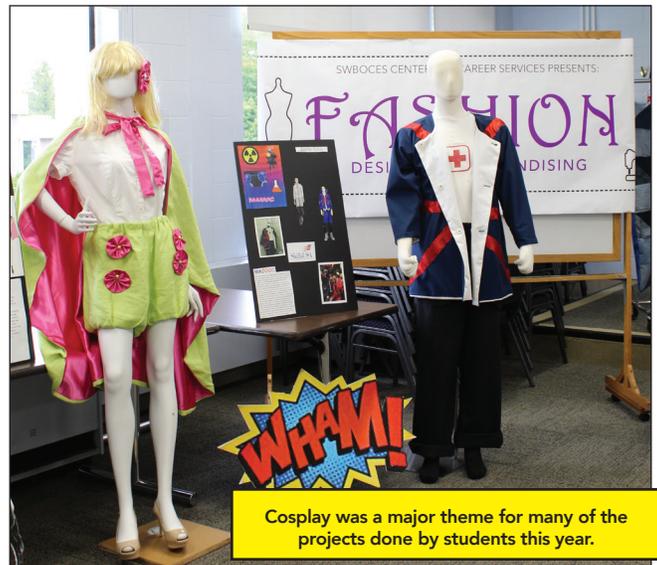
"I love clothing and fashion in general," Liam, a junior said.

This year the theme of costumes developed early on and teacher Carmen Galiano decided to make it the theme for her students this year. In the fall she was asked if her students could make costumes for a high school theater production of 'Alice in Wonderland.' This spring students were invited to design and make costumes for staff members to wear at the annual ComicFest held in April in White Plains, and finally, costumes were the theme at the SkillsUSA competition.

"Everything kept pointing to this concept," she said.

All of the costumes, from the play and ComicFest, were on display at the expo along with other projects her students had done.

For example, throughout the year students created smaller non-clothing items to sell for the holidays and Valentine's Day. Students also created a design and had it printed on a t-shirt as well as decorate sneakers with paint.



Cosplay was a major theme for many of the projects done by students this year.

In sticking with the superhero/cosplay theme, the expo included art created by students in the Commercial Art classes, featuring the fun text from the old Batman and Robin television series. Throughout the room, colorful "Wham!" and "Smash!" signs adorned the space.

Culinary students also contributed cookies and snacks for guests to enjoy.

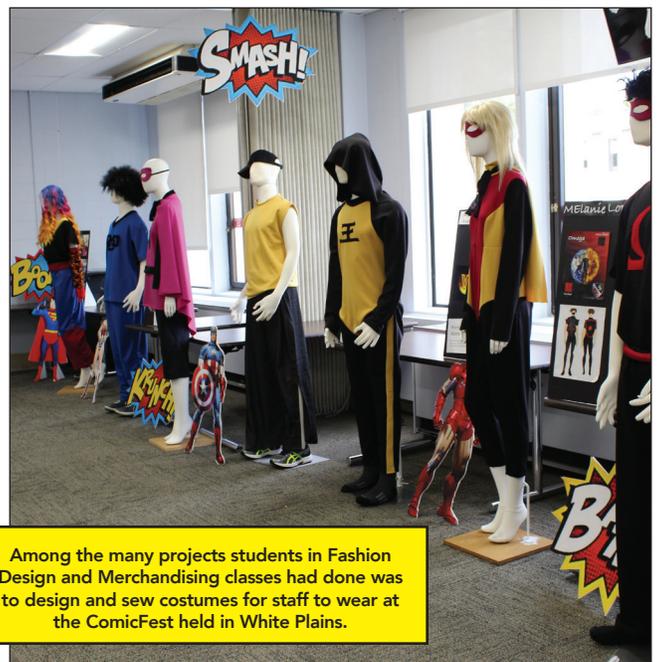
Ms. Galiano said she organizes an expo such as this and does a fashion show on the other years.

The expo also serves as an opportunity to introduce her students to another element of the fashion world — getting experience in dressing a mannequin. On the surface it might not look like it would be much of a challenge. However, putting clothing on an inanimate object requires patience. The mannequins don't always cooperate, and fitting a wig or ensuring the clothes are pinned properly so they fit and look their best takes time.

The expo also provides an opportunity for the campus to see the costumes worn by administrators and staff at ComicFest, to see first-hand how their principal transformed into BOCES Guy and the outfits worn by other staff at the event.

The assignment of creating these costumes also extended to students having to develop backstories as to who their superhero was and how the costume represented their work.

"They have really in-depth stories," Ms. Galiano said.



Among the many projects students in Fashion Design and Merchandising classes had done was to design and sew costumes for staff to wear at the ComicFest held in White Plains.



Jeffrey Alvarez demonstrates using Virtual Reality.

## Virtual Reality

# A whole new world: is a tool for the art world and beyond



Jeffrey Alvarez waved his hands around while holding on to two controllers. He'd take a step forward, two to the side and another in the other direction. His hands waved out in front of him.

It was enough to make one wonder what he was doing.

Jeffrey was not demonstrating the latest dance craze. Rather he was using the new Vive HTC Virtual Reality headset and tools acquired by the Commercial Art and Multimedia class.

"I just love this," Jeffrey said. "I don't know why."

With the goggles on and the controllers in hand, Jeffrey moved around a virtual world until he found "Mr. Froggy," a digital character in the game he was playing. He and the frog moved around this new world, climbing up and down the sides of structures and jumping from one rooftop to another.

When Jeffrey, a student at White Plains High School, got bored with this adventure, he used the Virtual Reality tools to travel, making stops on the moon, taking a closer look at a solar eclipse from outer space, and visiting the Himalayan Mountains before coming closer to home with stops in New Rochelle and even the campus for the Center for Career Services in Valhalla.

Onlookers could track his progress as he moved from one area to another via a computer monitor.

"It's fun," José Mendez, a student at New Rochelle High School, said of using these virtual tools, while he watched what his classmate was doing.

Shamar Harris, who also attends NRHS, was also watching.

He was hoping the tool would become the centerpiece of the classroom.

"It's mostly helping us think. You can print out screen shots of your work," Shamar said.

Students, José said, can use it for not only their art work but for designing clothing or animation.

In order to use the Virtual Reality, users put on large, heavy goggles. They also hold two controllers in their hands, which are used to manipulate movements on a computer screen. The person using the Virtual Reality tool sees a virtual world they must navigate. Users see the world in 3D, while others can watch their movements on a computer screen.

"Things are coming at you, you are walking into a cabinet with the goggles on," Shamar said.

Teacher Damian Powers said it does take some time to get used to wearing the goggles and learning how to move through the virtual world while moving through the real one at the same time.

"Once you get a feel for it, it's intuitive," he said.

José sees the potential in using this type of technology.

"You can really create anything. The only limit is your imagination," he said.

Shamar agreed.

"It's going to be the future," he said.

As students use the Virtual Reality on different projects, José is in the process of putting together a user manual for future Commercial Art classes.

"With Virtual Reality, it gets you out into a different world," Mr. Powers said.

Students use it along with a software program called Tilt Brush, which is provided through Google.

"You can draw and sculpt in a virtual world," Mr. Powers said.

The future of the technology, as he sees it, is it will become even more interactive.

"It's no longer one-dimensional," Mr. Powers said. "It's a little disconcerting because you are in this different world. Because it's unsettling, you have to become more familiar with it. Then it can be hard to separate."

The one downside Mr. Powers sees with the technology is it could diminish the "hands-on, tactile" work an artist does.

"I encourage students to still create with a pen and pencil," Mr. Powers said. "Then bring that into the virtual world."

Whatever preference a student may have, hand drawing their work, designing on a computer or using Virtual Reality, this technology is only going to become more common and popular.



**SOUTHERN WESTCHESTER BOCES**

SWBOCES Center for Career Services  
65 Grasslands Road  
Valhalla, NY 10595  
914-761-3400

Claudia Murphy, *Senior Director, Adult, Community & Career Services*  
Dahlia Jackson, *Director*  
James Matera, *Principal*  
Evangelos Michas, *Assistant Principal*  
Brian Howard, *Director of Communications*  
Alicia Smith, *Writer/Photographer*  
Jeffrey Braun, *Graphic Design*  
Southern Westchester BOCES  
17 Berkley Drive  
Rye Brook, NY 10573  
914-937-3820  
www.swboces.org

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**Civil Rights Compliance Officers**

Suzanne Doherty  
Director of Human Resources

17 Berkley Drive  
Rye Brook, NY 10573  
Ph: (914) 937-3820

complianceofficer@swboces.org

Stephen Tibbetts  
Assistant Superintendent for Business & Administrative Services  
17 Berkley Drive  
Rye Brook, NY 10573  
Ph: (914) 937-3820

**SWBOCES IS AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY EMPLOYER**

**Section 504 Coordinator**

Thomas Briggs  
Director of Facilities and Operations  
17 Berkley Drive  
Rye Brook, NY 10573  
Ph: (914) 937-3820  
tbriggs@swboces.org

"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."



Certified Landscape Architect Gregory J. Mercurio works with students who volunteered to submit a design for the courtyard in Building C. The Animal Science students are interested in using the space for the animals in their care.

## STUDENT INPUT SOUGHT IN SPECIAL LANDSCAPE PROJECT



Students from all different disciplines had an opportunity to develop their creative sides when they designed plans for how to renovate an interior courtyard in Building C on the campus of the Center for Career Services.

CLARB, Council of Landscape Architectural Registration Board Certified Landscape Architect Gregory Mercurio, of Carriage House Designs in Valhalla, worked with students during a two-day workshop.

On the first day Mr. Mercurio shared with students what an Architectural Landscaper is, what type of education and certifications are required and suggestions on how they can get started on thinking about the space. He also briefly discussed the history of courtyards and how they've been used in the past.

Students and their mentor visited the campus courtyard to see for themselves the current conditions and to take measurements.

While there, students from the Animal Science program, and their chinchilla, stopped in to explain what they hoped would be incorporated as part of the design.

Presently the courtyard has an asphalt floor, an old picnic table and a few planters, not all of which have plants growing in them.

The goal is for students to design a space where animals from the nearby Animal Science lab can be safely brought to get some exercise, and also be a space that students can enjoy. Requirements for the site include flooring material that can be easily cleaned, a koi pond, seating, a hose, storage area for supplies and raised bed planters.

Animal Science student Miranda Reynolds, said she hoped there could be a floor surface that would be easy to clean and reminded participants that rabbits will eat anything. She also envisioned the koi pond having seating around it for students. She also thought adding a mesh covering over the top of the courtyard would be a good idea, so any birds brought out could not fly off.

Martin Vargas, a senior at New Rochelle High School, is studying Architecture and Interior

Design and currently works for a landscaper.

He signed up for the project with ideas on what types of plants to use and perhaps adding some grasses as well, he said.

"I always pass by there, and I always look out and see it so empty," Certified Nursing Assistant student Janice Rodriguez said. "I wondered if they could do something good with the space."

She decided to try her hand at submitting a design because she said she loves plants and would like to see more in the space.

"I didn't know what it entailed until I got here," Jalen Bridges, a fellow Certified Nursing Assistant student said, when she signed up to participate.

After learning more from Mr. Mercurio and thinking about the times she played Sims 4, a simulation design game, she thought she could contribute to the project.

Jalen said she wanted to include a koi pond in her design and admitted she was puzzled on how to also create a space that could accommodate birds.

José Rodriguez, a senior at Port Chester High School and an architecture student, joined the project during the second workshop.

"I'm just a very hands-on person," José said. "It seemed like a good opportunity to learn something and understand what I am getting into," he said of coming up with a design of his own. He will be attending SUNY Delhi in the fall and plans to study architecture.

Upon seeing the courtyard space, José quickly had some ideas. He suggested adding some birdhouses or perches between the brick wall that divides the first and second floors of the building.

"Bird perches with decorative vines around would make it look nice," he said.

He also thought of adding a small animal house, or a pigeon coop to the space. It would be a shelter for smaller animals to use when out there.

Later in the session, José and Miranda shared more ideas.