

The Buzz

SUNY Broome News

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SUNY Broome Semester ends with Mock Wedding

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Categories: Featured News



BINGHAMTON — A medieval-style mock wedding — complete with traditional garb, a smoked pig and a drum circle — marked the end of a semester's worth of planning for 20 SUNY Broome Community College students.

For the first time this fall, the college offered a wedding planning class to help students see the process from beginning to end. Local wedding planner Maria Montemagno, of Binghamton, led the students to the final product: a mock wedding and reception held Thursday at the Ss. Cyril and Methodius Catholic Church on Clinton Street in Binghamton.

While coordinated by the wedding class, the production was a community-wide effort.

Local actors and actresses played the parts of the bride, groom and wedding party. A cooking class helped prepare a meal for the event. Students in the bartending course created appropriately themed mocktails. A graphics class helped create the invitations and other stationary.

The wedding class students were responsible for setting up every detail, including the decorations, music selections and the overall theme.

“It’s great to get hands-on experience with something I want to do in my career,” said Brooke Bautz, a 30-year-old Binghamton resident and student in the hospitality program at SUNY Broome.

Bautz was also enrolled in the cooking class that helped prepare the menu for Thursday’s event. Guests feasted on appetizers of bread, cheese, fruit, chilled peach soup and Caesar salad before a main course of smoked pig, pasta primavera, roasted red potatoes and green beans.

The first mock wedding went out without a hitch, and Montemagno, the local wedding planner and professor, is already planning for the future. Montemagno only had about a week to plan before classes began in the fall. She was hired late in the summer when the professor planning to teach the class had to back out, but said with more time and effort, the ideas are limitless.

“I think we’ll do a carnival or circus-style wedding next,” she said, adding she hopes to get elephants and other circus animals on campus for the event.

[\(View Video and Pictures of the Mock Wedding on PressConnects.com\)](#)

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Roberson Shares Its Strategic Plan for Marketing Success with SUNY Broome Entrepreneur Students

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Contributors: Knochen-Davis, Perkins Career & Technical Education Program, Lindsey Stevens, Communications student and Larry Truillo, Director of the Job Placement Center at SUNY Broome Community College

Roberson Museum and Science Center's Jason Fiume, recently visited the SUNY Broome campus to speak with Entrepreneur students. Fiume discussed how his methodology as Marketing and Public Relations Manager related to our venturing, new entrepreneurs. Students took copious notes as Fiume shared how he utilizes strategic planning when working with museum professionals in developing exhibitions, programs and fundraising events.

One of SUNY Broome's entrepreneur students, Lauren Sculley, recalled what she had learned from Fiume's presentation. "Roberson has seen new life by simplifying its marketing strategy to include the goal of engaging, inspiring, and empowering audiences of all ages." An emphasis was also placed on the importance of providing an exceptional customer experience by understanding fully the mission and executing it properly.

Dr. Dominic DePersis, Professor/Coordinator for Marketing, Management, and Entrepreneurship defined the Business Department's Entrepreneur program as being specifically designed to encourage participation and campus awareness of the program's benefits. "We open up the floor for students to ask questions in a fun, interactive forum," he stated. "Students are able to participate in, and learn from, question-and-answer sessions as well as meet-and-greets with community members. Dr. Persis credits these community members with, "delivering value beyond textbook and classroom."

As the Instructor for Entrepreneurship, Laura Knochen-Davis tries to expand on the program's core mission, which is to provide students with meaningful and transcendent experiences that will undoubtedly improve their chances of becoming successful entrepreneurs. Ms. Knochen-Davis stated, "Our goal is to incorporate academic and real-world learning by utilizing community experts on various business topics that will prepare students for successful entrepreneurial ventures."



Former Entrepreneur student Sierra Colon was in the Business Department's Entrepreneur Certificate Program in 2012 and is now the owner and operator of Airbrush By Sierra / Wink Wax Bronze, LLC. Sierra comments, "The Entrepreneur Certificate Program is the perfect step for anyone interested in forming a structured business plan and understanding exactly how to run their own business while creating a brand. Professor Laura Knochen-Davis is fully knowledgeable about State regulations and has the experience, knowledge, and networking expertise to ensure you're taking the right steps. Each week her class has guest speakers, such as the owner of Bricks for Kids, and Mayor-Elect Richard David - to share their risks and rewards during their business ventures. It's been a year and a half since I started my mobile spray tanning business, and since then I've expanded my services to Eyelash Extensions, Waxing, Facials, and of course spray tanning. If it wasn't for the Entrepreneur program I might not have gotten the courage and understanding that I needed to start off on my own."



Kathy Ritter, owner of Swags and Slipcovers

One SUNY Broome alum, Kathy Ritter, has been able to effectively apply what she learned from her Entrepreneur class to her own professional life. She credits the program with providing the essential tools to become successful. “I was able to strategically plan all aspects of my business and fine-tune my marketing strategy.” Ritter is now the owner of Swags and Slipcovers, a professional custom slipcover and window treatment fabrication studio located on Clark Avenue in Binghamton.

The Entrepreneur Program effectively teaches students all essential aspects of business including: accounting, business law, finance, marketing, and technology. Jason Fiume’s contribution to the education of these students is just another example of the sort of hands-on, interactive experiences DePersis and Knochen-Davis recognize as celebrated attributes of the program.

Jobs in Criminal Justice for Women on the Rise

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*By: Laura Knochen-Davis, Perkins Career & Technical Education Program
and Larry Truillo, Director – Job Placement Center*

Nationally, locally, and here at SUNY Broome, we are seeing an increase in women majoring in criminal justice and entering its marketplace. In 2008, 20% of the students graduating with degrees in Criminal Justice at SUNY Broome were women, and by 2013 this number was up to 32%. In the Broome County Sheriff's Office two of the 53 sworn officers are women. There isn't a lot of turnover. However, there has been a definite increase of the number of women who have taken the civil service exam and can now be considered when an opening does occur.



Marie Finelli attended SUNY Broome and is one of the three full-time sworn police officers at the college. She was a single mother, working at Burger King who received her GED, but didn't know what to do as a career. When she began her studies at SUNY Broome, Marie soon realized she had a knack for interacting with people. This led her to enroll in the Criminal Justice/ Police program while she was working as a security officer at the UHS Emergency Room and Crisis Center. She began her career as a sworn law enforcement officer with the Afton Police Department and continues to work with the New Berlin Police Department. She facilitates topics on mental health and is a Broome-Endicott crisis negotiator. Marie is recognized for her ability to stay calm and use her communication skills to come to peaceful conclusions.



Assistant Professor, Kerry Webber at her police academy graduation with her husband.

Assistant Professor, Kerry Webber at her police academy graduation with her husband.

Kerry Weber, a Police Corporal from Southern California was recently hired as an Assistant Professor in the SUNY Broome Criminal Justice Department. She became interested in becoming a police officer while working in city government. Kerry decided to return to school and started going on ride-alongs with the local police departments. She asked countless questions and they encouraged her to stay in college, no matter how long it would take. She realized that she needed to work harder than the males to prove herself, but because she displayed a higher level of empathy, patience, and communication skills than her male counterparts, many female victims tended to prefer to speak with her. Kerry worked as a patrol officer for over 7 years before being promoted to the rank of Corporal, and then went into investigation.

An example of the increased presence of women in the field is represented by the substantial growth that occurred between 1998 and 2008 at the Veterans Health Administration, who hired an additional 224 female sworn police officers during that time. Police Departments are acknowledging that police officers who cooperate with citizens, have strong interpersonal skills and can also solve problems informally, are more likely to have fewer citizen complaints. They are better able to defuse these

interactions while maintaining composure in situations of conflict.

A number of studies document that police officers and community members are concerned that women are neither strong enough nor aggressive enough for police work. Yet physical strength has not been shown to predict either general police effectiveness or the ability to successfully handle dangerous situations. Given that an estimated 90% of policing involves noncriminal or service functions, the emphasis in traditional policing on physical strength might actually serve as a liability to police departments seeking to successfully meet the demands of their community.

Criminal Justice Assistant Professor Kerry Weber notes, "As a former female police officer, I feel I can provide advice, guidance, and assistance to those students who would like to pursue a career in criminal justice, no matter their gender."



Tiffany Evanchof participated in SUNY Broome's Fast Forward program and completed her bachelor's degree in conservation biology at SUNY College of Environmental Science and Forestry with the hopes of becoming an environmental conservation officer. Tiffany commented, "Not only was I interested in the environment, but keeping it clean, pristine and making sure hunters and other people using the land for almost any purpose were following the law. As a woman in this field, I realize it will be difficult to reach this position and decided that the more education I received, the better my chances were." So this past September 2013, she returned to SUNY Broome's Criminal Justice program. As the semester progressed she realized that she became increasingly more interested in law enforcement including state police. With SUNY Broome's connections to the community, Tiffany has a part time job as a sworn peace officer at Broome Security

while she attends school full time. During this semester Tiffany has participated in providing security for assemblies and taught children at the Roberson Center about fingerprints and forensic science. She was also given the opportunity to volunteer through the student conservation association, where she was flown out to California to perform restoration projects for the National Park Service. Tiffany notes, "I feel that by majoring in Criminal Justice at SUNY Broome, I am taking the right steps to become an officer in law enforcement."