

College communications goes to high school

By NICOLE MINGO, Review editor

Egg Harbor Township has joined a growing trend among area high schools with a new “Communications Academy.” The trend may be bringing vitality to those schools, but could be damaging college programs of the same nature, some educators fear.

In recent years, high schools such as Ocean City, Mainland, Absegami, Cedar Creek and Oakcrest have also established media programs. At the helm of the EHT “academy” are Denise Steet and Dennis Heenan, both English teachers.

“We’ve had a media program here at the high school, and we felt it was time to progress it, meaning update it in terms of curriculum, establish a sense of professionalism and have more hands-on activities that will gear them towards a profession and further into college,” Steet said.

“By revamping this program, and giving them an area of focus, they’ll be able to build their skills throughout their four years here and be able to walk away with a portfolio of their work and real world experience as well,” she said.

“The big thing we looked at was: we have all this equipment, these great facilities, and we should try to use them to the best of our abilities,” Heenan said.

The next goal is bridging the gap to the middle schools.

“There’s a lot of buzz going on in the middle schools. We’re starting now to get applications from those schools,” Heenan said.

“The applications actually just opened up, and we have a few, but we think we’ll cap it at 50. That’s our number,” Steet said.

Fostering the interest in media from a young age and helping it grow throughout high school is one of the goals for the two founders.

“We’re looking for professionalism, and professional experience is the end goal. We’re hoping that by the time they leave that they’ll have some sort of idea of what track they want to stay in: public relations, broadcast journalism, etc.,” Heenan said.

For former EHT student Juan Chamorro, it’s something he would have taken advantage of, since he is now communication student at Atlantic Cape.

“Hopefully, it will prepare students who plan to attend Atlantic Cape Community College and major in communication,” he said. “At least, I would hope that it would expose students to the communication field, which they might otherwise not have known about or even considered.”

The goal of programs such as this are to reach out to students who may have an interest in media and communication and to foster that interest potentially into college.

“Speaking as a first-generation [citizen] to go to college in the U.S., I had little to no guidance from either my high school or my parents about how college works. To this day, we are still finding things out and stumbling our way through. More programs like this need to be introduced at the high school level to get us ready for college and the real world,” Chamorro said.

In terms of redundancy, it depends on who’s teaching for some students.

“When you take classes in the field of



Provided by EHT High School

GETTING GOOD USE: Egg Harbor Township High School is now making better use of its broadcast equipment.

communication(s) I would say that almost 80% of what you learn depends on your professor,” said Ryan Baitinger, 21, communication major.

“You could theoretically take the same class with a different professor each time and come out with a different experience,” Baitinger said.

“We have great professors here at ACCC, professors that will teach you things that you couldn’t learn anywhere else. There is no class or teacher that can teach you what you learn here in the Atlantic Cape communication program,” he said.

“I can think that some (students will be exposed to) double information,” Heenan said. “They’re only semester-long classes for us. At the pace a high school class would go, it probably doesn’t cover the same amount of information you would cover in college.”

“What we’re hoping is that it won’t be too redundant. These are survey courses, like intro courses,” Heenan said.

The redundancies, however, could lead to more college and high school connections.

“It is possible that the communication program at the high school might make things more redundant at Atlantic Cape Community College,” Chamorro said. “In that case, I would either suggest having the high school classes count toward college credits or restructuring the communication program at Atlantic Cape Community College to not repeat classes unnecessarily.”

Atlantic Cape has partnered with Cedar Creek and Wildwood High Schools in the past, and the teachers at Egg Harbor Township are open to such pairings, such as one that already exists with Stockton, which offers a dual credit in Honors Multimedia Production.

Students at Atlantic Cape believe the connections would definitely be beneficial to the program already in place.

“I do think that it is good for high schools to make a connection with colleges through programs like this,” Baitinger said. “This program not only shows future students what they could be expecting going into colleges like this, but also shows them the structure of classes and curriculum.”

“I remember only having three people in my class and how much better it would’ve been to have more people,” Baitinger said. “Even here at Atlantic Cape we struggle with finding people to help out with certain activities involving our communications program, like the communications awards.”

Current students of Atlantic Cape’s communication program welcome those students of the future. For some of them, programs such as EHT’s could have offered more streamlined guidance throughout their own high school years.

It’s a matter of making connections, of communicating. A bond formed now will help students of the future and help to prepare them for a life in the media industry and the students here at Atlantic Cape are open to new connections.

FILM REVIEW

‘Batman v Superman Dawn of Justice’



By JOHNNY SANCHEZ, Film reviewer

Batman v Superman Dawn of Justice has been the most anticipated film of 2016.

The DC Comics iconic heroes, Superman and Batman, are sharing the same screen after 75 years. Bruce Wayne (Ben Affleck), having witnessed the destruction of Metropolis at the hands of Superman (Henry Cavill), is now engaged in a vendetta to stop him. Also, Lex Luthor (Jesse Eisenberg) seems to be creating a new weapon to eliminate Superman.

As Luthor has been claiming in promotional material, this is the world’s greatest gladiator match. God versus man. Day versus night. Last Son of Krypton versus The Caped Crusader. So ... does the film live up to the high expectation?

Well, yes - and no. The film delivers in the introduction of a new Batman and the long-awaited confrontation between the two heavyweights. Affleck quickly and without question eliminates any worry of his casting as Bruce Wayne/ Batman. He plays the duality perfectly and shows a more aggressive and battle-worn Batman.

Cavill’s Superman / Clark Kent is slightly different from his previous outing in Man of Steel, but he still seems to be lacking personality in his Superman persona. Clark Kent seemed more interesting with his philosophical viewpoint of what justice means clashing with that of Bruce Wayne’s.

The most divisive character in the film is Lex Luthor. Eisenberg plays Luthor as a maniacal genius, but at times his performance seems campy. The supporting cast delivers excellent performance, including Jeremy Irons and Laurence Fishburne as Alfred Pennyworth and Perry White, respectfully.

The action and film’s score is very exciting and operatic. Zack Snyder paints a beautiful film with each scene breathtaking in its cinematography. The combination of Hans Zimmer and Junkie XL on the film’s score is epic and relentless in conveying an emotional catharsis to exhilarating action tempo.

Unfortunately, Snyder is more flash than substance. At times the plot is unsure on how to connect Wayne’s vendetta with Luthor’s mission. The film is more concerned in introducing the Justice League rather than telling a complete arc of character for both Batman and Superman.

It’s a shame that this isn’t the greatest superhero film, but it does lay the groundwork to the ever-growing DC cinematic universe. While not a bad film, its pacing and plot structure keep it from reaching a level of greatness. Still, go see this film on the big screen, just don’t go in expecting a Batman versus Superman film.