Farmingdale students who plan on continuing their education after they earn a bachelor’s degree from FSC may not have to look far for a school that offers a program. Farmingdale has already submitted a proposal to the State for its first graduate program.

According to Communications Director Kathryn Coley, FSC is looking to add a master’s degree program for Engineering Technology. This would be a Farmingdale first, pending New York State’s approval. “The State has been quick on approving our proposals in the past,” said Coley. “It could take anywhere up to one year to hear back on our proposal.”

As far as attaining any future graduate programs, “all we need is State approval and more money,” said Coley. “Not higher tuitions, but we always need more money.”

Most students who attend Farmingdale are happy with their low SUNY capped tuition and central Long Island location and do not look forward to continuing their studies at another location for a potentially higher price. Carlene Maenza, a current student at FSC plans on graduating next year, but may not rush into a master’s degree since she cannot find a local SUNY school that offers a reasonably priced graduate program. “Sure, I would love to stay at Farmingdale for two more years and get a master’s degree. I just don’t see myself paying the high tuition at a private college anytime soon.”

Martin Godek, a Farmingdale Student from the 80’s had to attend C.W. Post in order to earn a master’s degree. There he had to pay much steeper tuition. “I most likely would have stayed at Farmingdale if they offered a graduate program. It would have saved me a lot of money back then.”

As long as this proposal passes in the near future, it will be a good sign for the growth of Farmingdale State College. A successful graduate program in engineering can lead to many other graduate programs within the confines of FSC.
Freedom of Religion
By Sandra Saglam

It has not been easy for Muslim people to express their religious freedom in a visual way in the past years. The religious dress code which in the simplest case only consists of a head cover for women is being worn by many female students at Farmingdale State College.

Some women said they were comfortable on campus grounds wearing a head cover. The alternative would be a wig or a hat. A female biology major student Benish Ahmad said that she would not be intimidated, but wouldn’t know exactly what to do in terms of deciding between religion and education.

“I choose this because of the freedom I have here,” she said. “I do get a lot of curious stares at times, but that doesn’t bother me at all.” She also adds that nothing major happened to her personally after the 9/11 attacks, but she heard of some incidents from her friends.

Rumaisa Butt another female student at FSC said that she was not intimidated by the looks of fellow students. “Everyone has the right to be curious. I understand that,” she said. “What would life be about if we were all the same? I try to face it the mature way.” Rumaisa is from Pakistan and knows that life is a little tougher on women there, as well as in other Muslim countries.

Professor Monte Rivera, FSC sociology professor for over 30 years said that religious discrimination is hard to prevent in colleges, other schools, or even in the general community. “Even though we have separation of state and religion, due to the freedom everyone has in the U.S., religion is still something that should be kept private. The same should be done with political views or other issues like sexual orientation,” said Rivera “Unnecessary exploitation in public will always lead to arguments and criticism.”

Individuals expressing their religious freedom always face a challenge. They have the confidence and trust the United States government so much that they express their self-confidence every chance they get. It seems like almost nothing would stop them from continuing their education at FSC.

Knapp Grub: Fair Fare?
By Jessica Jean-Jacques

If dorm students are expecting a meal from Knapp Hall at Farmingdale State College, after 7:30 p.m. they are sadly mistaken.

Second year student Sareena Provilus, who currently lives on campus said there have been some improvements in the food served this year at Knapp versus last year. Last year was worse, we can now have shrimp without paying extra, and there are more alternatives,” said Provilus. Provilus’s thoughts on Knapp Hall are that it shouldn’t be closed at all. People do get hungry between classes and at different times of the day. Students shouldn’t have to eat sandwiches at Teddy’s all day, because Knapp is closed. There is only a certain amount of funding on a student’s declining dollars. After that runs out, students are left to fend for themselves.

“We encourage students to tell us what you want. We want students to have a good experience. We are here to provide services for you,” said Joe Sacco, Director of Aramark. Sacco said students may arrange meal services. If Knapp hours conflict with their classes and/or working schedule, students can come in and speak with him or he can direct them to someone in order to voice their concerns. There can be arrangement with the student. For example, food can be packed away for them on the side, and they can come and pick it up.

Alexis Sharp a current Aramark employee and a student at FSC, enjoys working at Knapp Hall. “A job is a job,” said Sharp. “And this is an easy job.” Sharp doesn’t think the food is all that bad, all the time. The time should be extended, according to her, for the simple fact that everyone has different schedules. Some students can’t make it before 7:30 p.m. She still considers Aramark to be a pretty good company.

Sacco encourages students to complete the surveys, using the four computers located in Knapp and First Stop Café. Students can even go online to the Farmingdale web site and take the survey. There is even a $250 gift certificate given for Best Buy. There are two or three town hall meetings every semester, where students can come and address their concerns.

“Since they do close Knapp, there should be some sort of food service alternative that’s accessible for students 24 hours,” said Provilus. “We pay mandatory meal plans; not everyone has the luxury to go buy food. We should be accommodated at all times.”

“It would be difficult to keep open all day,” said Sacco. “It just isn’t possible to do.” Aramark’s goal is to please and work with the Farmingdale community. They want to listen and make changes and improvements, if possible. Take Teddy’s for example. Until last semester it has always closed at 9 p.m., and now it stays open until 10 p.m.
Classes: Online, or at School?

By Marisa Stella

Students at FSC can choose between taking classes online or classes on campus. With over 65 different online classes, the college offers a wide variety of courses from aviation internships to criminal justice to nursing seminars, and they are available to all students throughout each semester.

Online classes have become more popular lately because students work full-time and try to fit school into their schedules. Taking online classes gives working students a more flexible schedule.

There is no deadline for the students to complete their school work. The courses can be accessed from any computer at any time of day. “It's a different kind of learning, and students have to be self-disciplined and manage their time well,” said Professor O’Sullivan, Business Management professor.

Students who take online courses must be dedicated to their work, since the time and work are a lot more than in a traditional class. “I like being in class because I like being face to face when I am learning something.” said Kristy Mortiz, a student at FSC. Everyone learns differently, some can learn face to face, and some can learn through a textbook or computer screen.

When a student is learning, there’s a lot to read between the lines that can be lost over the computer. “I just recently lost 30 points on an assignment because the professor said I didn’t explain why I chose the answer,” said Sathyra Bridgemohansingh, FSC student.

Students have to explain themselves in detail when submitting assignments online, but in class it is much easier to speak up and ask questions. “I think it’s more demanding because students have to participate and contribute, where in a traditional class they do not have to,” said Professor O’Sullivan. Some college students want to take a class, get a grade, and be over with it with the least amount of effort.

A good rapport with professors is very important in college. “My opinion, professor relationships are vital to have a successful class,” said Professor Conboy, Sociology Department professor.

Farmingdale Radio Station Reaches Out to New Listeners

By Brian Walsh

FSC'S radio station, WRAM 89.3 FM, which encompasses 13 radio shows featuring roughly 20 students, has a large mix of music programs and talk shows, with topics ranging from business to sports. The station, which was started in 1953, runs 24/7, with a playlist of songs for those times when the station’s talk shows are not being broadcast.

The roughly 20 students who participate in the program are enthusiastic about it. “We have a good program here,” said junior Kenrick Thomas, who hosts his own sports radio show. “On my show, I’ve had several sports personalities, such as NFL senior writer Lloyd Vance and Ron Chemlis, a journalist from The Republican Newspaper, as well as Farmingdale faculty and other people of interest. It’s not like we’re amateurs on the air. We have experience and know what we’re doing,” said Thomas.

The station, while successful, isn’t necessarily advertised well by the student body. “I didn’t even know we had a radio station,” said Mark Anderson, a sophomore. “I don’t know too much about the life on campus. I just thought we were a small, community-like college.” While he was previously unaware of the radio station, Anderson is open to listening to his fellow FSC student on the radio. “I have a lot of time in between classes, and am bored of listening to WBAB and Z100 in my car on my breaks. Maybe next time I’ll tune in to the station.”

Some students, however, do not share Anderson’s enthusiasm about the radio station. For senior Glenn Santos, the idea of FSC radio station is not very enticing. “I don’t spend anymore time on campus than I have to,” said Santos, who doesn’t seem to feel that this campus is one that promotes student activities, such as a radio station. “If the school wants students to pay more attention to on-campus activities, then maybe they should make it so that we know about what’s going on.”

One thing that can increase the number of listeners the station receives is that it’s available online at www.tiny.cc/wram. “We’re on the internet now, which helps us a lot,” said Thomas. “Fans of our programming can listen to us online at home. If you want to hear one of our shows, or some good music, all you need to do is go to the web site.”

There is no question that WRAM at FSC offers varied quality programming. The question is what kind of following the station will receive. “Students should definitely listen to our programs,” Thomas said. “We have exciting programs which appeal to all audiences. There are good things happening here; We just want people to know more about it.”

WRAM is located in Gleeson Hall; the station has a large mix of music programs and talk shows.

The Rampage Student Newspaper 3 Farmingdale State College
The Golden Key International Honor Society Induction Ceremony

By Erin Failla

The Golden Key International Honor Society induction ceremony took place on Friday, April 9 in Roosevelt Hall’s Little Theatre. FSC’s President Hubert Keen described the event as “an evening of celebration,” and it certainly was. As the last glasses of sparkling cider were poured into champagne glasses in the dining hall, the inductees filed into the Little Theater, and a four string quartette played on stage to accompany the procession.

Students and faculty agree that the benefits associated with being a member of the Golden Key Honor Society will be advantageous for students while they are attending college, and after they have graduated. Amy Chen, a Professional Communications student who will be graduating in May, is excited about the benefits of membership that will help in her job search upon graduation. “I’m hoping the employer that I want to work for might be a member of the Golden Key Honor Society and pick me over other prospective hires because of it.”

In his opening remarks President Keen described membership in the honor society as a lifelong achievement. “When you work hard to accomplish things you should be very proud of it because wherever you go you will have this honor with you.”

There are countless benefits to being a member of the honor society, some of which include scholarships, career assistance, and leadership and networking opportunities.

During the ceremony several scholarship were awarded. One of the scholarships was awarded to Christopher Wallace, the President of The Golden Key Honor Society. In his speech to the inductees he expressed the importance of being a member of an honor society. “Tonight is about celebrating you, the lifeblood of academic achievers,” said Wallace. “This is an opportunity to showcase your talents and further the goals of society.”

Students considered for the Golden Key Honor Society must have maintained a 3.7 GPA and must be studying toward a bachelor’s or master’s degree. In her keynote speech, Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs Lucia Cepriano described the traits associated with members of the Golden Key Honor Society. “To sit here tonight you have had to develop some excellent characteristics the two most important characteristics being persistence and a desire for excellence.”

Some students are excited about having such a prestigious society on their resume. “The biggest benefit of being a member is that it should boost the appeal of my resume and help with job placement,” said senior FSC Alex Sabato. Others are just happy to be acknowledged for all of their efforts. “It’s great to be recognized for doing all the work. It makes you feel good,” said senior Connie Shakalis.

Following the event, inductees, family members, honor society officials, and faculty members enjoyed refreshments and celebrated the student’s achievements and a ceremony that had taken place so wonderfully.

A Night of Bowling

By Ethan Rosen

The Farmingdale State College bowling night was sponsored by the radio station, WRAM. The event was held at 300, formerly known as Melville Bowl. The event, according to WRAM president Stephanie Ruane, served as a “fun welcome back from spring break.”

The event took place in a dimly lit back room with a television and bar. A variety of sodas were out prior to the event, and shoes were lined up in front of the lanes. There was a baseball game playing on the television.

Ten minutes prior to the event’s official start, there were only three people there including the event’s organizer, Ruane. However, 45 minutes later, a bus with about fifty people arrived, and the event was ready to begin.

Most of the students in attendance were living on campus. “I came because it was free,” said freshman Joseph Miller, who attends many of these events because of the free transportation from campus to the site.

Once everyone arrived, there was a major issue with bowling shoes. Since the shoes were laid out, there was a mad dash for everyone to find their size, but once that was settled, everyone divided into groups and began to bowl.

The bowling was made more interesting by the emcee, who officiated several contests throughout the evening. The first contest was won by a student named Steven, who won a gift card to the bowling ally by throwing the ball between his legs to hit the pins.

The bowling night was one of many events thrown by WRAM, which has the ability to sponsor so many events on and off campus due to a rather substantial budget apportioned to them by the student government. “One of our events is our Ram Jam and we have coffee house open mic events,” said Ruane.

The FSC bowling night was a success. A good time was had by all, and most importantly, no one got hurt.
Farmingdale Students Want Blog Box Back

By Brian Walsh

In the fall of 2009, Farmingdale State College and the New York Islanders of the National Hockey League began a partnership in which students could participate in a promotion that had fans of the team attend games, interview players and coaches, and write blogs about their experience called the New York Islanders Blog Box. Several students joined the program and received invaluable experience in the worlds of communications, media relations, and journalism.

One student was Greg Patriss. “I had never been a huge hockey fan,” Patriss said. “I didn’t know too much about the game, but after attending a few games, I began to learn about the rules of hockey, and it became a great experience.”

Farmingdale State College no longer sends students to participate in the program. “The Blog Box was part of an overall advertising initiative,” said Kathy Coley, Director of Communications at Farmingdale State College, via email. “While it was an exciting opportunity for a few students, believe it or not, it was hard to get students to commit to attending the games and writing about them. We couldn’t justify it again this season.”

While the college may have had trouble getting students to participate last season, when the team was dead-last, some students feel that the team this year may be more exciting to watch. “I wish the school still had (the partnership),” said Brendan Storz. “I am a big hockey fan, and I think it would be fun to write about something that interests me.”

The New York Islanders Blog Box, which began in the 2007-2008 season, was created by Islanders former Public Relations Director Chris Botta. The Blog Box has spawned many successful and popular blogs, and has opened the doors for participants to write for hockeybuzz.com, hockeyindependent.com, and thehockeywriters.com, as well as having several articles appear on the official websites for both the New York Islanders and the National Hockey League.

Since 1929, Farmingdale State College has had 49 student-athletes inducted into the FSC Hall of Fame. People could say the problem is that Farmingdale doesn’t have enough high-caliber athletes. Maybe the problem is, many people are unaware that the Hall of Fame even exists.

“We have a Hall of Fame?” said Jessica Lee, a Professional Communications major in her junior year. She went on to say that she had never heard of the hall at Farmingdale before, nor has she really gone to many sporting events.

According to the Farmingdale web site, the last induction was made in 2008 for two athletes. The first student was Leslie Reina, an indoor/outdoor track star who finished her career in 1998. The second was Cos. A. Trapani, Sr. who was inducted for his basketball, football and baseball accolades. He finished his college career in 1942 when we was drafted to the Philadelphia Eagles.

“If athletes find themselves struggling academically or if they fall below 12 credits, Musto steps in to arrange tutoring, counseling, or changes to their schedules to keep their full-time status and their GPA at 2.0 or better. “Some students I see on a daily basis, and some I never see,” said Musto. “But when you hold their feet to the fire and monitor their academic progress, they shape up and do better,” he said.

Kevin Curtis, Farmingdale Rams first baseman, said Musto is always cheerful and energetic, and is always pumping up the teams. “Bill Musto cares about every athlete who walks through Nold Hall and if he doesn’t have the answer to their problems, he’ll find it.”

Musto received a master’s degree at Stony Brook University with certification in Athletic Administration. He has been at Farmingdale for 14 years, coaching men’s basketball for eight years before assuming his current position.

Score One for the Man Behind the Scenes

By Maryann Karageorges

Farmingdale College athletics brings to mind pictures of fast-paced action on the court or the field, bleachers of cheering fans, and referees waving animatedly in their special sign language. No one ever pictures the people behind the scenes who occupy the dimly-lit, cramped offices on the second floor of Nold Hall, who are as important to the athletic program as the athletes themselves.

Bill Musto, Coordinator of Student Athlete Services, is the reality check for Farmingdale athletes. As liaison between student athletes and the coaches, the Financial Aid office, the Admissions office, and all academic departments, he makes sure they remain eligible to play on the teams.

“Ninety-nine percent of student athletes won’t make the pros, but they do need their degrees to be successful in life,” said Tom Azzara, Associate Athletic Director. “Musto helps them do that.”

FSC Hall of Fame

By Jarett Sundack

Since 1929, Farmingdale State College has had 49 student-athletes inducted into the FSC Hall of Fame. People could say the problem is that Farmingdale doesn’t have enough high-caliber athletes. Maybe the problem is, many people are unaware that the Hall of Fame even exists.

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“The Hall of Fame is incredibly hard to get into, I don’t even know what I’d have to do at this point to get in”, said Travis Grillo, a pitcher on Farmingdale’s baseball team. According to Farmingdale’s web site, a nominee must be, in addition to other things, “An athlete who has achieved recognition and enhanced the image of the college as evidence by selection to All-Conference, All-Regional, or All-American teams, or who had consistently performed in his or her sport as recognized by his or her respective coach.

With only 49 athletes in the Hall of Fame in its 80-year existence, these athletes must have all been more than exceptional. One hopes, for Farmingdale that the next Hall of Fame athlete isn’t too far away.
Early Bird or Night Owl

By Jenna Odierna

Students feel teachers take a different approach to teaching in day and evening classes. All that have taken evening classes have said the teachers are much more lenient and almost act as if “they want to get out of there as much as you,” said Zack Mandel, a Farmingdale student who takes both day and evening classes. Mandel said that evening classes and summer classes are categorized the same way in that sense.

Mandel feels that a vast majority of teachers who teach evening classes are much more relaxed than teachers who teach during the day. However “when it comes to grades, it still depends on you as a student,” said Mandel. “No matter how teachers teach, it is up to you to make the grade.” Mandel prefers day’s classes despite the “perks” of night classes because he feels that day classes he is able to be more active at night.

Students who have only taken day classes feel that teachers should teach the same no matter what the time of day. Daniel Slavin, a Farmingdale student, agrees with Mandel that it is all up to the student to make the grade and it does not depend on the easygoing nature of a teacher. “I make the schedule I want and choose not to take night classes so that I can have more of a social life at night,” said Slavin.

Suraj Krishnamoorthy, a Farmingdale student, said he felt that evening classes were more useful as a student. “Teachers are more helpful, they act more on a one-on-one,” and, in return, Krishnamoorthy’s grades are better. Tests are easier; however homework is the same as it would be for a day class. Krishnamoorthy prefers evening classes and wishes he could take more if his outside schedule would allow him.

Professor Brierly, a history teacher at Farmingdale State College, feels that each class is very different. Brierly found that students do take a different approach in day and evening classes. “Usually I find that students taking evening classes are people who are older, who work during the day and are taking the classes to finish their degrees and put themselves in a better position for themselves and the people in their lives.”

Brierly found that in the evening classes, students are more committed, while day classes have students right out of high school go through the motions because that’s what they’re supposed to do no what they want to. Brierly doesn’t change her teaching methods but agrees that some professors probably do. “It is more fun to teach evening classes, because the students generally pay more attention,” Brierly said. Brierly firmly believes that the grades are up to the students no matter the time of day, and teachers grading procedures should never change.

Although students have nothing but good things to say about night classes, social lives and work schedules take more of a role when deciding what to take.

Don’t Tighten Your Belt Buckle At Fatty Beltbuckles

By Bridget Erlikh

If you yearn for a place around FSC that has southern-style barbeque, chicken, ribs, pulled pork and all the fixings, you may be pleased to learn that such a place has recently opened about a mile up the road, at 169 Main Street in Farmingdale. Say hello to Fatty Beltbuckles!

George Leodis, one of the two owners and creator of the concept said, “We’re a meat place,” and proudly explained how all the meat used is hand-selected, ultra-fresh, and smoked on the premises. He added that all the food is made from scratch, and so are the sauces; a mix of inspirations of Tennessee, Carolina, and Texas barbeque styles. “We’re not just barbeque,” said Leodis.

Fatty Beltbuckles offers free delivery, and is extending a 10 percent discount for FSC students when they show their college ID.
Farmingdale Students Helped Judge National Automotive Competition

By Hiu Fung Kong

As many gather at the always busy Jacob K. Javits Convention Center for the New York International Auto Show, students and staff of the Automotive Department enter the building to do more than sight see. On April 6 and 7, FSC students were invited to help judge the National Automotive Technology Competition. This was the first time in the history of the competition where students participated in the judging of this nationally recognized competition.

The National Automotive Technology Competition is a national competition developed by the Greater New York Automotive Dealers Association which started in 1990 for the purpose of raising qualified automotive technicians from vocational education high schools. The competition consists of a regional, state, and finally national competition held during the New York International Auto Shows. In this year’s competition, 29 teams consisting of two students competed to obtain Snap-On tools, scholarships, and other goodies provided by the sponsors of the competition.

Chairman of the Automotive Department, Professor Mark Valesey said, “People used to go for the AAA (American Automotive Association) Competition. Now people want to get into this. It is the more premier competition.”

In the two day event, staff and six students helped out in the competition. The first part of the competition consists of ten workstations sponsored by various sponsors of the automotive industry. As Professor Teresa Noto from the Automotive Department aided an interview workstation, Valesey, and students were monitoring electrical workstation sponsored by Megatech.

As the teams made their way to the Megatech workstation, the task of the judges were to monitor the high school students as they take electrical measurements using a digital multimeter. The workstation contained an electrical test equipment built by Megatech. The competing teams had to troubleshoot the problem and repair the issue by moving wires or replacing parts.

The main objective of the Farmingdale students is to make sure the competitors did not damage any components from making improper measurements. Hiu Fung Kong, a junior in the major said, “It really shows how much we have learned to be able to oversee high school students who are not that much younger than us.” The overall experience as a judge gave students the opportunity to show what they have learned throughout the course of their educational career.

The second day of the competition consisted of a hands-on competition where each team was given a vehicle to work with. The competition area was set up in a dealership service department-like environment.

While Professor Valesey was busy supervising the competition, students from Farmingdale was asked to help run the parts counters that were scattered around the competition. The parts counters were set up as parts departments in a dealership. Students were given guidelines on what needs to be presented before they are allowed to give out the parts requested by the competitors. Senior Xiomara Perlaza said, “The parts counter was fun, we worked side by side with some of the industry’s classic people, and they were telling us stories and kept us laughing.”

After the competition was over, a banquet was held to reveal the winners and the top ten teams of the 2010 National Automotive Technology Competition. During this awards banquet, various speakers from the automotive industry shared their stories and spoke about the automotive industry including Myles Kovacs, the co-founder of DUB Magazine. Before the winners were announced, two students from Farmingdale who previously competed in the National Automotive Competition were recognized.

Austin Cardanay who was placed fifth in the national competition in 2007 and Xiomara Perlaza who competed in the 2006 New York regional were both recognized as role models for the 58 students who competed in this year’s competition. As their names were announced, each student’s current career success was highlighted and future goals were also mentioned. The purpose of the student’s recognition is to encourage teams who did not win first place and let them know that they are still paced for success.

“Being mentioned at the banquet made me feel accomplished from where I once was in a regional competition to today a month from graduating” said Xiomara Perlaza. “The event made me feel like there was such a close knit community in the automotive industry.”

By volunteering in this competition, students of the automotive department did not just have a great time helping out in this event, but were also given an opportunity to work and network with many people who are already a part of the automotive industry. The students were also rewarded with a free pass to visit and explore the rest of the Javits Center. That also means free access to enjoying the 2010 New York International Auto Show.