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DIRTY JOBS



By Liz Glazier
Rocket Assistant Focus Editor

On the Discovery Channel's hit show "Dirty Jobs," host Mike Rowe travels the country and gets down and dirty by trying his hand at some of the most disgusting occupations people have.

If Rowe were to visit Slippery Rock, the Storm Harbor Equestrian Center might just be on his list of stops.

For the employees of the equestrian center, their daily chores

and duties differ greatly from those of the typical desk job.

Some of the chores of the workers at the equestrian center include feeding the horses twice a day and taking them out to the pasture.

"The horses go out in the field for usually eight hours a day and get to run around while eating hay and grass," said Lauren Schmitt, a senior elementary education major.

Schmitt, 21, has been working at the center since it opened in Fall 2005.

"It definitely gets messy in there,"

Schmitt said.

Schmitt said all employees must clean the horse stalls, which can take anywhere from five to 30 minutes, as well as shovel manure, but one of the dirtiest jobs the workers have involves more than getting their shovels dirty.

"We put the manure we scoop into wheelbarrows, and from there we dump it into a spreader," Schmitt said. "When you dump it in (the

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Custodial, maintenance staffs keep campus clean

By Elizabeth Rekowski
Rocket Contributor

When thinking of dirty jobs, custodial work may be one occupation that comes to mind.

The endless cleaning of campus residence halls and buildings and the constant trash collecting that occurs are just two of the many things that need to be done in order to keep SRU's campus in order.

Director of Campus Services Mike Kukawa manages the labor, grounds and custodial services on campus, among other things.

Kukawa said there are eight custodians that work a seven-day rotation schedule in residence halls A, B, Watson and D.

"During the school year, they clean common areas, halls, entrances, bathrooms, offices, meeting areas and lounges," Kukawa said.

Kukawa said they are also responsible for cleaning outside areas up to 15 feet from entrances, including removing snow from those areas when necessary.

"The older dorms are cleaned by a contractor, and the contract is administered under Residence Life," Kukawa said.

As for trash collecting, Kukawa said there are two employees who

are in charge of driving the trash truck and picking up trash at all of the buildings on a daily basis.

Additionally, there are several employees who are also responsible for emptying trash cans and picking up litter outside campus buildings.

Even when school isn't in session, the cleaning doesn't stop.

"During the summers, the staff deep-cleans each student living space before camps begin and after camps end," Kukawa said.

But these duties typically don't create the worst messes for the custodial staff.

A general consensus among custodians is that vomit, snow shoveling and trash removal are the worst aspects of their jobs, and perhaps also the dirtiest.

Sandy Huff, a custodian, said the biggest mess she has had to deal with was "the flood in Bard when the sprinklers went off."

Timothy Carney, the director of maintenance services, also said the flood that occurred in Bard Hall in 2001 was quite a mess.

Carney is in charge of the maintenance staff that provides hospitality services including fixing toilets, locks and lights, as well as preventive maintenance jobs such as replacing filters.

Carney said the flood in Bard was caused by the sprinkler systems going off on the third floor, and due to the timing of the incident, took the staff awhile to get to the building.

By the time the sprinklers were turned off, Carney said there was a foot of water on the first floor of the building.

"There was an extensive amount of cleanup," Carney said. "It caused the most damage to students' belongings."

Denny Colosimo, the campus grounds supervisor, oversees the Labor and Grounds Crew that is responsible for litter removal and landscaping activities.

Colosimo said the worst part of his job is dealing with "snow and cold temperatures" and also working outside in the summer heat.

He also added that there are other aspects of the job that aren't very pleasant.



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NATE DAYMUT/THE ROCKET

Dirty dishes, food mixtures parts of job for dish washers

By Jessica Rupell
Rocket Focus Editor

Half-eaten meals. Leftover food. End-of-the-meal concoctions.

Those who have worked in a restaurant before know that these are common sights in the dish room and that cleaning them up can be quite the dirty job.

For students who work in the dish rooms of the dining halls at SRU, the job can be just as messy.

Liz Lash, a senior theatre major, has worked at the dining halls since the spring of 2005 and has done many different jobs in her nearly three years with AVI FoodSystems, Inc., the foodservice provider for SRU.

Lash, who has worked exclusively at Weisenfluh Dining Hall, said this semester she has done line serving, dish room and pot sink, which includes the manual cleaning of pans that can't go through the dishwashing machine.

Even though she said gets stuff all over her arms, Lash said that of all the jobs at the dining halls, she most enjoys pot sink.

"You get to listen to music and talk when you do pot sink," Lash said. "When you're serving food, you can't talk because you have to ask what people want (to eat)."

Tina Neuch, a senior social work major and a student manager at Weisenfluh, said she also enjoys the job of pot sink the most.



High school student Sara Hedglan works in the dish room at Weisenfluh Dining Hall. Normally three to six people work in the dish room at one time, depending on the time of day and day of the week.

"You're out of everyone's way, and it's really not that dirty," Neuch said.

Lash said one of the more disgusting parts of working in the dish room is seeing what people do with their food.

"It's gross what people do," Lash said. "Some people put stuff in their drink glasses and mix all their food on one plate."

Tim Jobe, a sophomore parks and resource

management major, said seeing the mixing of food and drinks isn't uncommon.

"You see foods mixed together, condiments, drinks, desserts, attempted root beer floats, everything you could imagine and quite a few things you can't," Jobe said. "Sometimes I don't even want to

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