The Centurion



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Pastor Aden Visits Bucks Once Again

GABRIELLA PIRMANN

Centurion Editor

Any student on campus Wednesday, Sept. 15 surely caught sight of Pastor Aden and the Key of David church by his side. They're quite hard to miss, carrying brightly colored signs condemning any reader as a sinner doomed to hellfire and shouting offensive taunts at any ear close enough to listen.

But who is Pastor Aden, and why is he here? The answer may seem obvious- he simply believes that he holds the key to salvation, and he's here to bring us with him if possible. That's what the average missionary intends to do.

Pastor Aden is no average missionary, however, and the Key of David is no typical congregation. A typical congregation, after all, doesn't require a thorough vetting process via email in order to simply get the address that Sunday meetings are held at.

It's worth noting as well that this is not the first time Pastor Aden has shown up on Bucks' campus. According to Professor Mehul Shah, Aden has been making visits to Bucks for about five or six years.

Professor Shah (aka Stretch), a teacher of Philosophy and Humanities here at Bucks, also posits a couple theories as to why Pastor Aden makes these appearances in

addition to acknowledging his fire and brimstone interpretation of Christianity.

"One popular theory is that he is trying to make money by instigating students to act unlawfully so that he can sue," says Shah, "Another theory is that he has an extreme narcissistic personality disorder and he derives pleasure from putting others down to make himself feel better about himself."

Both theories are plausible. One only needs to do a simple Google search to find a wealth of information about Aden's past, with accusations of fraud among the mix of trouble he has allegedly caused.

This doesn't explain why he chooses Bucks as a platform. Professor Shah has thoughts on this as well.

"Rebellious and idealistic tendencies in teens and younger adults make them prime targets for indoctrination. Extremists of all types take advantage of this. Either they take up his cause or they violently attack him. Either way he wins."

So what if a student simply sees this as an opportunity to have some fun and respond for the sake of entertainment?

"Again, he wins," says Professor Shah, "because he gains an audience."

Seemingly, every choice a

student can make in this situation is the wrong one. Any response is a win for these antagonists. What is there to do?

According to Professor Shah, the best thing to do is to take care of yourself by walking away.

"Walking away is important for two reasons: one, it is a great coping strategy to avoid being fed something unpalatable, an effective defense strategy against his unsolicited attacks. Two, even if you happen to be immune to his attacks, walking away leaves less of an audience and less chance for him to spread his incendiary message."

Bucks boasts a community of the finest, most logical and empathetic group of people that this county has to offer. To even give Pastor Aden the time of day is only a service to him.

The best course of action during any appearance of this congregation is to take no reactive action or give them any attention at all.

"For Heaven's sake, do not let Aden be your teacher," concludes Shah. "Find someone you trust, and hopefully someone who is trained to understand mental health issues, like the wonderful counselors here at the school. If you fall into Aden's trap, you miss the opportunity to grow, the chance to make yourself better."



Pastor Aden on Bucks' Newtown Campus Sept. 15 Photo by Gabriella Pirmann

Bucks Hosts Short Fiction Contest

Churchville shared, "Poetry was

cash prize. The first-place winner

receives \$100, and third-place re-

ceives \$50. Each winner will also

get a public reading via Bucks

will receive \$200, second-place

short stories."

NICK COSENZA

Centurion Staff

A short fiction contest for adults who reside in Bucks County is taking place at Bucks. The deadline to submit entries is Oct. 14.

Three winners will be chosen and notified within two weeks of the deadline and will be celebrated through an online ceremony on Nov. 17. There will be a separate event for high school students in Spring of 2022.

Each contestant may submit one original short story. Each submission must be previously unpublished and typed in Times New Roman 12-point font, double-spaced with one-inch margins, and no more than 18 pages. All entries must be submitted electronically at: https://www.bucks. edu/academics/department/langlit/shortfictioncontest

Any resident of Bucks County over the age of 18 is eligible to participate in the contest. Employees of Bucks are ineligible to participate, but students are strongly encouraged to enter.

"I've always liked writing competitively, I can remember entering writing contests as early as third grade. All the kids in my class wrote stories about a talking bunny and the winner got their story published in the school newsletter," laughed 18-year-old Moira Rice, a business major from Southampton. "I'm a fully virtual student and this contest



Courtesy of Unsplash

and announcements in the local never my thing, but I love writing newspapers. The contest is supported and Three winners will be chosen by funded by the Bucks Department the judge and each will be given a of Language and Literature. Bucks Professor Elizabeth Luciano created and coordinates the

> Author Megan Angelo will be the final judge of the contest.

Angelo, a Quakertown native and graduate from Villanova University, has had her writings published in The Wall Street Journal, The New York Times, Glamour, and Elle. Angelo has written about television, film, and pop culture, but recently published a dystopian fiction novel titled "Followers" in 2020.

is held online which is nice for people like me who don't go on campus."

"I actually first heard about the contest when I saw an ad for the Bucks poetry contest on Facebook. When I looked into it more, I found out about the short fiction contest," 18-year-old Bucks early education major Julia Lottier of

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Student Research Con-

Future Teachers Organiza-

Mental Health

STAFE

Centurion

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Letters should be limited to 500 words. They will be edited for spelling, space and malicious or libelous statements. Letters must be the original work of the writer and must be signed. For identification purposes, letters must include the writer's full name and telephone number.

JUDITH RUSSO

Centurion Staff

September is National Suicide Prevention Month. There are many organizations and people at Bucks as well as on the county, state, and nationwide levels working to help people to prevent death by suicide.

Approximately 7 million volunteers and 1 million mental health professionals care. They provide hotlines, warmlines, prayer lines, support groups and counseling for sadness, stress, loss, drug and other problems. These statistics are from the US Census and America's Health Rankings.

This is especially important now with nationwide stress-related disorders surging during

National Suicide Prevention Month at Bucks



Courtesy of Unsplash

COVID, a study published in Nature shows.

Bucks has been doing its part and is one of only five out of Pennsylvania's 260 colleges/ universities designated by the Pennsylvania Dept of Education as a Certified Suicide Prevention Institution of Higher Education.

To receive this designation Bucks developed a comprehensive plan to advise and provide students, staff and community of mental health and suicide prevention services on and off campus. Bucks plan can be found at https://bit.ly/BucksStdMental-

This website has a wealth of information about support services such as counseling, hotlines and self care for anxiety, depression and many other problems.

Four out of Bucks six counselors attended the National Suicide Prevention Summit where experts on suicide prevention lead 11 intensive workshops on how to

"I was surprised to find out that the US has high suicide rates compared to most other modern countries," says Jim Gilligan, M.S.NCC, LPC, Bucks counselor.. "It's stress, they don't eat or sleep right and exhaust flight or fright. Taking drugs to fix it causes an even worse downward cycle," he explains. "But the last few years, suicide rates have gone down overall. It may be because of interventions."

In 2019, Bucks received a college strategic initiative grant to train mental health first aid workers. So far, 80 college staff members have been trained. This includes many of the security staff who are first responders. Right now, the Mental Health First Aid class is available through continuing education for \$89.00. Additional information is available at mentalhealthfirstaide.org

Bucks has also offered QPR (question, persuade, refer) one day workshops to inform and teach about suicide prevention. This course can be taken online also.qprinstitute.com

"We all need to be a little kinder and have the courage to talk about things that might make us vulnerable," says Mandy Reilly, NCC, LPC Bucks counselor. "When we talk about suicide it can be life affirming, connecting and understanding each other on a real level."

Bucks counselor appointments are free to students. To make an appointment call 215-968-8189 or email counseling@bucks.edu. If it is an emergency off hours, security staff at 215-968-8911 is trained in mental health first aid and can respond, then call the counselor on call 24/7. The Lenape Valley

Foundation will come to campus if needed. 215-785-9765 or 800-222-9016

Bucks Website specifically lists these support services and many more:

• National Suicide Prevention Lifeline: suicidepreventionlifeline.org, 1-800-273-8255, available 24 hours a day/7 days a week

• Crisis Text Line: crisistextline.org, text HOME to 741741 at any time, for any type of crisis. If you're a person of color who is experiencing a crisis, you can also text STEVE to 741741 to connect with a trained crisis counselor of

• NAMI: https://www.nami. org/find-support/nami-helpline

Should Bucks Give Students Mental Health Days?



Courtesy of Unsplash

ALYSSA ALLEBACH

Centurion Staff

Illinois has passed a new law that allows students to take up to five mental health days off per year. Is this a rule Bucks should implement in their system?

If students were allowed the privilege to take mental health days, they would not be required by the school to provide a doctor's note for their absence.

Since the pandemic has started, life has changed for students and how they are learning. Students have had to discover how to use platforms like Zoom and Canvas to be able to attend class virtually so they can stay safe.

Students have had to adjust to the new normal and it has been

challenging and stressful.

Dannie Stewart, a communications major, explains that "the pandemic has been really hard for me because I have not been able to see my friends from school in-person. I used to be able to socialize with my friends in-between classes to de-stress."

Switching classes to being online has caused students to lose their outlet to burn off stress. They need some way to get a break and incorporating mental health days is a great way to do that.

Stewart goes on to say, "It would be good for Bucks to permit students to take a mental health day. Students would be able to take time to focus on themselves and recuperate, so they can go back to their classes refreshed and ready to work."

Students should be able to take mental health days to reduce their stress, but there are also other techniques students could use to manage their stress.

James Gilligan, a counselor at Bucks, explains that students have been more stressed due to the pandemic, "especially those who had a family member die or were affected with Covid-19." Students "have complained about feeling lonely and frustrated" which can increase their anxiety or stress.

Though there are tips to combat stress from building up, Gilligan recommends taking breaks from your problems and getting enough

Another counselor at Bucks, Mandy Reilly, wants students

to seek help and talk about the problems they are facing, instead of holding it all in.

"The focus on mental health has increased mental health awareness" said Reilly, "all of the counselors here at Bucks received special training so that we are now certified to provide telemental health services."

Meeting with a counselor is becoming more accessible to people because students can now meet with them over Zoom. If students do not wish to meet with a counselor, the Bucks counselor webpage has self-help techniques for a multitude of mental health disorders such as anxiety, depression, eating disorders, and insomnia.

The website also has techniques

and tips for subjects, such as procrastination, anger, self-esteem, grief, and loneliness.

Bucks is invested in helping their students succeed, and that is evident with all the sources they provide for their students to get help if they need it.

If Bucks were to add five mental health days per year for students to use it would only help towards their cause of supporting and caring for their students' needs.

To make an appointment with a counselor, call 215-968-8189 or email counseling@bucks.edu.

To access the Bucks counselor webpage go to https://www.bucks. edu/resources/counseling.

September Highlights

'Shang-Chi" is "Action Movie Perfection'



MARK RUFFIN

Centurion Staff

"Shang- Chi and the Legend of the Ten Rings" has finally arrived in theaters and was worth the delayed release due to the pandemic.

Saving this film for the big screen and not releasing it simultaneously on Disney + like fellow Marvel film "Black Widow" was the right decision by Disney, because this is a film that demands to be seen in a theater.

The visual in this film are unlike anything else in the MCU (Marvel Cinematic Universe), and the action scenes rival old school Jackie

fight choreography is in this epic

However, no film is great with just epic fight scenes. The story is emotional, complex, and hard-hit-

"Shang- Chi" currently has an amazing 92 percent on Rotten Tomatoes. The consensus is "Shang-Chi and the Legend of the Ten Rings isn't entirely free of Marvel's familiar formula, but this exciting origin story expands the MCU in more ways than one."

Audience scores are also great with a 98 percent and a consensus of "Shang-Chi covers new cultural ground for the MCU without

losing any of the action, comedy, and emotion Marvel's movies are known for."

Michael Williams, 25, a King of Prussia resident said it was "Amazing. Not since Black Panther, has there been such a culturally relevant film. I will be seeing it in the theaters again, tomorrow."

The heart of the film is a father and son story. The title character Shang-Chi is played by the amazing Simu Liu and is every bit as charming as fellow MCU actors such as Chris Hemsworth and Chris Evans. The villain of the film (The Mandarin) is also

played superbly by Tony Leung is not the typical mustache twirling villain and has a complexity not seen since Thanos or Killlmonger.

Shang-Chi is an exciting, diverse new entry into this MCU saga and one that does for this character what Black Panther did for T'Challa. Embracing Chinese culture and mythology, there are no stereotypes to be found here, and each of the heroes and villains we meet are layered, well thought out additions to the ever-expanding MCU mythos.

This feels like a very special movie, and that mixture of martial arts and big CGI set pieces mesh

Courtesy of Wikimedia Commons

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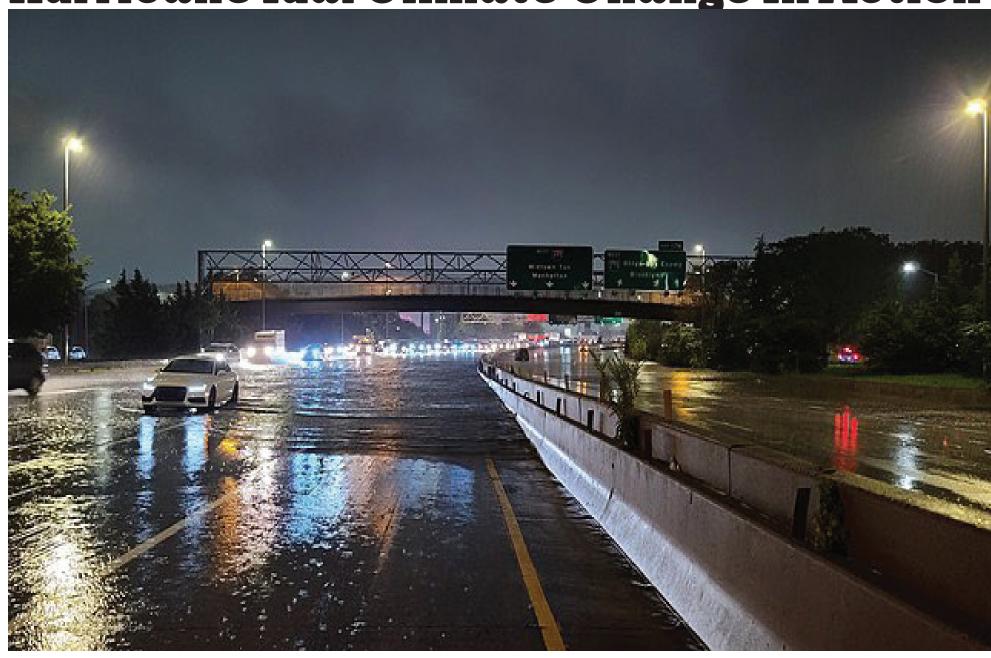
together nicely to create something that feels wholly original and fresh. By the time the credits roll, the stage is set for a whole new style of storytelling, and we can only hope this same creative team reunites (including cinematographer William Pope and composer Joel P. West, both of whom excel here) for a sequel as soon as possible.

4 stars out of 4.

"Epic, emotional and a sight to behold".

"Shang-Chi and the Legend of the Ten Rings" is currently in theaters everywhere.

Chan films. That's how good the urricane Ida: Climate Change In Action



"Long Island Expressway in New York during flash flooding from Post-Tropical Storm Ida's landfall," Courtesy of Wikimedia Comomons

JOCELYN KOSIBA

Centurion Staff

Professor Kathi Knight, a professor from Bucks County Community College with a masters in soil and crops, a bachelor's degree in biology and economics and a PHD in ecology, as well as Professor Andrew Ippolito, a professor from Bucks with a Ph.D. in cellular and molecular biology, talk about climate change and the effects it had on Hurricane Ida.

Professor Knight explains the science behind Hurricane Ida

saying, "It's like a cyclone that increases intensely over water. Hurricanes starts off as a tropical wave, and when its conditions are right it develops into a tropical depression then a tropical storm. When it intensifies it becomes a

hurricane." Professor Ippolito mentions, "We expect to see more storms

There're things we should be more aware of today, in regard to climate change and global warming.

like Ida in the future."

Professor Knight says, "Most cities live on coastlines, when sea levels rise they become indicative. Someone is going to have to pay to move the cities. The next generation is going to be left with a mess."

Professor Ippolito continues, saying that "Climate change isn't about saving the earth, the whales or polar bears. However, climate change is about ourselves. We are essentially creating an environment that is hostile to human life."

However, not all hope is lost. Professor Ippolito states, "The

best thing any one person can do is to make a difference in the voting booth. The politicians that we elect, which in turn are the decision makers, are the ones that have the power to ensure our future quality of life is not future harmed."

Climate change has affected the weather quite a bit lately.

According to Professor Knight, "Climate change causes more severe and frequent storms and

flooding. It causes drought in areas that weren't historically known for drought."

There're ways to make healthier changes to the environment.

Professor Knight confirms this, saying "We have enough renewable resources, wind, solar and hydroelectric. We have access to run the world seven times over. But we do nothing."

Sports

Bucks Men's Soccer Team Season Preview



Second Year players on the team, Courtesy of the Bucks Soccer Team Facebook Page

COLIN RICCARDI

Centurion Staff

The Bucks Men's Soccer team kicked off their season in early September and they have a long road ahead of them. The Centurions came hot out of the gate with a 6-0 victory over Penn St. Scranton.

"We started out very quickly today and so I was very pleased with that," said Head Coach Justin Burroughs, "We still have areas we definitely need to work on but today was a good start to the season."

This hot start did not come to last, as the squad would go onto lose the next three out of four games to Berkeley-NJ, Camden County College and Delaware County Community College respectively.

The Centurions did snap their three-game slide in dramatic fashion with a 2-1 win in double overtime over Manor College on Tue Sep. 21. Salim Salan's (Fr. Bristol, Harry S. Truman) first goal of the season could not have come at a more opportune time as he secured the victory in double overtime.

"It was a hard-fought game between evenly matched opponents; it could have gone either way," said Coach Burroughs following the victory, "I have to compliment both our (goal)keepers doing a great job and it was nice to have Chris (Clark) on the field again, he was everywhere today.".

The season has not started out the way they could have hoped, dropping to 2-3 despite out scoring their opponents 12-9. In an interview with Coach Burroughs, he said, "We have a lot to work on. Mistakes are killing us, and our fitness level just isn't there right now."

This is the first year the Bucks Soccer team has spent in their new league which sees the likes of Penn State Scranton and Berkley-NJ, who are nationally ranked. New year, new league, and a lot of new faces for the Bucks team. In fact, only Christopher Clark (Jr. Morrisville, Pennsbury) returns, who found a new home as goal-keeper this year.

While not the start we were all looking for, there were many setbacks that the team had to overcome to get to this point. "Our biggest loss has been our time together. We have basically a whole new team and haven't been able to meet a whole lot.". The impact COVID has had on this year's team has been monumental.

"It is in the rules that we weren't allowed to meet, so we were trying to rush to get ready for the start of the season."
Having a brand-new team and extraordinarily little time to prepare has presented a lot of challenges for the team.

"Without a lot of starters returning, players seem to be unsure of their roles," says Burroughs.

Even though it hasn't been a great start for the soccer team, coach Burroughs sees areas in which they can improve to get the season turned around. "Fitness and Chemistry are big. Those are areas we must improve in."

Coach expressed a big interest

in improving in free kicks and corners as well. These are things that can absolutely improve as the chemistry and conditioning get up to par.

Time, or the lack of time, seems to be the theme of this year's team. The Centurions look to move past their mistakes and on towards the future.

The schedule gets more favorable from here, and the changes that coach Burroughs looks to make have to make you feel comfortable with direction of the team this season. Next up for The Centurions is Montgomery County Community College on Tue Sep. 28 at 3:30 p.m.

New Club Sports to come to Bucks

JEFF TUFFNER

Centurion Staff

New at Bucks County Community College this semester are club sports; a unique combination of various sports with student organizations, giving students the opportunity to still take part in the sports they enjoy regardless of full-time or part-time status along with lesser financial obligations.

This new style of sports programs at Bucks keeps many sports that may have been difficult to take part in, whether that be for financial reasons or number of enrolled credits required, easier to access, ultimately eliminating some of the prior hurdles.

"The last in the world I want to not offer a sport," said Matt Cipriano, the Director of the Student Life and Athletic Programs at Bucks.

"Previously, we were creating roadblocks for students in a way, essentially not giving them an option if they wanted to play a sport. A structural shift saved some sports by making them sustainable on a financial level and available to all students, part-time and full-time."

Prior to the recent creation of club sports, something that was discussed over the course of the last few years, students had to be full-time, or be enrolled in 12 or more credits, if they wished to join one of the varsity sports programs at the school.

Now a part-time student, who's at least enrolled in 6 credits, along with full-time students can join one of the club sports as long as they're able to provide a sports physical.

Amongst these new club sports at Bucks there are women's and men's volleyball, women's and men's cross country, women's and men's tennis, men's golf, an equestrian program, and dance

Cipriano also mentions an

e-sport program starting up along with a possibility of a bowling and wrestling program starting up at some point down the road.

There are a multitude of factors that motivated the shift of various sports into a club format. Cipriano notes things like difficulties with recruiting and staffing issues, an abundance of varsity sports with few people running them and cost saving purposes as reasons the moves were made.

One of the most notable reasons, however, was there are slightly more students enrolled at Bucks who fall under the parttime label as opposed to full-time. With that there were many students who wanted to take part in sports programs but were essentially prohibited because the prior format, as mentioned already, required students to have full-time

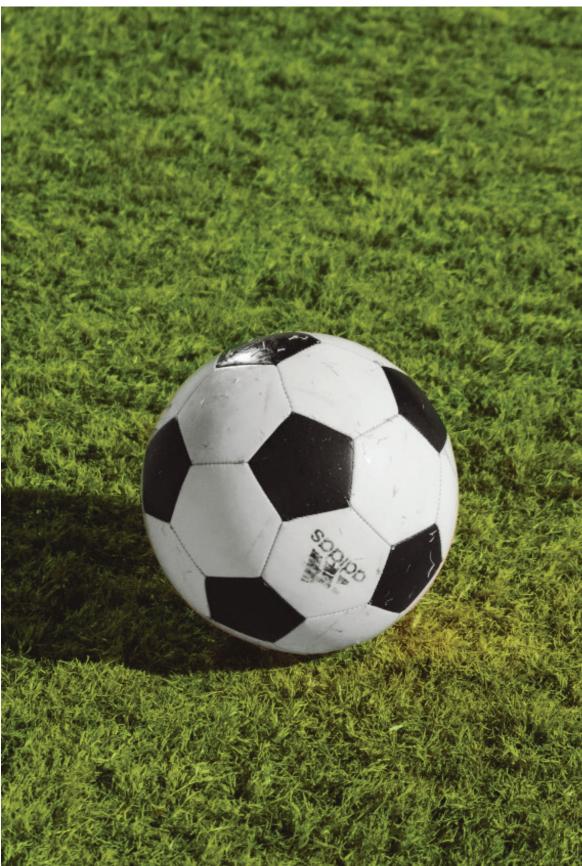
enrollment status.

Another question that often comes with club sports is if taking part will in any way impact students' recruitment status by four-year universities they are considering transferring to. The answer to that would be no. Playing a club sport wouldn't negatively affect a student hoping to be recruited by a four-year school.

"If you're good, you're good. Any solid athlete in our program will have the potential to be recruited," Cipriano said regarding the question.

Hoping to get some momentum with various club sports following Covid, Cipriano encourages students to reach out and inquire about joining a club sport at the college.

"Club sports are the perfect way to get engaged at the college and compete without the heavy commitment of being a full-time student."



Courtesy of Unsplash

Student Life

Student Research Conference to be Held in December

Max Mower

Centurion Staff

Bucks County Community College students and teachers are preparing themselves for the Student Research Conference, a bi-annual event in which Bucks students orally present on their personally chosen research topics, much like similar conferences held by graduate students and research specialists.

Bucks' Student Research Conference has been a staple event at the college ever since its conception, having been put together every semester now for over 10 years. This event is open to students from and topics related to just about all of Bucks' majors, though originally it was a language and literature event for students in the school's Composition classes.

Since then, the conference has become an incredibly diverse gathering of those with many similar and different interests, with presentations ranging from intricate and well-documented Art History topics, to informed and impassioned writings on Political Science.

The conference is a rare opportunity for Bucks students, as many community college attendees do not often get the chance to present their academic findings to such a wide audience, especially so where they will receive constructive feedback from a myriad of those experienced on the topic.

A few Bucks professors also require the conference as part of their curriculum, while others offer it as a form of extra credit, both providing motivations for students to polish up on their research and public speaking skills for their own current and future benefit. The influence of professors aids the diversity of topics



Image Courtesy of Unsplash

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at the conference, with each new semester featuring a plethora of new, fresh ideas from students exploring their areas of interests.

Many students find the process of preparing for the conference to be enjoyable, as it allows one to view their research outside of the scope lengthy writings for a class to simply acquire a good grade and move on. Taking their research outside of the oftentimes restrictive box that classroom assignments of put them in, students can pour their passions for research and specific topics into their papers, making for well-written pieces full of

purpose.

With all the benefits this conference provides, for students, faculty, and the publicity of Bucks as a whole, the advent of the COVID-19 virus' spread has changed the typical way the conference brings people together.

Professor Sarahlyn Bruck, one of the current co-directors of the conference, said that despite the disconnection between participants due to the conference's new remote setting, COVID-19 brought about "some nice surprises. It's much easier now for people to view the event via Zoom, and has resulted in larger turnouts of participants and viewers".

This is proven by the impressive number of 160 students that participated in last semester's conference. The ability for students to network, or "schmooze", as put by Professor Bruck, during the conference's regular lunch break has been lost, but the event is still very beneficial to all those who participate.

This semester's Student Research Conference takes place on Friday, Dec. 3, and submissions for topics are open until end-ofday on Thursday, Nov. 11. With anywhere between 100-200 students participating each semester, it's an excellent way for many to boost their confidence in academic and working world situations that require in-depth levels of research and the ability to present to large groups of people.

With all the resources available for research on the Bucks website, potential participants have a wealth of options open to them to utilize this opportunity to improve their skills in many disciplines. All information on how to research, orally present, and submit your topic idea to the conference is available at: https://www.bucks. edu/academics/department/langlit/conference/

Consider Joining Future Teachers Organization

Centurion Staff

The Future Teachers Organization is a club at Bucks for students who want to pursue a career in education. This organization was formed to give education majors the opportunity to extend their field of study.

Kate D'Auria, advisor of FTO, was not always sure she wanted to be a teacher.

"I started off in psychology as an undergraduate and I did a year of volunteer work. I got to help

middle aged kids, 22 years old. They'd hand me the keys to a van and say, 'take them to the beach' or 'take them for a hike.""

After that experience, D'Auria developed a passion for teaching and helping students, "I don't care about the money. I just liked this classroom thing."

Christian Huber, the vice president of FTO and a student at Bucks, has expressed interest in teaching since a young age. "When I was little, instead of

playing with toys, I would ask my mom to take me to a teacher store called Becker's...I would pretend to be the teacher with my brother."

Huber explains why FTO is beneficial, regardless of your major, by saying "You don't have to be an education major because whatever you major in, you can eventually teach it later in your life."

Huber has enjoyed being a part of fun events and helping people

with Autism, "We worked with Autism Cares Foundation to do a Kahoot! night."

Olivia Cremonese, the president of FTO, also appreciates FTO helping those with disabilities, "It's hard to understand that population of people, and I think it's important that we do try to understand them"

Cremonese is still becoming familiar with the community, "I'm a sophomore and I wasn't in person last year, so I don't know anyone.

All my friends are still in other colleges from high school."

The Bucks student explains how FTO has helped her build relationships at Bucks, "You'll make friends here, you'll make connections, you'll be able to talk to other people who have the same class as you if you need help and stuff like that.

When asked what parts of the club experience she thinks students most value, Cremonese, responded, "I think the part that most students would value would just be how they're preparing us to transfer. Without being prepared, you can't get accepted or, you know, start that next step."

D'Auria reinforces Cremonese by explaining how the club can sometimes be small and that helps them connect more meaningfully. D'Auria is happy that the club forms student connections, "They're still connected even though they've all transferred to different schools."

D'Auria is highly motivated to advise the club, "We know you're busy, but if you can connect and get to know one person as an adult, as a person, get to know other students a little bit and then do something for the community, it all starts to, you know, benefit the student and benefits our program because our students are better prepared and better educated."

Please contact Kate D'Auria kate.dauria@bucks.edu if you are interested in joing FTO.

