

THE CENTURION

“The Voice of the Students”

Volume 59 Issue 1

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Environmental Scan Causes Last Minute Class Changes

Raeanne Raccagno

Editor-In-Chief

Bucks County Community College closed the bottom two floors of Grupp Hall a few weeks before the Fall semester after an environmental scan found a variety of contaminants in the building including mold and radon.

Currently, Grupp Hall is undergoing a remediation process after Remington & Vernicks Engineers, a full-service engineering consulting firm based in Haddonfield, New Jersey,

conducted an environmental scan of Grupp and Founders Hall.

The scan tested for 19 different contaminants including; carbon monoxide, carbon dioxide, oxygen, volatile organic compounds(VOCs), hydrogen sulfide, nitrogen oxides, trichloroethylene(TCE), lead, legionella, TCE(in air and carpet glue), per- and poly-fluoroalkyl substances(PFAS), atrazine, mold(in air and on surface), bacteria, phthalates and radon.

Two of the results found

contaminants greater than recommended levels, but no remediation was recommended. Four results found contaminants greater than recommended levels, with remediation recommended as a best management practice. Three results found contaminants greater than recommended levels and recommended remediation as a health precaution, including lead and legionella in potable water and radon in the atmosphere.

Grupp Hall is an academic building on the Bucks

Newtown campus that holds multiple classrooms for business, communications, language and literature, nursing, social science departments and faculties offices.

The President of the College, Dr. Felicia Ganther said, “This is the first time an environmental scan of this nature has been done,” but concerns and complaints of Grupp Hall date back several years.

The Centurion covered a story in April 2019 that highlighted faculty

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New Smoking Policy Making Bucks Smoke & Vape Free

Madison Kidolfo

Centurion Staff

Bucks County Community College adopts new smoking and vaping policy, to go into effect Jan. 1, prohibits all students and staff from smoking on 100 percent of campus.

Tina Permar, the director of the campus’s Fitness Center, has been petitioning for a revised policy for a long time. She wants to make campus a safe space for non-smokers and smokers alike. She explains how, “We are not asking anyone to quit smoking or vaping,” the goal is to make resources readily available to those who want to quit smoking, while also promoting our campus as a place where you can get a break from a cigarette.

The previous cam-

pus smoking policy, instated after the 2008 Clean Air Act, declared that campus was 90 percent smoke free, with designated areas like the parking lots to smoke and vape. A new no smoking and no vaping policy has been created to go in effect Jan. 1, 2024. The new policy adds on to the existing policy, making the parking lots a no smoke zone.

Since joining the campus in 2012, Permar has been outsourcing grants to help make Bucks campus smoke free. She applied for grants in 2015 but was turned down by campus as they were not yet ready to go in that direction.

By the time Bucks was under new leadership in 2021, she attempted to get another grant. This time, she received grants worth \$30,000 from the Public Health Man-

agement Corporation and the Truth Initiative.

Before Bucks, 12 community colleges in Pennsylvania were already 100 percent smoke and vape free. Big Ten schools, such as Rutgers, have made the commitment to be 100 percent smoke and vape free in 2023.

Receiving the grants meant she could put a team of 15 together to get the word out. They organized many campus events and brought the issue to Student Affairs after having open forums on campus that were met with approval by staff and students.

Events like a “Zipping away from Tobacco” zipline were organized on campus. Permar says she has collected over 300 student signatures in favor of the new policy.

The policy was approved but will not be posted until the new year. In the meantime, Permar hopes to continue to spread the word through events, merchandise, and posters around campus.

Merchandise with the slogan “Love your Lungs” has been created to help make students aware of their goal. Posters around campus supply students with helplines to call for assistance with quitting.

She and her team have put together “quit kits” for students who are interested in quitting smoking and vaping. Her goal is to create a narrative around quitting that is positive rather than negative. Supplying resources to students and changing the narrative is her way of leading the campus in a healthier direction.

Upcoming Events



9/28 Cultural Streaming Series - The Art of Cho-

pin

12:15 P.M. - 1:00 P.M.
Zlock Performing Arts Center

9/28 Bingo @ Upper Bucks Campus

12:30 P.M. - 1:30 P.M.
Students Center At Upper Bucks Campus

9/28 Business@Bucks Phillies College Night

2:00 P.M. - 10:00 P.M.
Departs Newtown Campus

10/2 Fireside Social

11:00 A.M. - 2:00 P.M.
Newtown Campus Quad

Keep an eye out on campus for more information on the new policy as we near the new year.

If students have questions about the new policy, they are asked to contact Tina Permar in the Fitness center.

To see the current smoking and vaping policy, go to www.bucks/policy/administration/cleanairzone

“Never Forget,” A trip To The 9/11 Memorial and Museum

Christian Grosso

Centurion Staff

On Friday, Sept. 8, I and many other Buck’s students went to visit the 9/11 Memorial and Museum in New York City, giving us an experience of how it was on that terrible day just 22 years ago.

The trip, held by the Student Life office, was attended by a group of 50 students made up of those who were the most engaged in the Bucks+ app, and of students who received the Michael G. Fitzpatrick Scholarship.

Many historians say that students who are entering college this year are the first of a new generation of people who were born after 9/11, meaning that education about the tragedy is more important than ever. Stanford University Professor Amy Zegart told

“The Atlantic,” “It used to be that 9/11 was a trauma shared by everyone. Now it is a day that no one in my classroom but me remembers.”

Chris Seifert, head of the Student Life Office and the trip’s leader, said that Bucks held the event because “It’s important that our students learn about and realize the tragedies that occurred that day, all those who died, and the impacts 9/11 had on everyone in the days and years that followed, all the way up until now. We can only ‘never forget’ if we make sure the story of that awful day continues to be shared with generations that follow.”

Kyle Gocela, a freshman at Bucks, said that he had never gone

to the memorial or even New York City at all, but he knew the trip would be sentimental. “I’ve only seen videos of the

museum and documentaries, so I was eager to know better about the tragedy onsite.”

I personally had been

to the gaping fountains that now stand where the towers

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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.

Weather

Thursday 9/28



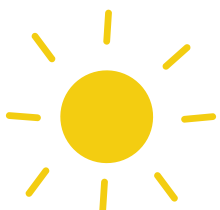
Friday 9/29



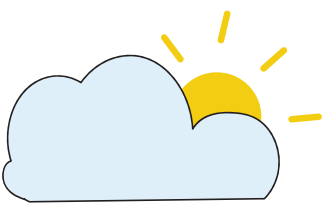
Saturday 9/30



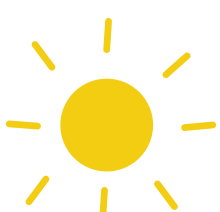
Sunday 10/1



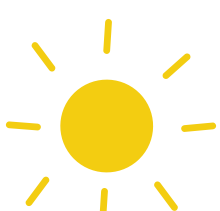
Monday 10/2



Tuesday 10/3



Wednesday 10/4



Bucks Students Go To 9/11 Memorial To Honor and Remember

Continued from page 1 ...

once did, but this was my first time in the museum. And I, like most other students on this trip, had no recollection of 9/11, as I was born just five weeks after the attacks. Before we entered the museum, we were warned about how quiet the museum would be out of respect for the victims. When I went in, I was still shocked at just how quiet it was.

Gocela said the museum hit his emotions hard. “When entering the museum, there is a solemn sound you hear. Watching the sequences of 9/11 felt more depressing than I thought it would be. Watching people try to survive made me respect their motives towards the mantra ‘no man or woman left behind.’”

The museum is located in the footprints of the towers. You first enter where the North Tower was, which is the “memorial” part of the museum. Most notable is the surviving base wall of the North Tower. The museum says that the wall is meant to represent the determination and survival of the American people. Next to it is the last beam from one of the towers to be cleaned up in

May 2002.

The South Tower in the “museum” area of the memorial featured a full timeline of the events before, during and after 9/11. It first showed how normal a day Sept. 11 was supposed to be, but it then got grimmer with images of the attacks, audio of calls made by people on the hijacked flights and images of people jumping out of the towers.

It featured numerous artifacts, from things as simple as a clock that was in the tower, a firetruck that still had dust on it, missing people posters of people lost after the attacks and the flags that people displayed after the attacks as a symbol of American strength.

The museum wasn’t just limited to the attack on The World Trade Center, it also featured artifacts and videos from the Pentagon, the airplane that crashed in Shanksville, PA, and information about the bombing that happened at the Twin Towers on Feb. 26, 1993. Also featured was the original model of the World Trade Center from 1962.

This museum was hard for me to take in. From the im-



One of the reflecting pools in the memorial plaza with names of the victims

ages of people jumping out the towers to the frantic calls in those planes, that really struck me. For some reason, the part that nearly made me cry was

the video of Queen Elizabeth breaking royal protocol by having her marching band play the Star Spangled Banner. It showed me that the world is



The remains of a New York City Fire Department Ladder Company 3 that belong to the team of 11 firefighters led by Captain Patrick “Paddy” John Brown

willing to help a nation that is typically seen as being tough and self-supporting.

But what Gocela

found most impactful was the clear blue-sky art in the lobby of the museum that displayed the words “No day shall erase

you from the memory of time.”

Gocela said that it reminded him of “the blue

All Photos Courtesy of Christian Grosso

sky the day before the impact happened.”

9/11 changed the world not just for America itself. We learned to help ourselves no matter what we feel about others. No one will forget the day when America became one, supporting each other.

After we left the museum, we were given free time to go around the area and eat. But we tried to stay indoors because the air quality was particularly bad. I couldn’t help but think of this as a reminder of how New Yorkers must have felt when the towers fell with all the dust and smoke in the air.

But then I remembered the dust that they breathed in wasn’t just that. It was the dust of those who had just died in the towers.

That is what struck me the most.



A picture wall of all the missing posters and notices family members made with hopes of finding their still missing loved ones

Bucks News

Environmental Scan Causes Last Minute Classroom Changes

Continued from page 1 ...

saying repairs were needed in Grupp and described it as “a sick building, filled with rattling rafters, a few dead bugs, cold and drafty ...”

John Sheridan, president of the Bucks faculty union and a multi-discipline professor, said “Certain health conditions came to the attention of the federation leadership including headaches, chest pains, light-headedness and a couple of people had rashes. The health concerns are what lead to the building concerns. The faculty with the college formed an ad hoc committee around mid-semester last Spring called the Building Related Illness ad hoc committee.”

The committee is co-chaired by Dr. Mary Dura and Dr. Kathi Knight and started its own investigation by looking into what type of complaints were being made and what areas and buildings they were coming from. They found most of the complaints came from Grupp and Founders Hall and requested the college to test them.

Ganter said, “When the facilities director informed me that faculty leadership wanted to do an environmental test on all of Grupp and Founders, at the recommendation of the Board of Trustees, the college hired Remington & Vernick Environmental Engineering to perform all of the requested testing. As we have shared the results of the testing, I have received additional concerns about other buildings on our campuses.”

Sheridan said, “After

we got the results of the testing and looked at everything we realized we had a problem. The committee was most concerned about the high radon levels so we asked the college to close the building. There was nothing found in the test results that called for any immediate evacuation or danger but we didn’t want faculty and students going back in there.”

The college also hired Dr. Marilyn Howarth a founding professor of the University of Pennsylvania’s Masters in Public Health Environmental and Occupational Health who has been helping with remediation by giving the school a list of recommendations and a timeline.

The ad hoc building committee plans to test all three campuses within the next few months. Sheridan said, “We’re going to test everything on campus and put them in a list depending on the priority level of what needs to be addressed.”

Remediation efforts also include a thorough professional cleaning of both Founders and Grupp Halls, replacement of problematic carpets in Grupp Hall, advisory signage on water sources and installation of door vents in certain offices.

In the meantime, students and faculty have been dealing with the adjusted classrooms and offices during the first weeks of school.

Dr.Ethel Rackin, a language and literature professor at Bucks and the Wordsmith’s Reading Series

and Poet Laureate program coordinator, said “There was not too much confusion the first couple days of classes. The other professors in the department and I have been pretty communicative with our students so everyone knew where to go.”

While accommodating their new students in temporary classrooms was a relatively easy obstacle to overcome, many professors are facing a massive nuisance with their old offices because their belongings are still inside. Dr.Rackin’s office has been on the first floor of Grupp for almost 15 years.

“I have books and significant college papers and files in my office, and I know there are some with electronics still in them. I would like the college to take responsibility for removing items,” she said.

While professors have expressed concerns about the health and safety of Grupp and other aging buildings on campus, students interviewed did not seem that concerned, or even aware of the issue. When asked their opinion on the matter several students gave responses such as “What email?” referring to the email that was sent to all students on Aug. 17 with information regarding the timeline, results and remediation process. Another student gave the response, “What’s an environmental scan?”

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, mold can cause a stuffy nose, sore throat, coughing, wheez-

Test	Environment Tested In
Lead	Potable Water
Legionella	Potable Water
Radon	Atmospheric
PFAS	Potable Water
Carbon Dioxide	Atmospheric
Mold	Surface
Mold	Atmospheric
Bacteria	Surface
PFAS (in carpet fibers)	Surface
Phthalates (in carpet glue)	Surface
TCE (in carpet glue)	Surface
Oxygen	Atmospheric
VOC's	Atmospheric
Carbon Monoxide	Atmospheric
Hydrogen Sulfide	Atmospheric
Nitrogen Oxides	Atmospheric
TCE	Atmospheric
TCE	Potable Water
Atrazine	Potable Water

ing, burning eyes or a skin rash, and breathing in high levels of radon over time can cause lung cancer.

Eric Siddell who gave the remediation report at the college’s Board of Trustees meeting on Sept. 14 said, “We’ve been working and analyzing the situation for the past three weeks and reaching out to vendors for action on the items that were identified by Dr. Howarth. Right now we continue to see these costs and recommendations and as this information is provided we will update it.”

Students can visit

0 results	Levels detected that represent an immediate concern to the health and safety of the occupants. Remediation should occur as soon as possible.
3 results	Levels detected greater than the recommended levels. Remediation is recommended as a health precaution.
4 results	Levels detected greater than the recommended levels. Remediation is recommended as a best management practice.
2 results	Levels detected greater than the recommended levels. No remediation is recommended.
9 results	Levels greater than the recommended levels were not detected.

Photos Courtesy of BCCC Website

<https://www.bucks.edu/resources/security/health-safety/> for more information and to get updates on the remediation progress.

Covid Surge Sparks Concern

Cristopher Ramirez
Centurion Staff

As COVID-19 cases increase once again, the conversation around lockdowns and mask mandates accelerates, showing the rising concern about the virus’s return.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention stopped reporting new COVID cases in early May of this year, but the growing number of hospital admissions points to a resurgence in cases.

According to the CDC, there were about 6,314 new hospital admissions during the week ending on June 24 and about 20,538 new hospital admissions during the week ending on Sep. 9, which is approximately a 30.7 percent increase in new hospital admissions.

The Pennsylvania Department of Health’s Aug. 2023 tracking report showed less than 200 new hospital admissions for the week ending on June 24 whereas the week ending on Sep. 2 showed over 500 new

hospital admissions.

However, during this time last year, the number of new hospitalizations in Pennsylvania was more than double what they are now.

Sean Dougherty, a video production major from Trevoise said “I’m not too concerned about it[covid cases]. We learned how to handle Covid once, we can do it again.”

Yusuf Bektas, an 18-year-old engineering major from Levittown shared similar sentiments, “I’m not that concerned, but still a little bit. It’s still a deadly disease, but we have a better understanding of it now, and how to prevent it and how to take care of it if we happen to get it.”

Many notable online conspiracy theorists such as Alex Jones have made claims that Covid lockdowns would be happening soon, but the CDC has since refuted those claims.

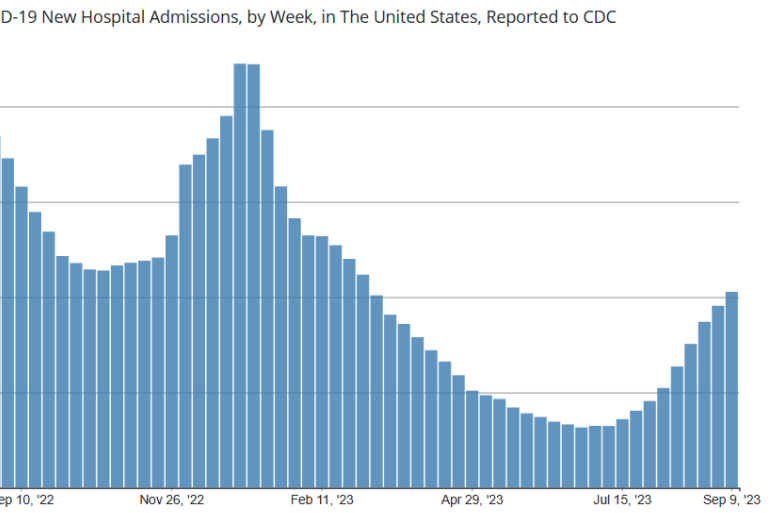
When asked if a lockdown seems reasonable, Dougherty said “I don’t think a lockdown is necessary. I thought it was weird that we just tried to

hide from Covid from the comfort of our homes.”

Numerous hospitals across the United States such as the University of Massachusetts Memorial Medical Center, Auburn Community Hospital in New York and Kaiser Permanente Santa Rosa Medical Center in California have reportedly reinstated mask mandates in their facilities.

“I think if we had to wear masks again I wouldn’t be surprised or concerned much because we are trying to prevent another quarantine so wearing masks becoming mandatory would be understandable,” George Keller, an 18-year-old chemical engineering major from Bensalem commented.

“If it (Covid) were to rise to a more dangerous degree then yeah I would think they (masks) are necessary in order to not spread



germs,” Dougherty stated.

Several schools have also issued temporary mask mandates after an increase in Covid cases. Morris Brown College in Atlanta had a temporary mask mandate during the first few weeks of the new semester which has since been lifted.

Bucks had a group to address the health and safety concerns during the pandemic called the “Green Team,” which recently reconvened on Sep. 21 to assess the rising COVID cases.

After the meeting, the Bucks Associate Provost and Accreditation Liasion Officer Dr. Kelly Kelleway said, “As of now, the college will continue with its current stance of encouraging

Photo courtesy of CDC webpage

students and employees to stay home if sick and to follow the CDC guidelines in terms of testing and masking.” In other words, Bucks currently doesn’t have any plans to make masks mandatory.

“Certainly if the situation changes for the worse, the group will meet again to ensure we look after the health and well-being of everyone in our college community,” Provost Kelleway continued.

If anybody were to need a Covid test, the Office of Security and Safety has a limited amount and Founders Hall 112 has a supply of masks for those who want any.

Arts

Falling For Poetry, The Wordsmiths Reading Series Continues

Cristopher Ramirez
Centurion Staff

The Wordsmiths Reading Series resumes this Fall, letting poets and writers read their work aloud, continuing a decades long tradition at Bucks.

The series began in the 1960s and has gone on to feature poets such as Allen Ginsberg, a prominent figure in the Beat movement. W. D. Snodgrass, who received the 1960 Nobel Prize in poetry, and Ben Marcus, a contemporary writer whose work has appeared in “The New Yorker” and “Harper’s Magazine.”

The first reading featured Joanna Fuhrman, a professor at Rutgers University, and Lynn Levin, a Bucks County poet laureate, on Friday, Sept. 22 at 7:30 p.m. The second will feature Patricia Smith, winner of the 2018 NAACP Image Award in poetry, and Hayden Saurier, recipient of a Pushcart Prize, will take place on Friday, Oct. 20 at 7:30 p.m.

All readings will be in Newtown, in Tyler Hall, room 142, and are free and open to the public.

Doctor Ethel Rackin, a Professor of Language and Literature at Bucks and the

director of the Wordsmiths Reading Series as well as the Poet Laureate Program, said “I invite writers who I think students and community members will find inspiring, whenever possible, I also teach the work of visiting writers so my students experience the added benefit of getting to see those they’ve studied in action.” Dr. Rackin also personally selects and invites the writers who appear.

Wordsmiths readings have included prose works as well as poetry.

“The series has always been popular among

students and non-students alike, which is part of what makes it so special,” said Dr. Rackin. “Everyone seems to enjoy the diversity.” According to the Bucks website, the readings have set Bucks apart from other colleges in the area, placing Bucks “at the center of the region’s literary life.”

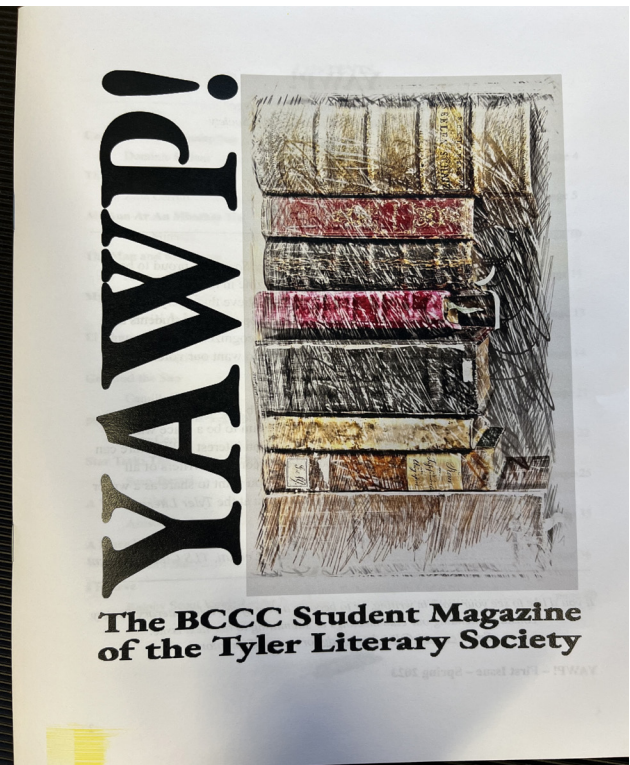
These events give the Bucks students and others a chance to hear literature directly from the authors’ mouths. “With poetry it’s especially important to hear it aloud in order to really experience the full impact of the sounds, voice, words,”

said Dr. Rackin.

“It’s also helpful with fiction to hear sentences aloud in order to fully enjoy the experience.”

The readings are also made accessible through amplification. “We are always attentive to making sure that our audio system is working well,” said Dr. Rackin, then added, “We need to continue working to ensure that those who are partially deaf may be better able to enjoy the experience.”

The Wordsmiths series is organized and funded by Bucks’ Cultural Programming Committee.



Jesse Fischer
Centurion Staff

The Tyler Literary Society made a successful comeback at Buck County Community College last year with a renewed interest in the

club, and the group looks to continue that success into this year’s Fall semester.

The club had previously been dormant for a few years before being set back up last November to meet every Tuesday in the afternoons.

Club President Zion Cerutti was crucial in this process, running the meetings and

The Reemergence of the Tyler Literary Society

becoming the club’s president along the way.

Records Library Technician Kelly Deeny acts as the staff advisor of the Tyler Literary Society.

Deeny talked about the club’s successful rebound last semester. “The group was very well attended averaging 10 to 15 people at every meeting,” Deeny said. This is also coupled with the club having a good number of people signing up during the involvement fair that took place at the start of the semester on Aug. 29.

The club also has a few returning members as well, with this mix of old and new members the club is excited and eager to start the new semester.

The club takes part in an array of different activities with a lot of flexibility including

literary discussions involving all sorts of different types of literature and books. “We do workshops and give feedback for in-class writings,” Cerruti said.

“During last spring, we were very heavy on the writing aspect of the club,” Deeny said.

“We did prompts for each day, we’d start by explaining the prompt, then by the end of the meeting we’d share what we all had written that day,” Cerruti stated.

“These prompts really engage the students in discussions and encourage a lot of good discourse” Deeny responded.

She also mentioned how Cerutti has done a great job as president of the club, helping it find new life at Bucks with an uptick in the club’s involvement

since its return.

One tradition that has carried over from the previous iteration of the club is the creation of a magazine showcasing literary works from students of the club.

“The club took admissions and compiled it into the book,” Cerutti said. These were works that had been written both during the club meetings itself with the prompts given, as well as in members’ free time, giving members of the club the opportunity to get their personal and passion projects admitted.”

The magazine features an assortment of different writing types and styles, with each member of the literary club having their own personal touch in the creation of the magazine.

Bang for your Buck, Experience Performing Arts Live!

Dante Campana
Centurion Staff

The “Zlock Performing Arts Center” at Bucks County Community College has many exciting live events planned for students throughout the first semester, hosting various talented artists to offer an enriching art experience that would otherwise be difficult to discover.

“The Zlock” has been hosting events on the Newtown Campus for eight years now, continuing a tradition that Bucks is excited to continue on behalf of everyone.

“The Zlock Performing Arts Center strives to be a hub of culture and entertainment.” says Pete Chiovarou, Director of the Zlock Performing Arts Center and

Community and Cultural Programming. “Having a wide range of great entertainment here is an awesome benefit to students and to our community, who can experience national touring acts and artists in a relaxing venue close to home at a free to low ticket price.”

There is no shortage of performances this semester; the lineup includes talented musical acts by “the Sam Grisman Project”, Swing musician Josco Stephan, saxophonist Lakecia Benjamin and a pair of instrumental holiday concerts by “the Eric Mintel Quartet” and “the Pennsylvania Philharmonic Big Band.” The Zlock will also host comedian Sammy Obeid, a performance of the 80s rock-inspired musical “Frankenstein Rocks!,”

documentary film “How Saba Kept Singing”, and a duo of recorded performances. Not only that, but Bucks’ Dance Program will have a showcase this fall, and Bucks’ Jazz Ensemble will also be performing this semester.

The Bucks Live! box office in the Zlock Performing Arts Center is where students should go for inquiries, ticket purchases, and comprehensive event schedules. Current Bucks students can attend most of these events for free by having a valid Bucks ID.

The box office also offers discounts for Bucks employees, alumni, active military, first responders, and veterans, making these events even more accessible. Parking is free for events.

If you find yourself inde-



SAMMY OBEID
OCTOBER 6



FRANKENSTEIN ROCKS!
OCTOBER 13, 14, 20 & 21



SAM GRISMAN PROJECT
NOVEMBER 3



LAKECIA BENJAMIN
NOVEMBER 17

Enjoy live music and dance performances, a cultural streaming series, a comedic rock musical, and a unique jazz concert that will leave you feeling the spirit of the holidays...all close to home!

BUCKS COUNTY COMMUNITY COLLEGE
Newtown Campus

For more information and tickets:
bucks.edu/tickets

cise about whether you should be attending, give it a go and attend, where you’re sure to have a great time meeting like-minded people who are just as enthusiastic as you are about art and performances. “There is something here for everyone to enjoy and experience.” says Chiovarou. As such, students should see what Bucks has in store.

Want to get directly involved? Volunteers and work-

Courtesy of BCCC website

study students that want to help organize concerts and events are appreciated.

Any questions? The Bucks Live! Box office is run by students who are happy to assist others with inquiries and ticket purchases and hope to see more people at Bucks’ eighth year of live events at the Zlock Performing Arts center this semester.

The next event will be Nov. 3 with the Sam Grisman Project.

Bi-Annual Short Fiction Contest

Rafael Melendez
Centurion Staff

The annual Short Fiction Contest is back at Bucks County Community College with a fast approaching deadline and will be judged by a guest celebrity author.

Elizabeth Luciano, a Bucks language and literature professor for almost 20 years, founded the short fiction contest in 2017 as an outcropping of a sabbatical project she did in 2016. It is based on the Bucks County Poet Laureate competition, which has been around for 47

years.

As contest director, Luciano reads through all the entries and narrows them down to five or six finalists. The finalists are then judged by a published author in the Philadelphia area. There is a different author each year, this year’s judge is Emma Eisenberg.

Anyone 18 years old or over or who is a county resident may enter the contest, provided they are not a Bucks employee. All genres are welcome and profanity or sexuality is acceptable if it serves the story, but not if it is merely gratuitous.

The story must be unpublished (including online blogs), and following the page limitation. Stories that have won other contests are not admissible. If a story has already won the short fiction contest, it is invalid to resubmit, but a previous winner, may submit a different story.

A submission is unsuitable if it doesn’t align with the rules, or is a fan fiction i.e. a story based on previously published work. There is one entry per person, per contest. This year’s new and important rule is the forbidden use of artificial intelligence. Plagiarism is strictly prohibited.

Aside from modest monetary prizes, the contest aims

to give notice and encouragement to writers who are trying to gain a toehold in creative writing. Winners can always mention their prize on their writing resumes, when they’re submitting work to editors, querying agents or applying to Master’s of Fine Arts programs.

There is a celebration where the top three winners will receive gift cards from \$50 to \$200. They will also have the opportunity to share their work at a reading on Nov. 18 at 1 p.m.

The deadline for submission is noon on Oct. 19. The results are announced on the BCCC webpage and through a press release that goes out to local papers. All

applicants receive an email about the status of their entry.

The contest has received financial assistance in the past from the Bucks Foundation, and currently receives financial and administrative support from the department of Language and Literature. The Bucks’ marketing department is also extremely helpful in getting the word out. Good luck to all contestants!

For the complete and official rules of the contest visit the contest website at: <https://www.bucks.edu/academics/departments/lang-lit/short-fiction-contest/>

Bucks News

The Bucks Anime Club is Underway

Cristopher Ramirez
Centurion Staff

A new semester marks the start of club season with the Anime Club holding meetings on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 3 to 6 p.m. in Rollins 116.

The anime club is for those who are passionate about the visual style of animation known as anime.

Anime is a form of animated movies and shows originating from Japan including films and shows such as “Spirited Away,” “Attack on Titan,” “Pokémon,” “A Silent Voice” and “Your Lie in April.”

President of the Anime Club, Aaron Raghu, states, “A couple of years back, it wasn’t very popular, and people wouldn’t express how much they like

anime.” He continues to say, “after COVID, people started to accept anime more.”

Anime has been increasing in popularity in recent times throughout the world, with some even getting live-actions, such as Netflix’s “One Piece” as well as the upcoming “Sword Art Online” and “My Hero Academia.”

When asked about the ever-growing popularity of anime, Raghu said he was “happy about it” and happy to see people “express their love for anime.” His main goal for the anime club is to connect everyone who likes anime.

Raghu used his time as a member of the anime club at Duquesne University to model the club at Bucks. Raghu says he

“modeled the anime club from my time at Duquesne. They’re almost the same.” Raghu said that when he joined Bucks, “there wasn’t an anime club; there was one four years ago, but it died.”

Raghu says, “you don’t have to be in the club to show up” and that the club is “open to everyone.” He assures new members joining the anime club, “It doesn’t matter where you came from as long as you love anime or just want to try it out.”

The anime club watches two episodes of three anime shows on Tuesdays and again on Thursdays. The anime club Discord server contains more information on the specific anime shows they are watching.



Courtesy of the Anime Club

For additional information regarding the anime club, contact the club president at raghua@live.bucks.edu

or join the Discord server using the QR code on the anime club flyers found throughout campus.

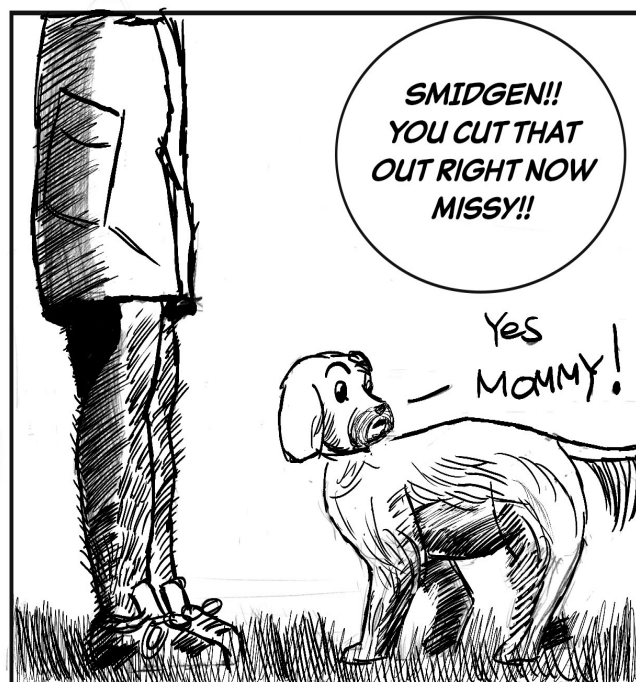
Happy National Hispanic Heritage Month!

Sept. 15, 2023 -
Oct. 13, 2023

Quote of the Day:

“I’ve been put on the planet to serve humanity. I have to remind myself to live simply and not to overindulge, which is a constant battle in a material world.”

- Sandra Cisneros



Sports Though Covid And What Has Changed Since Then



Photo Courtesy of Unsplash
Terrie Blair
Centurion Staff

The Covid-19 pandemic hit Bucks County community College’s sports teams incredibly hard and their recovery has been even harder after the campus closed its doors to in person learning and sporting events.

In the past two years, students and staff alike have felt the lasting change from the pandemic. Three years later, the campus is in full-swing with more students returning,

making the recovery process less difficult as things start to look up.

Matthew Cipriano, the athletics director at Bucks says, “Bucks is doing much better this fall compared to last Fall. Team interest has improved, and coaching and volunteer interest has also gone up.”

Optimism is high this year with interest rising, and students becoming more involved on campus. With hopes of women’s basketball and soccer teams improving in size and competitiveness and varsity sports team rosters filling

out, Cipriano says that,

“Softball has an impressive amount of interest and I expect them to be very competitive and I’m

hoping for an invitation to the small college world series”

The men’s sports are consistent with roster sizes and participation levels and there is optimism about success this year. “It would be great to receive a bid to the national tournament in soccer and basketball” said Cipriano.

Covid first affected campus sports in March 2020 when Buck’s baseball team had their spring break trip cancelled. Eventually, sports games and campus activity started to die down,

and eventually all sports were cancelled for the rest of the season. Turns out they would be gone for an entire year.

“Throughout the shutdown, we kept making plans for returning, new and updated safety plans, budgets and more. It was really tough to stay optimistic because the department and the student-athletes were remote and the timeline for planning purposes kept extending,” Cipriano says.

There have been some changes with the sports teams in the past three years, one of the biggest changes being that Bucks has moved to a different governing body for the athletic programs. The school is now a part of the United States Collegiate Athletic Association (USCAA), and with this comes some different rules for eligibility and allows Bucks Community College to compete against more four-year schools.

Another substantial change has been that some of our sports which

were once varsity sports, are now sports clubs. For the most part, sports clubs are student organized and ran, which allows more part time students to be involved in sports.

Usually, these clubs will not have a coach but depending on the club some do, and the athletic department will be able to supply some support to these clubs and their students.

Unlike sports clubs, varsity sports must follow the rules of the USCAA. Varsity coaches are hired by the athletic department, and students must be considered full-time to take part.

According to Cipriano, “The club sport model is going well so far. We have hosted organizational meetings for the golf, equestrian, and women’s volleyball club with good student interest in each.”

As of right now it is felt like there are no downsides to these changes, and with rising student engagement and interest, the athletic department is on the right track.

Sports

Women’s Volleyball Makes Its First Appearance Back On Bucks’ Campus Since Covid

Madison Kidolfo

Centurion Staff

Women’s Volleyball makes its way back to Bucks as a new club sport, appearing for the first again since the coronavirus pandemic shut down the campus.

Before the pandemic, Volleyball was a traditional varsity program here on campus for years. Bringing back volleyball was important, but enrollment at Bucks has gone down, so making it a club sport allows part-time students to participate.

“We have had a varsity program before the pandemic and had to reorganize our varsity offerings, so Women’s Volleyball moved to a Club Sport” Matt Cipriano, head of the athletic department stated.

The department wanted to continue offering volleyball at the club level. Cipriano said, “Having a club sport option allows us to engage more students through sports with less eligibility requirements and more flexibility for the student-athlete.” Cipriano’s favorite thing about volleyball is that it is a ‘high-energy sport.’ ”

He looks forward to seeing what the girls plan for this semester.

The team is led by fellow Bucks students, Ry-
anne Black, Alissa Sabatino, Meric Senlikoglu and Dulce Gomez Hernandez who held their first preliminary meeting on Sept. 7 where the girls practiced their skills and discussed the season ahead.

The team hopes to

organize many practices and schedule games against other club teams for students to attend. The athletics department looks forward to the continued growth of this new team.

Meric Senlikoglu, one of the club’s student leaders and an 18-year-old freshman majoring in nursing, has been playing volleyball recreationally for almost 4 years, but has “never tried being on a team before.” She focused on other sports in high school and never had the time to play volleyball.

When she heard there was a volleyball club at Bucks, she thought she would give it a try. Senlikoglu says she is most excited to play games against other schools.

“We are a really pos-



Photo Courtesy of Unsplash team.

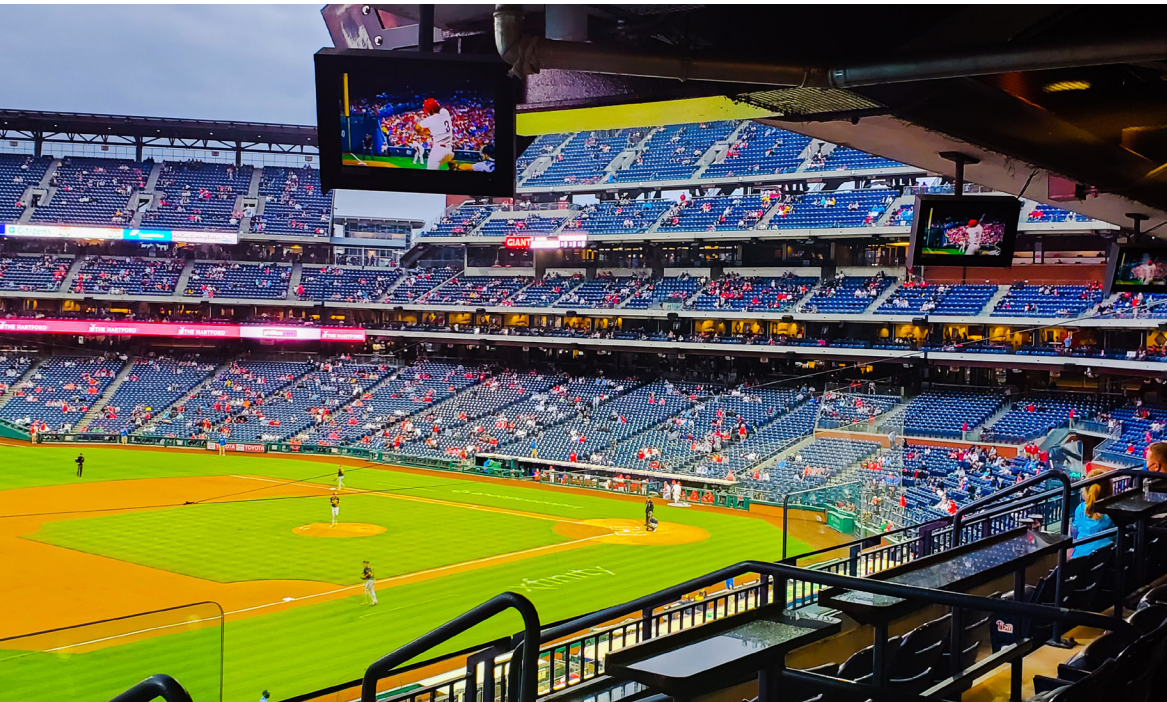
itive team. Everybody can join the club that loves to play volleyball. Everybody supports each other and helps each other.”

The main goal of the Women’s Club Volleyball team is to be the best version of yourself and bring a lot of positivity to the team.

The team of girls is very accepting and would love to have more positive and fun people on their

To join Women’s Club Volleyball, students must be enrolled at Bucks, have a minimum of six credits or more, a sports physical and proof of insurance.

If you are interested in more information about the Women’s Club Volleyball team, please contact Matt Cipriano at Matt.Cipriano@bucks.edu.



Terrie Blair
Centurion Staff

The Philadelphia Phillies and the playoffs are two things fans love to hear together, with good success so far this season it seems likely we will make it, but will the Philadelphia Phillies make it to the playoffs? Fans have a lot to say about it.

Gabe Beres, a 22 year old local Doylestown resident says, “The season

is not over yet, but they are heading in the right direction and the team itself is very good. They need more offensive power and more home run scores when they are on base.”

They are looking good from a statistical point so far with a score of 76-61-0, in second place National League East and holding the top wildcard spot, with over 150 home runs this season.

The Phillies hold the

Photo Courtesy of Unsplash

10th place in home runs and fifth place in batting average so far this year.

Jhonny Tate, a 23 years old Bucks student majoring in social media marketing said, “Well, last season the players were making more home runs.” This year, the team’s well put together and the playoffs are possible.

However, he would like to see the pitchers

Phillies Play Off Or Day Off?

changing up their tactics, making it tougher for the opposing team’s batters to hit the ball. Tate said, “They can go as far as they can take the game,” when discussing the Phillies’s chances of going to the Playoffs

According to MLB, last season the Phillies finished the season with a record of 87-75-0 finishing third in the NLE division, with over 200 home runs.

Prudhiui Jandhyala, a 21 year old Bucks student majoring in computer science local to Warrington says, “They are doing better this season in terms of having good strategies compared to last season, a lot of good adjustments were made.”

However, Jandhyala also said this about the team “They should be managing their subs better, I think their tactics and their strategy could be improved.”

According to MLB, only the Atlanta Braves with

a 100 percent chance and Dodgers with 99.8 percent chance have better odds to make the postseason games.

“I believe they will win the division,” says Emily Myers a 19-year-old Bucks student majoring in Business Administration.

“They are coming together as a team and are having a similar season with only two more losses this year compared to last year at this time.” Myers also said, “the front office management could be improved because they can always be improved somehow and professional sports.”

It looks like many fans agree that even though the Phillies have some strategy issues they will make it to the playoffs this year. They have a good team and a good lineup going. But will they make it to the playoffs? We’ll just have to wait and find out with these next upcoming games.

Three Times The Victory For The Eagles!

Raymundo Varela-Urizar
Centurion Staff

The Philadelphia Eagles are 3-0 after winning their games against the Tampa Bay Buccaneers, New England Patriots and the Minnesota Vikings with a nail-biting start to the 2023 season!

Philadelphia Eagles Fan and Doylestown Resident Tyler Stephen says, “Honestly with the way the Eagles have played the first two games of the regular season I could see them winning the NFC East with an 11-6 or 12-5 record.”

Stephen added, “I don’t know if they’ll go to the Superbowl, it’s too early to talk about that but I definitely think they have a shot at winning the NFC East.”

“I am pretty optimistic the Eagles will have

one of the best offenses in the league. I also feel pretty confident in our kicker Jake Elliot because he has had some clutch field goals so far this season. I believe he will play a big part in the Eagles season this year.”

Eagles Quarterback Jalen Hurts has a record of 363 Passing Yards, and 72 rushing yards along with two touchdowns. Jason Kelce, the Eagle’s center, has a record of 430 yards and 16 allowed sacks.

Another Eagles Fan Joey Teer of Southampton says “My original prediction was 11-6 on the season, and I think 11-6 is what I’m gonna stick to. The first half of the year is a good time to pick up some easy wins. It’s a hard feeling to describe because I wanna be happy but at the same time, the team hasn’t been playing up

to par.”

“Now that might be because of the offense coordinator. It’s got to be the defense, the sky’s the limit. You could almost say we have a super team just because of how awesome our defense is. I could write out all the names but really it’s all of them.”

Avonte Maddox is en route for an injury recovery with a torn pectoral with the hope of a speedy recovery.

The mighty Philadelphia Eagles won against the The Buccaneers on Sept.



25. with a score of 25 - 11. Leaving the birds with a 3-0 winning streak.

A.J Brown, Eagle’s wide receiver, had 131 yards and nine catches from the game and D’Andre Swift, the team’s running back, with 16 carries for 130 yards. Three stops on Buccaneer’s first five plays by

Zach Cunningham.

The Eagles are set to play the Washington Commanders on Oct. 1 at 1 p.m.

Be sure to grab your buddies, cold drinks, and that bucket of wings because it’s going to be a blasting green and white time!