

Kelly, a student of success

BY: GEORGE MEANS
Centurion Staff

Twenty-year-old Matthew Kelly is a juggler, but not the kind that throws around bowling pins, beanbags or even chainsaws. On any given day, Kelly masterfully juggles being a Bucks student, battling a life-long blood disorder, and working a full-time job. As if that wasn't enough, Kelly keeps one more ball in the air, spending most of his days bringing happiness to countless families through his New Hope Charity Foundation, an organization Kelly founded to deliver toys to children in pediatric hospitals nationwide. Born with a rare blood disorder, type 1 Congenital Dyserythropoietic Anemia (CDA), Kelly has been a lifelong patient of Children's Hospi-

tal in Philadelphia (CHOP). Type 1 CDA is characterized by moderate to severe anemia and is usually diagnosed in childhood or adolescence. Those who have anemia are unable to produce an adequate amount of healthy red blood cells to carry oxygen to tissues, causing the individual to feel tired and weak. Type 1 CDA can cause the body to take in an abundance of iron, damaging tissues and organs. Iron overload can lead to a heart arrhythmia, congestive heart failure, diabetes and cirrhosis of the liver. As a result, Kelly would be admitted into CHOP for blood transfusions every two weeks. "I had a needle inserted into my abdomen every night to deliver medicine for my chelation therapy," said Kelly.

Chelation therapy is a medical procedure that involves the administration of chelating agents to remove heavy metals from the body. Kelly underwent surgery to remove his spleen and gallbladder. After the surgery, Kelly was administered his chelation therapy in pill form and has since been taken off chelation therapy all together. Kelly still goes to CHOP biannually to monitor his hemoglobin. It was his extensive time in CHOP that motivated Kelly to found his charity after witnessing first hand the disparity of toys for children hospitalized in pediatric care facilities. Since 2010, Kelly has delivered 62,000 toys working with CHOP and through his own charity. Kelly's New Hope Charity Foundation first



Matt Kelly (left) at the Forty Under 40 award luncheon with Tobin Bruhn (right) from the BCCC Foundation. began as a graduation project for William Tennent High School in 2012, reaching out to the Children's Hospital of Philadelphia, and then to Children's Hospital of Texas. **Continued on pg. 2**

Guilty of third degree murder

Bensalem man pleads guilty for fatal stabbing of Bucks student Jacob Simmers

BY: MICHELE HADDON
Centurion Staff

Joseph Romano, 21, expressed his remorse in open court, as he pleaded guilty to third degree murder for the stabbing death of his close friend Jacob Simmers, 19, back in late March. During the proceedings, Romano asked for the court's permission to address Simmer's family and friends, who were among the approximately 40 people in attendance that morning. "I just wanted to apologize to all of Jacob's family," Romano began. "Jacob was one of my



The Doylestown Courthouse. PHOTO CREDIT: KRISTOF PHILLIPS

greatest friends. He was loved by many, including myself," said Romano. He went on to say that he knows many will judge him for what he did. "But there's no one that judges me more than myself every day," Romano said. Romano made one final plea, as he choked back tears, saying, "I hope one day you can forgive me, not for me, but because I don't want any of you to suffer anymore." Romano's family stood solemnly as he was escorted out of the courtroom. **Continued on pg. 2**

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Bucks News

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College Events

December 11

-Drama Club presents: “Almost, Maine”- begins at 7:30 p.m. in the Gallagher Room. Tickets are \$10 for general admission and \$7 for senior citizens and students with I.D.

-Jazz Orchestra Performance- At 7:30 p.m. in the Presser Music Room, MMM01. The concert is free and open to the public.

-Bucks Book Group Discussion: “Lost for Words” By: Edward St. Aubyn begins at 7:30 p.m. in the Rollins Center, Room 114. Admission is free.

December 12

-Drama Club Presents: “Almost, Maine”- Second performance begins at 7:30 p.m. in the Gallagher Room.

December 13

-Women’s Basketball has an away game against Northampton at 12:00 p.m.

-Men’s Basketball has an away game against Northampton at 2:00 p.m.

-Drama Club Presents: “Almost, Maine”- Third performance begins at 7:30 p.m. in the Gallagher Room.

December 16 & 17

-Class Make Up Day

December 18 & 19

-Final Exams

-Winter Break Begins: Have a safe and happy holiday season!

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Now Kelly’s New Hope Charity Foundation extends to 62 children’s hospitals nationwide.

“I have learned strength and to never let go of hope. The creation of my organization has also helped me cope with my medical struggles,” said Kelly.

Kelly’s personal motto, “Live HOPE Daily,” teaches it is a choice to be happy, optimistic, persistent and enthusiastic. Kelly hopes to see others share their good fortunes and help spread happiness to children and families afflicted by illnesses.

“No matter how big New Hope will ever get, the best aspect of my job will always be seeing the joyful faces of children whose lives we impact on a daily basis,” said Kelly.

Kelly explained the dif-

ficulties he faces daily as the founder and C.E.O. of the New Hope Charity, saying, “Balancing schedules, toy shipments and locating new benefactors would seem to be the hardest aspects but the true struggle lies in keeping grounded and steady to our mission. Aiming to continuously bring hope, health, security, and happiness to patients in pediatric hospitals.”

Kelly’s entrepreneurial skills have gained him a network of shipping companies and other small companies willing to assist in his cause.

“I have been extremely lucky to have created a group of talented individuals in the fields of accounting, law and business who handle New Hope’s day- to-day operations,” said Kelly.

Kelly also recruits helpers from different hospitals to continually

grow his foundation.

Kelly’s weeks are scheduled tightly, attending Bucks every Tuesday and Thursday from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Monday, Wednesday, and Friday Kelly alternates between his charity work and his full-time job, as Kelly’s charity does not receive enough funding for it to be his only source of income, yet.

In recognition of Kelly’s accomplishments The Courier Times selected Kelly from a group of nominees to be a member of the 2014 class of Top Forty Under 40.

The purpose of the award is “to recognize young talent in our community and congratulate them on their accomplishments,” said Amy Gianficaro, director of community affairs for The Intelligencer and The Courier Times.

The Courier Times

reaches out to organizations around Bucks and Montgomery Counties for nominees and they have a nomination process on their website, buckscountycourier-times.com.

“I am tremendously honored, the award was another thing that has validated my work and has shown how it affects others around me,” Kelly said about receiving the Top Forty Under 40 award.

Kelly hopes that others will follow in his path.”If anyone would like to donate [or] start their own drive,” Kelly says he would be more than willing to help in any good cause he’s approached with.

The New Hope Charity’s can be contacted at www.newhopecharity.org or at 267-209-0392.

Romano pleads guilty

Continued from pg. 1

“We want him to know that we’re still standing by him,” said Martin Brown, Romano’s uncle. “Joe was always just a really nice kid,” Brown said.

“I would’ve never in my wildest dreams imagined something like this.”

Judge Clyde W. Waite resided over the proceedings held on Nov. 17, where Romano entered an open guilty plea to charges of third degree murder, along with all other charges related to the attack that took place in the early morning hours of March 30, resulting in the death of Simmers.

Romano’s defense attorney, Steven Fairlie, told the judge that, in hoping to expedite the process, they have requested to waive the right to a pre-sentence investigation.

Waite accepted the plea,

and deferred sentencing to Dec. 15.

Romano could face up to a maximum of 47 years and 1 month in prison for the charge of third degree murder.

Under sentencing guidelines, the shortest sentence Romano could receive is 23 years and 7 months.

In addition, Romano pleaded guilty to possession of an instrument of a crime, simple assault, possession of marijuana, and use and possession of drug paraphernalia.

According to police reports, on March 30 at approximately 2:30 a.m., police responded to Romano’s home on the 1100 block of Kasmir Ave. in Bensalem Township, for the report of a stabbing.

Police arrived to find Simmers deceased from an apparent stab wound to the chest and abdomen

area. Romano, who was at the residence, was arrested without incident.

Police also found blood by the front door, as well as small amounts of marijuana.

In an interview conducted by Bensalem detectives on March 30, Romano said that his friend Simmers came to his house that night to help him, but that he wanted Simmers to leave.

He described to police how he grabbed Simmers and dragged him into the kitchen, where he grabbed a black-handled kitchen knife and stabbed Simmers at least two times.

In court, the defense presented testimony regarding Romano’s state of intoxication at the time of the attack, in order to reduce the murder charge to third degree murder by establishing

lack of intent.

Fairlie said that Romano had been taking mushrooms prior to the attack, which caused hallucinations.

“Through the blood tests taken later it was clear that he was under the influence of mushrooms.”

Fairlie asked, “In this particular case, you were hallucinating about demons, is that correct?” “Yes,” said Romano.

“He thought he was being attacked by demons, and the witness said he was yelling about Jacob being a demon,” Fairlie said.

“The real fault in this case is the taking of drugs, which resulted in [Romano] losing control of his faculties.”

Fairlie added, “Jacob Simmers was a hero, who went there to help Joe, and Joe knows that better than anybody.”



The Centurion

The student newspaper of Bucks County Community College

Dear Readers,

It has become painfully obvious to us, The Centurion staff, the college’s interest in The Centurion has been waning. In the final week of this semester and at the beginning of the 2015 spring semester we will be canvassing the campus to poll students and faculty to get a better idea of what the college community wants from its newspaper. We will also have a poll on our website bucks-news.com. The Centurion is dedicated to bringing Bucks students and faculty not just quality news, but news you, the readers, want to read.

Sincerely,

The Centurion staff.

Bucks News

Forty Under 40 awards Bucks' best

BY: MICHELE HADDON
Centurion Staff

Young business and community leaders—including three who share close ties to Bucks—were celebrated at The Bucks County Courier Times and The Intelligencer’s 2014 Forty under 40 award luncheon held last month.

Each year, 40 up-and-coming business and community leaders are recognized for their efforts toward making a difference in Bucks and Montgomery counties. Among those honored were Matthew Kelly, a Bucks student; Tobi Bruhn, from the BCCC Foundation; and Craig Sanford, a Bucks alumnus.

“This was a very energetic group,” said Amy Gianficaro, the newspapers’ community affairs director. “Every year we go further, the caliber gets higher and higher.”

Gianficaro said it was her hope that in bringing these young leaders together—of business, philanthropy, education and government—it would draw out area leaders of



PHOTO CREDIT: JAMIE HADDON

The Bucks County Courier Times and The Intelligencer’s 2014 Forty under 40 luncheon awards ceremony. all ages and domains to celebrate their achievements.

Jamie Haddon, president and CEO of the United Way of Bucks County and the luncheon’s keynote speaker, lauded the honorees for their exceptional achievements. “There is an incredible amount of talent, knowledge, and skill in this room. There are forty people who, before the age of 40, have accomplished incredible things in business and in the nonprofit sector; in the arts and in the sciences; in our community

and well beyond our borders.”

Kelly, 20, of Southampton, is a business student at Bucks. He was selected for his outstanding work in the community through New Hope Charity Foundation, an organization he founded to collect and distribute toys to children in pediatric hospitals. Since 2010, with the help of family, friends and volunteers, Kelly has delivered over 62,000 toys to children across the country.

“I am humbled by the outpouring of support

and kind words myself and New Hope have received throughout this special time,” said Kelly on his Facebook page.

Bruhn is the executive director of BCCC Foundation, a supporting partner of Bucks that builds relationships with alumni, businesses and individuals throughout the community to help raise funds for student scholarships and invest in educational opportunities. In 2013 Bruhn awarded more than \$250,000 in student scholarships, the largest total in the institution’s

history.

“I’m certainly very appreciative and honored by the award. I think it is a wonderful recognition of the foundation’s efforts and the good work that the entire team has been doing,” said Bruhn. “Without my staff, I certainly wouldn’t be able to do all the things I was recognized for.”

Sanford, of Yardley, graduated from Bucks in 2012 with a degree in business management and graphic design.

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Student Life

Brace yourselves, finals are here

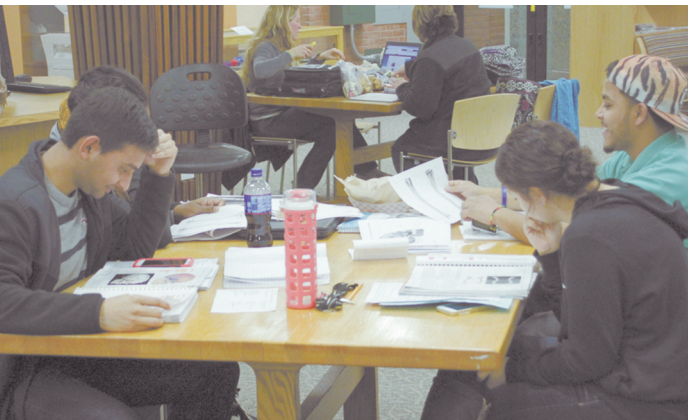
BY: MAYRA DIETZ
Centurion Staff

With finals looming, many Bucks students find themselves overwhelmed as they prepare for the onslaught of exams.

It may suddenly feel like there is not enough time to review all their notes, remembering it all appears impossible, and the increased stress only seems to make it worse.

However, there are simple steps students can take to ease the pressures of studying for finals.

According to Chadron State College, students can avoid overworking themselves by studying one subject at a time.



Bucks students working through lunch to prepare for finals.

Reasonable study schedules are essential to gaining better results. There should be breaks given in between every two hours to let brain activity relax.

They also emphasize that students should avoid studying for an exam the night before.

Jessica Gonzalez, 18, a liberal arts major from Bensalem, said, "I used to cram for a test the night before the final, but it does not end well because I fail to retain the information."

Isabel Berrocal, 19, a business major from Langhorne, said, "Studying altogether stresses me out but doing it ahead



PHOTO CREDIT: ETHAN HEALY

Bucks students preparing for the semester's end.

of time makes me feel more accomplished."

Allowing more time to take everything in, makes it much easier to study and retain information.

"I start cramming for finals a month before," said Jenny Moyer, 19, a music/voice major from Morrisville.

"I cram for finals the week before," said Berrocal.

Each student prepares differently for an exam to achieve the best results.

Marino Ximenez, 22, a business major from Levittown, has found what works for him, "I study every day so that way when I find out I have an exam, I am less stressed."

Once it's all over, some students, like Moyer, struggle to recall later what they've learned. "I forget what I studied after I take the exam." She explained.

To avoid this dilemma, it is recommended stu-

dents review notes daily in order to retain much of what they've learned.

Sunny Lam, 22, a criminal justice major from Bensalem said, "Review what is on the final and save all of your notes on what the teacher said will be on the test."

Another technique is to simply relax. Obsessing about the worst possible outcomes only jeopardize the potential for success.



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Bucks News

New program, new opportunities

The Honors @ Bucks program will help students to get into the college of their choice

BY: GEORGE MEANS
Centurion Staff

The Bucks faculty was enthusiastic to present an information session on the new and upcoming Honors @ Bucks program that is now being offered to its students, giving them a greater chance of admittance into their pick of a four year college as well as attaining a promising career.

Stephen doCarmo, English professor and coordinator of the honors program, informed attendees that the “real hope is to have these honors courses turn into money for students to go to these expensive schools.”

Danielle Anzalone, assistant director of admissions, confirms that one goal is to, “eventually be able to start offering scholarship money for honor students.”

The Honors @ Bucks program will give graduates a competitive edge whether they transfer to a four-year institution, or applying for a job. This program will give stu-

dents honors designations on their transcripts in addition to a degree awarded with Honors.

The honors classes will challenge students academically by focusing on critical thinking, scholarly research, and experiential learning. The college and its professors do not want to bury its honor students with work, but it wants to be able to send them onto upstanding four-year colleges or universities.

Anzalone said it’s “not necessarily more work, it’s just emphasizing a higher level of critical thinking.” Just because the courses will be more challenging does not mean you will be graded on a higher scale.

“Challenge is built into the course and not the grading system,” said Charlie Groth, associate professor of language and literature who serves on the program committee.

The Honors @ Bucks program has been long awaited and is finally ac-



cessible to new, existing, and returning students. The application process is very simple and the requirements to earn your associate degree with honors aren’t elaborate. You must complete a minimum of six honor courses, keep an overall average GPA of 3.25, and obtain an average of 3.0 in honor classes.

Your six honor courses will consist of three designated courses and three courses that will be formed “by contract.” The “by contract” concept is a new idea, but is fairly simple. The college will help you arrange to change any of your courses into a “by contract” honors course.

The college will provide four honors designated courses in areas that almost every major will need. In the spring semester, Bucks will offer honors courses in English Composition I and II (COMP 110 and 111), Effective Speaking (COMM 110), and Introduction to Psychology (PSCY 110).

The honors designated classes are anticipated to be approximately 5-6 students. This will allow students to get specialized individual attention from their instructors. The “by contract” honors classes are regular classes that professors will modify, but not in a way that is too time con-

suming for the student.

The college is working vigorously on honors-to-honors transfer agreements with a number of four-year institutions. The college has already admitted approximately 50 students to the program. Deadline for students applying to Honors @ Bucks for the spring semester is Dec. 15.

If you are interested in applying for this uniquely crafted program, you can get an application online at www.bucks.edu/academics/honors. For any questions, contact Stephen doCarmo at (215) 968-8267 or Danielle Anzalone at (215) 968-8119.



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Bucks News

Bucks offers metalwork training

BY: GEORGE MEANS
Centurion Staff

In response to Bucks County’s growing need for metalworkers, Lower Bucks has partnered with local businesses to create a grant-funded metal fabrication training program to satiate this growing workforce.

The college has already trained 15 people through the program, which first began in July, and 12 have gained employment in the field so far.

The metal fabrication program is a free 12-week course led by employers in the industry to train unemployed or underemployed residents of Bucks County for entry-level positions in the field of metalworking.

The program is aimed to “get people gainfully employed out there in the workplace,” said the Director of Workforce Development, Emily Evans.

Since training a new employee can be costly, the program benefits both the individual ap-

plying and the employer.

Dan Loeper, director of business development for Bucks, believes this program will “ensure success for candidates and the businesses.”

“One of the most important aspects of the program was that the manufacturers invested time at all stages of the program - this included interviewing prospects who had applied. Only 15 of the more than 60 that applied were invited into the cohort,” said John Shegda, owner and president of M&S Grinding.

Shegda’s company has been highly involved in the program being on the advisory board, as well as, hosting a tour of their facilities for the students in late August.

“We, as manufacturers, had input regarding who we thought would be a good fit for a job in our companies. We got to ask questions that we would normally ask in interviews to get a good sense

of the intelligence and work ethic that the applicants had. This involvement gave us a vested interest in the students - we wanted to see them succeed,” continued Shegda.

“We found the caliber of the students to be very high,” said Shegda, who has hired graduates of the July class and was present to conduct face-to-face interviews with new applicants this past November.

Approximately 40 people attended the second the information session for the training program on Nov. 13 held at the Lower Bucks campus.

Seven metalworking companies, M&S Centerless Grinding, Havis Inc., Waste Gas Fabricating, FBF Industries, Worth and Company Inc., Empire Abrasive, and Equipment Therm-Omega-Tech, held on-the-spot interviews at the session to screen applicants for the program that will begin Jan. 12. They also

administered a multiple-choice mechanical aptitude test.

The training program is funded through a Community Development Block Grant provided by the Bucks County Commissioners and the requirements for applicants are as follows:

- Must be a resident of Bucks County and a U.S. citizen or green card holder
 - Must be 18 years of age or older
 - Must have a high school diploma or GED
 - Must have interest in working in the advanced manufacturing field
 - Must pass a background screening, drug/alcohol screening, mechanical aptitude test, and physical test
 - Must have reliable transportation to attend class and industry field trips
 - Must be willing to attend every session of the daytime training
- “All of the companies have said we need indi-

viduals that are motivated... and enthusiastic about what they are doing,” said Lauren Loeffler, executive director of workforce development.

Both Loeffler and Evans agree that the metalwork field is in “high demand,” because they are “high priority occupations.”

The interviews were only five minutes long but gave everyone present a chance to meet possible future employers.

“I would have liked to do more interviews,” said Andy Garvey, 22, former Bucks liberal arts major.

“It’s a good opportunity to get a skilled job,” said Garvey.

The college will offer the program again during the spring semester to applicants that qualify. Those interested in applying can call Stephanie Wenger at 215-968-8478 or email stephanie.wenger@bucks.edu



Alumni artists show off their work

BY: JOHN FEY
Centurion Staff

Bucks alumni are back on campus in the 50th Anniversary Alumni Exhibition featured at the Hicks Art Gallery.

The exhibition, curated by Bucks faculty member Cris Martino, presents the unique artwork of 13 Bucks alumni. Michelle Soslau, one of the alumni on display, showed off her versatility as an artist with pieces such as, “The Dancer,” “Model with Best Friend,” and “You Promised.”

“The Dancer” is a mix of netting, voile, and acrylic paints on a large

canvas to form an abstract image of a dancer. Soslau showcases her eye for color in her painting, “Boat #2,” using a similar style to “The Dancer.” Through a combination of acrylic paints and canvas Soslau creates a three dimensional boat that appears to be floating on top of the water.

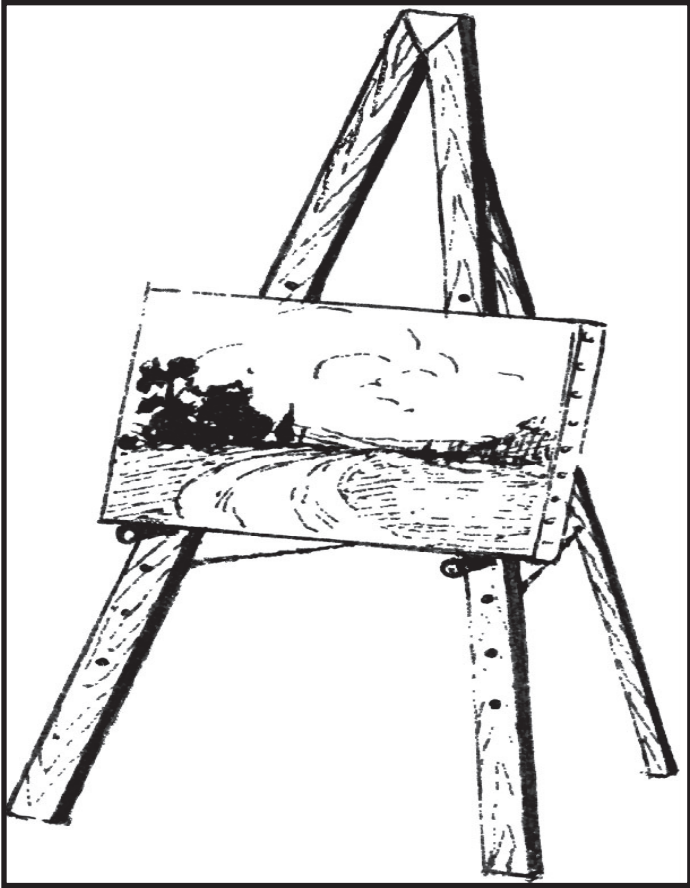
Soslau’s drawings, made with ink, pencil and watercolor, “Model with Best Friend” and “You Promised” demonstrate her unique perspective on the human physique.

James Bennett’s oil on wood art is a fun and vi-

sually appealing collection of stylized illustrations. His largest piece on display, “Scratch,” is from his “man cave” collection. “Scratch” is an amusing take on an upscale pool hall filled with cigar smoke and men in three-piece suits.

Bennett’s other works include caricatures of “The Boss” (Bruce Springsteen) and “Ray Charles.” Bennett’s work has been featured on the cover of TIME, Sports Illustrated, MAD, and many other magazines.

These and other artists are featured in the exhibition in the Hicks Art Gallery until Dec. 15.



Forty Under 40 awards Bucks’ best

Continued from pg. 3

He is the owner of Slicks Graphics, a company that specializes in vehicle wraps, fleet graphics, decals and signs. He is applauded for becoming one of the youngest 3M certified professionals in his craft.

Sanford started out with an old sign plotter and no experience, and over a few short years, he has grown a successful and highly-skilled business which has him working 12-20 hours on some days. He said he is

grateful for how busy they are and is willing to work long hours to make his customers happy.

“We were impressed by what he’s accomplished as an entrepreneur. It was a business he had conceived at the age of

16, and he went forward and put together a really good business,” said Gianficaro.

“When I read your stories and hear about everything you have done, I know I could learn more from each of

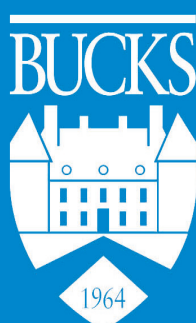
you than I could possibly teach,” said Haddon. “You have demonstrated a commitment to community. I know that there is so much more you will do in the future and I hope we will work together.”

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Bucks News

Shop for the holidays on budget

BY: DIAMOND SCHULER
Centurion Staff

If you missed the Thanksgiving, Black Friday, and Cyber Monday deals, don't panic.

There are still plenty of ways to get great gifts on a college student's budget.

Many people believe that Thanksgiving, Black Friday, and Cyber Monday are the only opportunities for great deals for all your shopping needs, but all is not lost. The holiday season is not just about sharing but also savings. Retail designates the entire month of December to providing the best deals for shoppers.

Stores such as Forever 21, a men's and women store now has great options like "deal of the week." The deal of the week is a usually higher priced item that is brought down to a lower price for the entire week, both online and in store. Other stores such as Francesca's, H&M, and Cotton On also follow



Holiday shoppers at Festival Place, Basingstoke, Hampshire U.K.

this same example offering customers these weekly, and sometimes even daily deals.

"I always give myself a budget around the holidays and scout out the best deals, and I usually come out pretty well," said Roshad Douyon, 17, liberal arts major from Bensalem.

Douyon added that he thinks the best way to save money is by setting a budget for each person and not exceeding it. Remember there is always a way to stay within your

budget and still get a great gift.

Retail stores are taking the better part of their deals to the cyber world.

As a result, many deals have special promotions for different days. Trendy Tuesday is becoming popular with most websites, so student shoppers are able to receive special promotions for their merchandise and often free shipping.

Sites such as Amazon, 6pm.com, and EBay also do special deals between Black Friday and Christ-

mas, that could save you anywhere from a few dollars to hundreds of dollars.

However, these deals only last for a short while so it's important for budgeted shoppers to stay updated.

"I'm constantly checking sites to see what promotions and deals they have for the day, and if I'm lucky I catch some really great ones," said Jade Thomas, 18, nursing major from Levittown.

Thomas finds it cheaper to shop for gifts after

black Friday because many of the stores are trying to sell as much merchandise as possible before Christmas.

Stores are in crunch time during the holidays, working hard to meet sales quotas for the end of the year.

Last minute shopping can be stressful, but some of the best deals are made the last week before Christmas and even the week of Christmas.

"I'm definitely that last minute shopper, I tell myself every year to start more in advance and plan, but I always come out with such great deals I can't resist the last minute shopping," said Jess Smith, 19, an early education major from Richboro.

As someone who is on a budget, it is crucial to take advantage of these deals, because getting great gifts at greater prices is something you can smile.

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Entertainment

“Mockingjay Part 1” Review

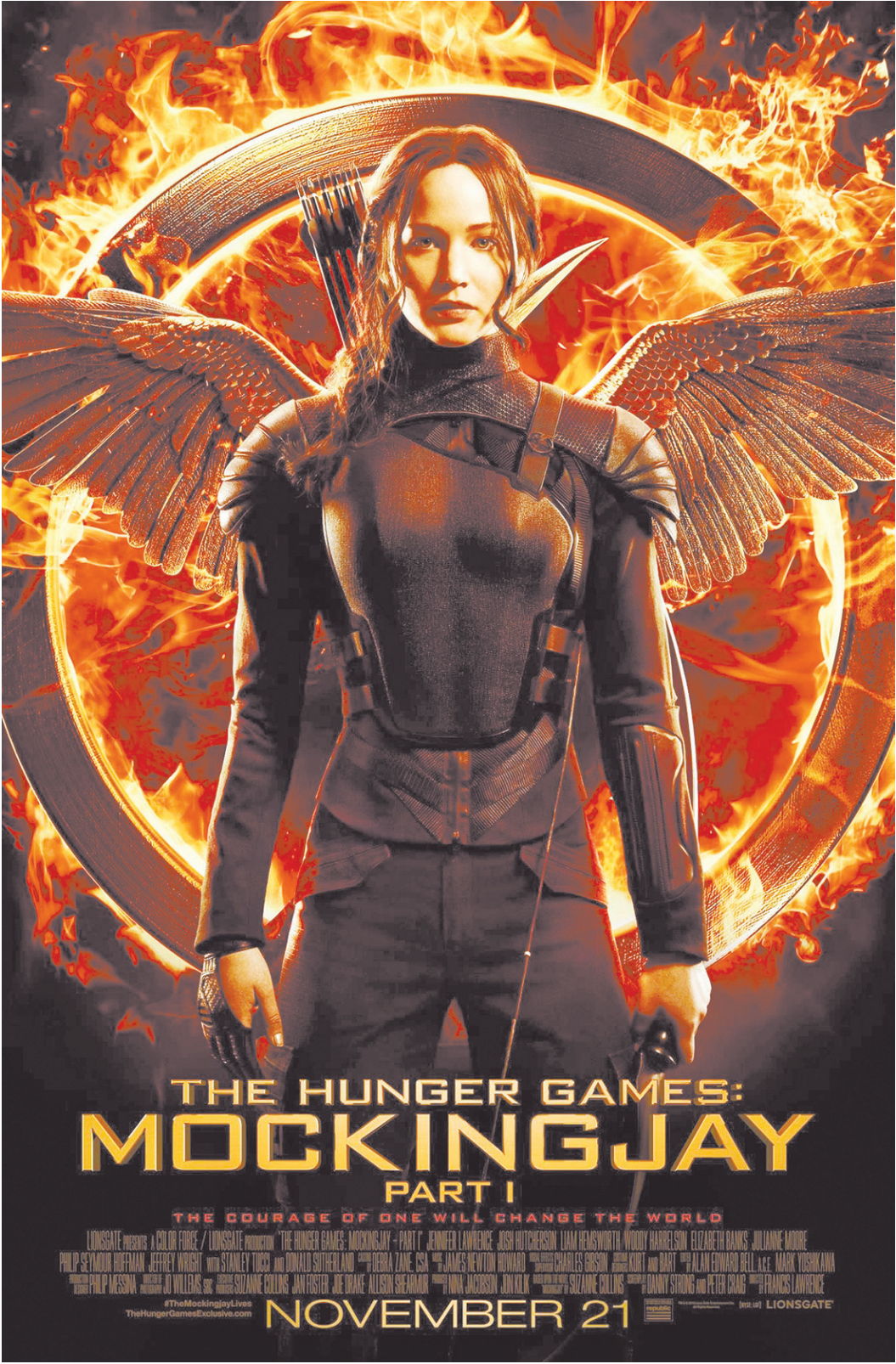
BY: MICHAEL GIRTON
Centurion Staff

The third and penultimate installment in the hit "Hunger Games" franchise, "Mockingjay Part 1", does an excellent job of moving the story to a nation-wide stage filled with all-out war and clandestine political maneuvering, but while setting things up nicely for the epic finale, it falls a bit short of its predecessors as a standalone film.

When the first "Hunger Games" film came out in 2012 it was a wide-spread success, despite some horribly filmed action sequences and several changes that had book fans tearing their hair out. The second film "Catching Fire" in 2013 greatly improved upon the franchise as new director Francis Lawrence was able to supply a more intelligent, well-filmed and all around more entertaining movie. With "Mockingjay" he brings the same level of excellent film-making, but with only half a novel he has little to work with.

"Mockingjay" starts off with main protagonist Katniss Everdeen (portrayed by Jennifer Lawrence) in the hidden underground District 13 after escaping the previous film's death tournament known as the "Hunger Games." Her defiant actions, seen on national television, have sparked a massive rebellion against the tyrannical Capitol, which now holds her friend Peeta Mellark (Josh Hutcherson) captive. After witnessing the aftermath of her home's destruction at the hands of the government and watching them use a tortured Peeta as a tool of propaganda, Katniss agrees to join the revolution in hopes of rescuing him.

This is where the film



A promotional poster for “The Hunger Games: Mockingjay Part 1” Now in theatres.

takes an interesting step away from its predecessors, exchanging action for political intrigue as a team led by Plutarch Heavensbee (portrayed expertly by the late Philip Seymour Hoffman) engages in a propaganda war against the Capitol, using Katniss as the quintessential Joan of Arc of the rebellion. It's amusing to watch a proven actress like Lawrence try her best to be terrible at acting, as the character of Katniss is awful on stage and can only actually be charismatic when thrown into real combat situations. Wonderful performances by Julianne Moore as District 13's president and "Game of Thrones"

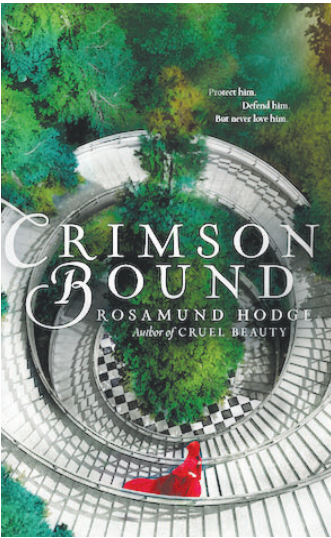
veteran Natalie Dormer as one of the propaganda directors are a great support to the film.

As stated before the film is very clever in portraying a more behind-the-scenes look at how wars are run and coordinated, showing us both the making of propaganda videos and the unifying effects they have on the oppressed people, inspiring thousands to fight back against the government. Unfortunately these wonderful elements are spread very thinly throughout a film that has to drag itself to a two hour runtime. It's clear there just wasn't enough material in the book to justify a two-part film, and this is a blatant

cash-grab on the part of the producers.

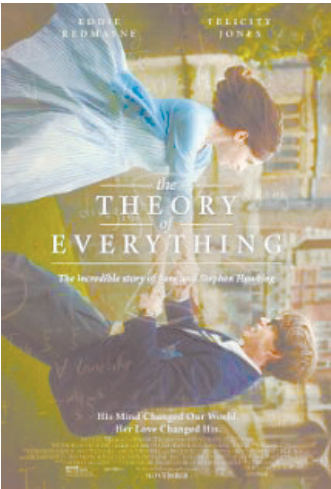
While the feeling you're being exploited leaves a sour taste in the mouth there is still plenty to enjoy in the film, including some fantastic cinematography and a wonderful score. The music in this film clicks perfectly with every emotional moment, and while they are few and far between in the movie they will hit the audience hard when they do appear. Superior to the first film but inferior to the second, "Mockingjay Part 1" is a good prologue for the finale, but isn't recommended to those who didn't enjoy the previous installments.

Books



“Crimson Bound” written by Rosamund Hodge, author of “Cruel Beauty”, is a story inspired by the tale of “Little Red Riding Hood.” Filled with dark magic, love and redemption “Crimson Bound” promises to be a great read. Look for it in your local bookstore or on Kindle in 2015.

Movies



This drama, romance film examines the life of Stephen Hawking (Eddie Redmayne) and his romance with Jane Wilde (Felicity Jones).

Music



“Didn’t it rain,” first released back in 2002, was rereleased this December as a deluxe edition with eight bonus. Didn’t it rain is considered by many critics to be the best rerelease of the year. “Didn’t it Rain” was intended to be the last album of Jason Molina’s folk-rock project Songs: Ohia.



Jennifer Lawrence portrays main character and rebel leader Katniss Everdeen

Sports

Eagles aim for the postseason

BY: **GABRIEL ORTIZ**
Centurion Staff

Headed towards the end of a rollercoaster of a regular season, the Philadelphia Eagles look to keep hold of their division and soar into the postseason.

After feasting on their NFC East rivals, the Dallas Cowboys, on Thanksgiving, the Eagles have been getting ceaseless praise from their fans, and expectations are rising high. However, some fans have quelled their expectations as they look ahead to the remaining Eagles schedule, which includes the 2014 Super Bowl champions, the Seattle Seahawks.

“It’s not even guaranteed that the Eagles will win their division yet, the Cowboys are still only one game back, and they play each other again in a couple of weeks,” said Austin Tolson, 19, a sports management major. “Even if they make it in from the top of their division, the game in Green Bay kind of makes me wonder if they could make it past a legitimate contender.”



Lincoln Financial Field in Philadelphia, home of the Eagles

Other fans however, hold onto the memories of past seasons, where the Eagles exited the regular season with impressive records, but ultimately fell short of their ultimate goal of winning the Super Bowl.

“It feels like déjà vu to me,” said Daryl Moss,

19, a communications major. “Every time the eagles have had a good season, people say this is the year, but if that was the case Donovan McNabb would have some rings.”

According to NFL.com, the Philadelphia Eagles remain one of only 13

NFL franchises to have never won a Super Bowl, but according to some fans that could change. “There’s always a chance we can surprise some people.” said Andrew Flannigan, 18 “To beat Dallas like that is big, and I think that made up for the Green Bay game. Dallas is a really good

team, and we beat them in their stadium, so that says a lot about what we can do in the postseason if we had to play an away game.”

“LeSean McCoy has had a few good games now, so maybe that’ll get him going for the rest of the season and through the postseason. If they are going to go deep into the playoffs, they’re going to need him,” said Tara Kelly, 19, a communications major.

Before the Eagles can begin to focus on the playoffs, they still have to secure their playoff seed. With the Seahawks and Cowboys both fighting for positions in the postseason, as well as teams like the Redskins and Giants looking to play spoilers, the Eagles could fail to clinch a spot.

“We have to hold tough going into the end of the season” said Eagles Head Coach Chip Kelly, according to csnphilly.com. “We still have several games ahead of us that we have to win.”

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