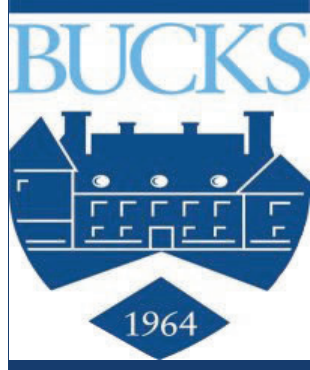


# The Centurion



The Award-Winning, Student-Run Newspaper of Bucks County Community College

Volume 51 Issue 11

Week of April 7, 2016

Bucks-News.com

@Centurion\_Bucks

## Bucks says farewell to Provost Dr. Railey



Dr. Railey in his office

PHOTO CREDIT: RACHEL ZABLOCKI

By RACHEL ZABLOCKI

Centurion Staff

Dr. Clayton Railey III has announced his decision to resign after just two years as Provost and Dean of Academic Affairs.

Railey will be moving back home to Maryland in early June to take care of his father, who is not well.

He said, “I am very happy here and was planning on being here for the duration.”

When he took on the role as Provost at Bucks, his goal was to improve academic affairs. Even though two years is a very brief time, he said there have definitely been some changes.

The one thing Railey will miss most is the faculty, because, “They are so engaged with and dedicated to teaching and learning.”

Railey said he will also miss the deans. “There is a lot of forward thinking among the deans that will keep Bucks moving forward and establish its innovative character and excellence that has been an attribute for Bucks in the past,” said Railey.

When asked about how it has been to work with President Shanblatt, he said, “It has been great because a lot of what has progressed is really her vision.”

“Her vision was very congenial and compatible with my own ideas, so it has been very easy to

work with her and implement her vision of the learning experience at Bucks,” said Railey.

Faculty Union President John Strauss said he, along with many other faculty members, was shocked when he heard the news.

“He is a very industrious man, because of the many ideas he possesses and his commitment to getting things done,” said Strauss.

Strauss said, “What’s even more great, is that he is also a fan of the Grateful Dead.”

In the past two years, Railey and his staff have improved various programs.

The Academic Advising Program, in which he is proudest of, was improved by requiring all degree-seeking students to be advised while organizing their academic plan.

He is most proud of the program because the interaction between faculty and students has “fabulously helped to grow relationships in and out of the classroom.”

Railey’s other goal as Provost was to maintain affordability and quality of education at Bucks by working with the BCCC Foundation.

Even though there is a national decline in the number of enrolled students in college, Railey said “In the past two years, Bucks has witnessed an increase in student retention.”

“The stronger of an advising

program you have, the likelier students are to stay and work towards their goal,” said Railey.

He said, “I feel very strongly about the individuals who cannot afford an education at Bucks because they also deserve to be here.”

“The Foundation has been very generous to provide scholarships and other forms of aid for us to help those students to be here,” said Railey.

Making the Honors-at-Bucks program stronger was another achievement, in which Railey worked very closely with head of the Honors program, Professor Stephen Docarmo.

“We established 13 scholarships for first year honors students, expanded the number of dedicated classes, and expanded the number of transfer agreements with four-year schools,” said Railey.

The transfer agreements allow honors students to finish with Honors-at-Bucks and transfer immediately into the honors program at the four-year institution of their choice.

Although Dr. Railey has only been a member of the Bucks family for a short time, he has made an impact these past two years.

Strauss said, “The search for a new provost should start soon.” After Railey resigns, the Assistant Provost will take on the role until a new Provost is appointed.

## Humane Society aims to involve youth in animal advocacy

By MELISSA COHEN

Centurion Staff

The Humane Society of the United States- Pennsylvania (HSUS) is striving to involve teenagers and young adults in animal advocacy as they launch their annual Humane Lobby Day in Harrisburg.

Each year, animal advocates gather in the Capital building in Harrisburg, Pennsylvania with the Humane Society of the United States, and speak to their State Representatives and State Senators about bills they are trying to pass to help protect animals. This year on April 4, 2016, animal advocates will again meet with affiliates of the HSUS and lobby for animals in the Harrisburg Capital.

Kristen Tullo, the Pennsylvania State Director for HSUS, is hoping that teenagers and young adults will also attend Lobby Day and help put an end to many “inhumane” animal practices that are occurring in their state. “By having young adults and teenagers attend Lobby Day, we can pair them up with people who have had prior experience and are well versed in advocacy”, Tullo states, “People with experience can help create a cohesive animal protection network across the state of Pennsylvania.”

Recently, Tullo visited A. Phillip Randolph Career and Technical High School in Philadelphia,

Pennsylvania, and spoke with the student council at the school, which is run by U.S. History Teacher, Mrs. Ellen Cohen. This year will mark the third year Ellen Cohen has been attending Humane Lobby Day with her Student Council so they can learn how to effectively advocate for animals and work with their state lawmakers to help pass laws.

Tullo mentions that each of these students was an inspiration to her as animal lovers and advocates, and she would not be surprised if they become politicians when they grow up.

“When each of the students were introducing themselves to me and explaining different animal issues, they understood why it’s important to have animals included in their everyday lives. They are wise beyond their years”, Tullo concludes.

Christopher Kradzinski is one of the student council students at A. Phillip Randolph Technical and Career High School and has been attending Lobby Day in Harrisburg for the past three years. He mentions that his favorite part of attending Lobby Day is being given the chance to speak to his legislators about the bills HSUS and animal advocates like him are trying to help pass.

“I have learned that in order to get a bill passed, you have to be willing to speak to your State Representatives and Senators”,



Kristen Tullo of the Humane Society of the United States with Philadelphia Teacher Ellen Cohen and A. Phillip Randolph Career and Technical High School Student Council

PHOTO CREDIT: MELISSA COHEN

Christopher Kradzinski states, “I have enjoyed speaking to mostly all of my legislators who have helped vote on bills we may have mentioned to them when we were

speaking to them during Lobby Day”.

Christopher Kradzinski also mentions that he feels it is important to be able to effectively speak

to state representatives and senators at a young age and legislators may be more willing to support.

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# Bucks News

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## Letters to the editor:

Email your letters to :

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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.

## EVENTS

### April 8

Tibetan Monks Residency  
April 4-8, Solarium  
Newtown Campus

### April 9

Men’s Golf @ Rosemont  
College 11:00 am @ Hon-  
eybrook Golf Course

### April 10

Men’s Golf @ Rosemont  
College 11:00 am @ Hon-  
eybrook Golf Course

### April 14

Men’s Tennis vs. Mercer  
3:30 pm, Bucks Tennis  
Courts

Baseball vs. Northampton  
3:30 pm Centurion Field

### April 15

Men’s Golf @ Lehigh  
Carbon

10:30 am @ Olde Home-  
stead Golf Course

### April 17

Baseball @ Atlantic Cape  
(DH)  
12:00 pm (Away)

### April 18

American Red Cross  
Blood Drive 10:00 am to  
3:00 pm; LBC Student  
Commons

### April 19

Baseball @ Luzerne 4:00  
pm (Away)

### April 23

BUX Fest 2016  
12:00 to 7:00 pm; Links  
Pavilion Quad

# Humane society aims to innvolve youth in animal advocacy

*Continued from pg. 1*

“If you convince your legisla-  
tors at a young age, such as 15  
years old and in student council  
like me to support animal friendly  
Bills, it will say something about  
the importance of animals lives  
and why people should care about  
them”, Christopher states.

Elissa Katz, is a lawyer in  
Pennsylvania who is also the  
President of Humane PA, the  
“Political Voice for Animals” and  
agrees that it is the young adults  
and teenagers who make a signi-  
ficant impact on their lawmakers  
and legislators. “Often times, a  
young person has a perspective  
that is fresh and not yet jaded,  
which can have a huge influence  
on others”, Katz declares, “It is  
important for legislators to see  
that the humane treatment of  
animals is an important issue to  
people of all ages, even those who  
are currently too young to vote.”

“Maybe the exposure to go-  
vernment will interest one of the  
young adults to ultimately run for  
office! People are very disillusion-  
ed with the political process,  
and it’s young people who are the  
future”, Heidi Prescott, the Senior  
Vice President of Campaigns for  
the Humane Society of the United  
States, adds. “Policymaking is a  
tortuously long process, but it is  
worth the investment when a good  
bill is signed into law.”

Amongst the bills being menti-  
oned this year during Lobby Day  
are Senate Bill 977 and House  
Bill 1516: Pets in Hot Cars which  
is both a Senate and House Bill  
and will fine people who leave  
their animals in their cars. If  
an animal is found in a hot car  
unattended, police can remove  
the animal from the car if they

have reasonable suspicion that  
the animal’s health is in danger,  
According to Kristen Tullo, “We  
need the bill to go into effect now  
because the summer is close by  
and shelters need to prepare.”

Another bill that is being  
pushed this year is Angel’s  
Law (House Bill 113) which is  
working to enforce stricter laws  
in Pennsylvania than are already  
in place for any acts of cruelty  
against an animal. Tullo mentions  
that Equine Protection is now  
being pushed for in this bill.

For Christopher Krazindski,  
however, he mentions that he ho-  
pes to see the Anti-Tethering Bill;  
Senate Bill 373, which is held up  
in the House Judiciary Committee  
presently, passed this year. This  
bill will prevent the tethering of a  
dog outside on a leash or chain.

“For this bill animal advocates  
are looking for non-choke collars  
and to prevent the 24/7 tethering  
of a dog. We have certain ele-  
ments in place to help protect the  
dogs”, Kristen Tullo states.

“These bills are important  
because the animals associated  
with these bills can die if they  
are not protected”, Christopher  
Krazindski explains.

In addition, the HSUS, along  
with other fellow advocates, are  
working to see that an end is put  
to Live Pigeon Shoots in Pennsyl-  
vania and are asking Pennsylvania  
citizens to call their legislators  
and ask them to support Senate  
Bill 715.

This is a bill that Kristen Tullo,  
Elissa Katz and Heidi Prescott  
are hoping will finally pass this  
year, after 26 years of dying on  
the House floor. The bill prohibits  
the launching of pigeons for target  
practices.

“The time has come to end the-

se horrific contests that have no  
place in our society. It came close  
last year after passing the senate  
36-12, so now is the time to take  
it over the finish line”, Heidi  
Prescott includes. “We need to  
work together strongly and work  
hard to match the effort of the  
NRA to kill it. It is not enough to  
call one time on this one; we need  
sustained pressure.”

Elissa Katz mentions that  
young adults and teenagers who  
are attending Lobby Day can help  
see that this bill passes by sharing  
their personal stories of how these  
shoots affect their own lives.

“A characteristic of live pigeon  
shoots is the use of youngsters  
to gather and kill the wounded  
birds”, Katz asserts. “A young  
person talking to their legislators  
can describe how it makes them  
sad and troubled to know that  
their peers are being taught to be  
hard and cruel to animals.”

In addition, Katz also maintains,  
“They can tell their legislators  
that they have the power to make  
the state better for young people  
and that they hope that they will  
exercise that power responsibly.”

According to Heidi Prescott  
and Humane PA, when meeting  
with your state legislators, you  
should come prepared because  
you have a small amount of time  
to get your points across to your  
legislators, arrive early for your  
appointment as a legislator’s  
schedule can be challenging and last  
minute changes can be expected,  
as well as being professional and  
friendly.

“I think it is critically important  
for young people and teenagers  
to attend Humane lobby day.  
By attending Lobby Day, these  
young people will be informed  
and educated voters when they

turn 18. They will also have had  
the opportunity to be exposed  
at ground level to advocacy for  
animals and public policy”, says  
Elissa Katz.

According to Christopher  
Krazindski, “As a Pennsylvania  
citizen who cares about animals, it  
is important to attend Lobby Day  
because you are given the oppor-  
tunity to speak with your repre-  
sentatives and senators about bills  
and make the situation the bill  
focuses on illegal so that people  
who mistreat animals can pay the  
price. For issues such as Pigeon  
Shooting, it is important to me as  
a state citizen because these ani-  
mals did not do anything to harm  
anyone else unless they see you as  
a threat or they are confused.”

Elissa Katz gives another reason  
why young adults and teenag-  
ers should attend Lobby Day:  
“its fun! Humane Lobby Day is  
a wonderful opportunity to be  
exposed to the legislative process  
and how state politics work in  
Pennsylvania.”

Animal advocates with the  
HSUS are hoping to bring to the  
attention of young adults and  
teenagers, many of the issues con-  
cerning animals during Humane  
Lobby Day. They are also hoping  
that these teens and young adults  
attending Lobby Day will spread  
the word about many of the bills  
animal advocates are trying to  
pass.

“Keeping the next generation  
of experienced leaders in animal  
advocacy is important”, Kristen  
Tullo states, “We need animal  
friendly leaders, and students like  
the ones in student council at A.  
Phillip Randolph Career and Tech  
are our future leaders.”

**BY: BROOKE KOBLE**

*Centurion Staff*

Accomplished pianist, Tom  
Lawton, and his sextet will be  
making an appearance at Bucks  
on April 20 at 7:30 p.m. in the  
Zlock Performing Arts Center  
with their inspiration sprouting  
from the artwork of Man Ray.

Lawton said, “I was jointly  
commissioned by the Philadelphia  
Jazz Project and the Philadelphia  
Museum of Art to compose a  
suite inspired by the visual art  
of Man Ray. This was premiered  
at the Philadelphia Art Museum  
this past November and the BC3  
concert will be the second public

performance”.

Lawton described his style as  
“eclectic” with the music but  
more “avant-garde” in his writing.  
He does many swing gigs, but has  
roots in the tradition of jazz. He  
has been on the Philadelphia jazz  
scene for about 40 years.

Lawton is often chosen to play  
at social functions for the Phila-  
delphia Orchestra.

He has played at Bucks numer-  
ous times as well as performing  
in New York City with the Odean  
Pope Quartet, in the past.

Lawton has even played around  
the world in places such as Paris,  
Zurich, Milan, and Finland.

# Samantha Jo Dato vists Bucks’ Open Door Club

**BY: NOAH SANTOSSUSO**

*Centurion Staff*

On April 2, people came to  
Bucks to hear Samantha Jo Dato,  
a transwoman of  
color, speak in the Orangery.  
Dato oversees the Philadelphia  
Trans-Health Conference and  
is a co-owner of Hope After 20  
Publications.

She will be releasing her book  
on April 24 called “Sami Jo Shat-  
tered Perfect.” It is the first of a  
three-part series.

Dato opened her speech by de-  
scribing who she was - a femme  
fatal, a dove and a trans woman of  
color. She then asked the audience  
who they were.

Tony Clark, one of the pres-  
idents of the Open Door Club,  
said he was a transman. Other  
audience members stood up and  
talked about who they were and  
why they were there. Some were  
a part of the LGBTQ community  
and some were allies.

Dato, an inspirational speaker,  
spoke of the trials she has faced in  
her life. She spoke of her per-  
sonal growth and said, “there’s  
always work to be done within  
ourselves.”

Dato said it is a constant strug-  
gle with others, especially family,

to help them understand who she  
really is. It doesn’t just end with  
one conversation about coming  
out. It is a continual process. Dato  
said to remember that these peo-  
ple do love you, they just don’t  
understand, but will in time.

She also described what and  
how to be an ally of transgen-

dered people. Her advice to lies  
was to “check your privilege” and  
to listen and ask questions; offer  
helpful and positive questions, not  
hurtful, unnecessary questions.

Dato said there is no competi-  
tion for what constitutes a good  
ally; an ally is just a person who  
talks positively on your behalf,

whether that means using the  
right pronouns or just not being  
insulting.

She concluded her speech by  
talking about her book and then  
took pictures with various mem-  
bers of the Open Door Club.



*Samantha Jo Dato with members of Open Door Club*

PHOTO CREDIT: NOAH SANTOSSUSO



# Different Relationships in a Different Age

## Centurion staff members take on relationships in the modern age

By: LAUREN SAVANA  
Centurion Staff

In the digital age, as a society we’ve become hyper-connected, with social lives based on swiping left or right, likes, and follows. This has created new challenges and new barriers to break down. With a collection of stories we call “Different Relationships in a Different Age,” we dive into the current state of specific relationships, between children and electronics, men and women, gay and transgender, student and teacher.

We approached these topics with sensitivity, breaking down how certain relationships have evolved, while others have become disconnected, impersonal and hard to maintain. The package examines the practice of catfishing, profiling a man who creates an altered personality to meet multiple women. Others, however, find solace and soul-mates in the cyber dating world. Another story dives into the struggles of dating in the LGBT community and how online dating has quickly become a successful outlet and resource. That’s followed by a profile of a young woman who in recent years has gone through the transition from man to woman. The article probes the changes in the relationship you have with yourself and its importance in today’s disconnected society. Another article aimed specifically at college students examines the relationship between professor and student in the framework of online courses. Such courses may be helpful to some but too impersonal for those who need face-to-face interactions. Finally, we look at the relationship between children and their electronic devices, and how this has quickly changed not just childhood but the idea of friendship.

These stories discuss, debate, and analyze many forms of relationships. Let them serve as a reminder that human interactions are all we have left to keep us truly connected.

## Online dating: Scoundrels, savages, stalkers, and soul mates

By: GEORGE MEANS  
Centurion Staff

“Looking for a sweet, funny, goal-oriented white girl, that doesn’t use tobacco or drugs, has a great sense of humor and quick wit, is receptive to my affection, loves to kiss, loves kids, is okay with me bringing home rescued animals, and can put up with me, as I am a huge dork and, sometimes, nerd.” Rod, 31, doesn’t volunteer at an animal shelter or even work at a veterinarian hospital. He may have brought home a baby squirrel in the past couple of months, but he is certainly not a modern day “Doctor Doolittle.” It is actually quite appropriate that this is an excerpt from Rod’s inactive profile on the popular dating site, Plenty of Fish, because he is undoubtedly fishing with a lure. He brings the term “catfishing” to a whole new level. While he isn’t completely lying; he is most definitely manipulating.



keywords that she has used in her profile to increase the chances of a suggested match. “Five out of fifteen times the girl will message me,” he estimates. While he has had incredible success with meeting females, approximately one a week, Rod has lowered his standards to achieve these numbers. “Getting an ugly girl still validates me,” Rod openly admits. He describes himself as a “self serving scoundrel” and a “sexual sadist,” but he justifies his actions saying, “I’m not physically hurting anybody.”

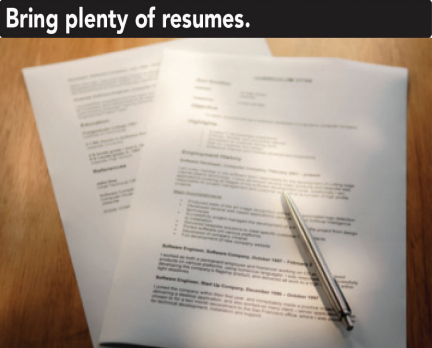
What exactly becomes “abnormal” behavior when we display our personal information on public profiles? Anna, a 26 year-old graduate of Bucks, was very reluctant to be interviewed. She said she doesn’t have much experience with these sites, but she still occasionally talks to a guy who found her on a free dating app, Plenty of Fish. They began talking after, we’ll call him Jerry, came across her profile and recognized her from the bus they often rode together. Jerry then visited her Instagram profile which was listed in her POF (Plenty of Fish) profile information. From there, Jerry learned Anna’s last name and was able to send her a friend request on Facebook. If this isn’t creepy enough, Anna suspects that a few other random friend requests have come this way. “I am definitely cautious with it though,” assures Anna. Anna has a couple of friends who have found love on dating sites and weren’t ashamed to admit that this is how they met. She believes that it is slowly becoming more of a norm in our society. “When they (dating apps) first started, everyone thought it was so dangerous and strange,” Anna adds, “Of course, it still can be.”

Julie has a 27-year-old brother who met his girlfriend of two years on Tinder and she expects they will get married. Although she has even met a few friends this way, she feels, “You have to be willing to lie about it if you want a relationship out of a Tinder match.” She estimates that there is a 50/50 chance of finding a decent person on Tinder. “There are genuine people on there, but there are also complete savages,” explains Julie. Julie believes that Tinder’s hookups are very common for “that one-night stand in college.” She says, “Other sites are more for finding relationships.” She realizes the dangers and down-sides to online dating; especially for girls. “Girls want a lovey-dovey relationship and guys just want to hook up. It’s our culture,” Julie says. “It’s this generation.” Julie’s 50/50 estimate may be about right. Rod admits, “There are soul mates on these sites, but I’m not that person.” His extremely calculated trickeries most likely only make up a very small percentage of users. It appears that Anna’s stalkers may be a slightly more common and, of course, there are countless other men out there willing to mislead women for a one-night stand. But Anna and Julie’s friends and family are evidence that not all internet meet ups are fly-by-night relationships. “Fly-by-night” is the perfect terminology to use in this situation, because these online interactions resemble business ventures in many ways. There is a potential for profit with these exchanges, but there are also many inherent risks for the people investing their time.

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# Job Fair

Thursday  
April 21, 2016  
11:30 a.m. to  
1:30 p.m.

Linksz Pavilion  
Newtown Campus  
275 Swamp Road  
Newtown, PA 18940



## Different Relationships in a Different Age

# The struggles of the dating world in the LGBT community

**BY: CRYSTAL STOUT**

### Centurion Staff

Jane Doe, whose name has been changed to protect her identity, is a 20 year old lesbian who was in a parking lot one day with her sister, when they heard angry shouting.

"I heard a group of boys yell 'hey f\*\*\*\*\*!' at her because of her shaved head or floral pants. Sometimes I hear my peers at school say that word as well and I feel unsafe."

LGBT people face this sort of harassment often. In a society rampant with homophobia, dating can be an especially perilous endeavor for members of the LGBT community. Luckily for these people, we live in an age brimming with dating apps and social media which have made LGBT dating and socializing significantly easier.

The world has come a long way since the days of viewing homosexuality as a mental illness, yet prejudice still lingers in the hearts and minds of many. Although some have adopted a more accepting and open minded attitude, others still are made highly uncomfortable by even being around someone with a nonconventional sexuality. This discomfort can even reach levels where it results in violence or harassment against LGBT people.

This can make life, and especially dating, a struggle. “In real life it’s hard to be out to everyone because of fear of stigma and safety concerns.” Says Doe.

Some people are frightened to even reveal their sexualities to their close friends, for fear of not being accepting, let alone announce themselves in a crowded bar in the slim hope of finding a likeminded partner. They're more likely to be met with scowls, questioning glances, and whispered remarks. In this sort of climate, LGBT people can find it very difficult to put themselves out there openly enough to meet a romantic interest. For this, Doe says she goes "online to make friends with other LGBT people."

“Some people are out online but not to their friends or parents in real life. Some of my family isn’t, or wouldn’t be if they know about my identity, exactly accepting

The Internet can give anonymity that makes people feel safer expressing themselves about this issue online," says Doe.

Gay bars can sometimes provide safe and fun meeting places for LGBT people. Unfortunately, even these have their flaws. Most gay bars and clubs are aimed towards homosexual men. Homosexual women who go to these places are often assumed to be the heterosexual friends of the gay males.

Women who frequent gay bars are also likely to become the targets of male predators, who see the places as great places to pick up women, with the lack of straight male competition.

With very few places catering specifically to lesbians, and gay bars being somewhat unsafe, LGBT people seeking partners are left with few options besides dating apps and social media.

It's almost impossible to own a computer or smart phone and not have heard of apps such as Tinder, Grindr, OkCupid, or MeetMe. With an estimated 50 million users, Tinder has proven to be the most popular dating app of the age. It mostly caters to heterosexuals, though users can edit their settings to search for men, women, or both.

The LGBT specific counterpart to Tinder is an app called Grindr. But Grindr is aimed at homosexual males, leaving out lesbians. Attempts to make an app for gay women were never quite as



PHOTO CREDIT: WIKIMEDIACOMMONS.COM

successful, due to similar issues as those seen in gay bars. "I also heard that there were attempts to make a lesbian equivalent of Grindr but too many straight men preyed on it," explains Marni Kessler, a bisexual female who has faced the gauntlet of online dating, with limited success.

"I mostly get requests from men asking for threeways but it is easier to find some girls who might be interested in women than it would be without the sites," she says. Despite all of the "racist men, gross men, desperate men and sexist men" that women are met with on these apps, they do allow for ease of communication.

For Tyler Roney, an asexual male who identifies as female, it isn't that difficult to meet other LGBT people "mostly because all of my friends are one of those. We tend to clump together. People tend to stay with people that have similar experiences as them. It's probably an acceptance thing."

Roney has accepting friends who are all over the LGBT spectrum, but not all people are that lucky. Even within the LGBT community, there are stigmas that can make dating difficult.

Kessler recited some of the stereotypes she has faced against people of her sexuality. "Bisexuals are greedy, going to cheat, confused, looking for attention, or only useful for threeways."

Some people, both straight and LGBT, refuse to even acknowledge bisexuality.

With setbacks at every turn, it's easy to see why many LGBT people turn to dating apps. "You can't really network like straight people can. I never went to any school LGBT clubs or get-togethers because I don't want to have to lie to my mom to attend them. That makes it hard to find other gay people," says Doe.

Online, the ability to specify exactly what gender someone is seeking allows easy access to like-minded people. Women seeking women will find other lesbians. Men seeking men will find other gay men. Modern dating has taken the questioning out of being gay, eliminating the stressful moment of meeting a beautiful person and having to wonder about their sexuality.

Many apps, Tinder and Grindr included, work by matching the user with only other local users. This allows people to find others nearby without the hassle of seeking out gay venues.

Doe explains that “because LGBT people are a minority group it’s harder to find someone you click with in your area because there just aren’t as many people.” Location-based apps help this issue greatly. People can

also feel more comfortable about their gender identity and sexuality on a dating profile than they could in a real life situation.

Modern technology has really eased some of the struggles faced by members of the LGBT community who are trying to find success in the dating world. Yet,

there are always improvements  
that can be made.

Roney, as a non-cisgendered person, spoke out about the transphobia found even within the LGBT community, saying “transphobia is especially prevalent within the community.”

A lot of it I see on tumblr (a


blogging site well known for its largely LGBT user base) and mostly it was from lesbians that don't acknowledge trans women as "real" women." With these sorts of opinions floating about society, it is easy to see why it is especially difficult for LGBT to meet others comfortably in public

Although they absolute ease the dating process, to truly end the challenges faced by LGBT people, dating apps needs to become more inclusive of all genders and sexualities, while the members of society need to be more accepting of noncisgendered or nonheterosexual people.

Unfortunately, this is not the kind of change that can simply come from an app developer. Roney summed up the issue perfectly, saying, “For anything like that to change we’d need to advance as a culture and society first if you ask me.”

Dating apps and internet sites, while they have their flaws, have proved to be great helps to LGBT who are trying to network themselves and join the dating scene. One can only hope that, as society progresses, LGBT people will find themselves comfortable enough to no longer have to hide their identities behind a keyboard. Until that day, dating sites and apps are only a click away.



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# Different Relationships in a Different Age

## Transgender woman redefines the most important relationship of all



PHOTO CREDIT: LAUREN SAVANA

**BY: LAUREN SAVANA**  
*Centurion Staff*

As I drive to meet my interviewee, there are a thousand thoughts running through my head - mainly concern over saying the wrong thing, using the wrong words, or offending unintentionally. Images of David Bowie dressed in his women’s glam cabaret attire, and the film I’ve just seen, “The Danish Girl,” flash through my head.

There is one priority; going into this interview with an open mind, ready to interview a woman who has, in the past three years, gone through the transition from man to woman.

Pulling into the driveway, stomach filled with butterflies, I am preparing myself to have a conversation with a woman I’ve known for quite some time. But this is still a first in our relationship.

Now, we’re going to talk about a delicate, significant topic; we’re about to discuss anything and everything about being trans.

I sit down across from Tessa, in the attic of the three-story house that’s carefully tucked into the landscape of Buckingham; an adorable Airedale stretches out across the hardwood floors. Tessa’s childhood home gives off nothing but warmth and comfort, obviously the best place for a conversation such as this one.

Subtle music comes from the speakers around us, as Tessa begins to tell her story. “You always hear about the typical trans story, where the boy or girl had this awful upbringing, and sh---y adolescence, but that wasn’t the case for me at all.”

Tessa grew up, as the youngest of three boys, with two committed, accepting, parents who never enforced gender stereotypes.

It was a tight-knit family, the kind most dream of having. She recalls when she came out, “It was 10th grade, I had nothing but love and support from my parents.”

Despite coming out as a gay man, Tessa realized her mindset was about more than just being attracted to men. Something was just different.

“It was a strong feeling, and I didn’t have the language to express it or really understand it.”

Tessa was aware of this throughout her high school years but her full epiphany didn’t come

until she graduated and continued on to college.

Tessa left for Chicago an eager and curious freshman.

After she met her significant other, John, she continued to meet other people, and things began to change. She realized she wasn’t being seen the way she wanted to be viewed.

“The way I viewed myself in my head was very different then the way I was being portrayed to the world.”

This sparked the match that led to a series of realizations about who Tessa already was, but never was able to be seen.

“Sexuality is who you go to bed with, gender is who you go to bed as,” Tessa says matter-of-factly.

As David Bowie once said, “Gender is between your ears not your legs,” gender is open to interpretation and it’s just in recent years that finally there is a dialogue about this opening up.

The National Center for Transgender Equality and the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force, did a study in 2014, finding that out of 6,450 individuals affiliated with being transgender, 71 percent of those people hid their gender or gender transition to try to avoid discrimination and 57 percent delayed their transition for the same reason.

“Sexuality is so much easier to figure out then gender,” Tessa tells me. As Tessa began to do substantial amounts of research, and had conversations with friends throughout her senior year of college, she reached the conclusion that she wanted to start the transition to become a woman.

Naturally, questions started to come up about the medical process, hormones, surgeries and what it would entail. Tessa looks up, “Well yes, I take hormones, and we can talk about the medical process if you want, but you should realize that’s one millionth of the whole transition.”

Coming to terms with that is hard for those that identify themselves as gay or straight, not comprehending that transitioning from a gender, isn’t just about the physical changes.

Uniquely for Tessa said she had nothing but positive reactions from friends and family.

Her two older brothers, David and Christopher, are happy to have a sister.

Tessa’s longstanding relationship with John never faltered because of this change. John

identified as pansexual from the beginning of their relationship.

“We consider each others soul mates, best friends, we’re in love with the people we are, not the gender we identify with.”

She recalls telling her grandpar-

ents on her mother’s side. With such a large generation gap some might think it would be hard for them to understand.

“I remember Meme saying, ‘In all I’ve learned in my life, it doesn’t matter what people think of you.’”

So Tessa started “monin” (slang for using hormones) which started the social and physical change.

The social change being how she was viewed by the world, and more importantly the change in the relationship she had with herself.

Tessa before her transition reached model status at 6 feet tall, rocked dirty blonde hair; the wardrobe and attitude are really the only things that have changed.

Tessa walks with a swagger that all notice when she walks by, something she’s always had, now with more confidence and a feminine touch.

Living in New York City for a couple of years has provided her with a cosmopolitan fashion sense.

Tessa has always had this person inside her, now she’s able to freely express it. As the transition continued, she noticed how specifically women started to look at her differently, positively and negatively.

“As a gay man, women tended to immediately want to become best friends and treat you like a girlfriend, but now my female friends have started to realize that I understand typical female things I didn’t understand before, it’s become more like a sisterhood,” Tessa explains.

It’s been known that women are in constant competition with one another. So when another woman gets added into the mix, females can be down right vicious. Tessa is starting to get a taste of that, even with just a subtle glance on the street.

Tessa continues on about the dating world and the stereotypes of dating straight men and how sometimes it’s fitting and other times not so much, but the dating world is still very different being a woman.

Though Tessa has for now decided not to go through any surgeries and isn’t sure if she will need or want to take hormones forever, she can confidently say she’s happy.

Though is the process ever over? I begin to ask the question, though I realize before I’m even finished the thought, are any of us ever done growing, are any of us ever done making mistakes, learning, changing?

“It’s a lot about self reliance and I’m still learning,” Tessa responds, humbly. It’s an ongoing process. If the world continues to progress and evolve, so will the people, and maybe society will learn to open up to gender fluidity and give every individual the opportunity to be who they want to be, sexual preference, gender, ethnicity, aside.

That would give those like Tessa the opportunity to explore the most exciting, challenging, and significant relationship of all, the one you have with yourself.

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# Different Relationships in a Different Age

## New technology helps make online learning more personal



A student and professor discuss their course.  
PHOTO CREDIT: GEORGE MEANS

BY: ANGELA GRABOSKY  
Centurion Staff

Diamond Schuler, a journalism major at Bucks, is taking four online classes at once. At any given moment of the day she has Canvas open on her iPhone or iPad. Even when she was at a restaurant for her boyfriend’s birthday, she could casually work on her midnight deadline. She does this because Bucks sometimes doesn’t have traditional courses that fit into her busy schedule.

She loves that she can work on her classes on her phone no matter where she is, even though online classes can be overwhelming. Without seeing her teachers she has to rely on email, and it’s hard to ask classmates for help since she usually doesn’t know who is in her class. But it’s all about time management.

Schuler has had her share of stressful online classes. She took a creative writing course over the summer and it was too fast-paced and mind boggling. Thankfully the professor made himself accessible and they met face-to-face even in the middle of the summer.

Every online teacher Schuler has had has been extremely thorough and helpful, but “it definitely is weird that I’ve never met some of those teachers face-to-face, like if I saw them on campus one day I wouldn’t even know who they were,” she said.

Online classes are big and here to stay. Bucks’ first distance learning class started in 1994. Online classes started in 1998 with a learning management system called Alta Vista Forum. Today,

27 percent of the seats taken at Bucks classes are online. The majority of those students take combo classes. Online classes are customizable, with no set formula. Each instructor can adapt their course to suit their needs and teaching style.

Online classes have become more popular because of their flexibility. Students love not having to drive to class and being able to do their lessons on their own time. It saves time, gas, and is convenient for students who do not own their own cars. Outside commitments like work and family can get in the way of attending traditional classes. Whether you have to raise kids, take care of a sick relative, work full time, or just fit that final class in your schedule, online classes online classes can make school more doable.

Psychology Professor Caroline Genevose has been both a student and teacher of online hybrid courses. She loved the independence online courses gave her. “However, it required more effort to demonstrate that I understood the material via tangible evidence (not simply raising my hand and sharing points of interests), it taught me how to prioritize tasks, research topics, and gain a clearer understanding of my peers’ varying points of interests. I believe online students experience many of the same benefits as I did.”

While online learning has many advantages, some are concerned that such courses don’t provide the same social experience as face-to-face classes. Some feel like face-to-face classes provide

more of an “experience” and more memorable moments from person to person.

Composition Professor David Bates has never taught an online class and does not want to. He said that online classes provide opportunities to many people who could not otherwise pursue an education, but that they make student-teacher relationships more abstract. Bates said an online course would make it more difficult for him to gauge a student’s individual needs. He likes to be able to see small gestures like hand movements and vocalized metaphors.

Some students feel the same way.

“There is no face-to-face. There isn’t a relationship (with teachers) except email and I never emailed online instructors,” said 24-year-old nursing major Samantha Szymanek. As for her relationship with her peers there was none; she never talked to them. “When I took a class I just kind of did work and got it done,” she said.

James Goldstein, a 20-year-old nursing major, said he prefers face-to-face interactions and does not even like social media. He is in a combo class that meets once a week, “I think it kinda...takes it (the relationships) further apart because you’re not seeing them as often, just communicating online.”

“You can actually see their (your peer’s) face, you can make friends more easily face to face. Online you don’t know who they are, don’t have much of a connection,” said Ashley Milnes, 19, a Graphic Design major.

But it does not have to be this way, according to some Bucks faculty and staff. “Relationships don’t have to change between students and a professor. Online students can still meet with and talk to their instructors face-to-face or virtually,” said Samantha Gross, Dean of Social and Behavioral Science.

“It’s obvious that as humans we are so much more than what we post, what our profile picture portrays, and the clothes we wear,” said Genevose. “I want students to know that I am approachable and wish to give them a positive experience with conflict. Often, if a student emails an issue that is not concrete or simple to answer, I will invite them to talk about it in person.”

Students can also email professors about personal issues that need to be addressed in the classroom. Genevose used transgender students as an example. If

a transgender student emailed her about using a different name than registered with the school she can make that adjustment and grant them privacy. She wants students feel comfortable in the classroom so they can focus on success.

In fact, online courses can actually make it easier for some students to interact. Face-to-face classes tend to cater to the outgoing, the confident. Shy students can feel shut out, or be punished with low class participation grades. For these students, writing on an online discussion removes the nervous stutters and anxiety.

“For the student who is less likely to speak out in class... it’s not quite anonymity... you find that the quieter students feel more empowered, less intimidated by other students,” said Georglyn Davidson, director of Virtual Campus/Online Learning at Bucks.

Szymanek said, “Online learning is for some people and not others. People learn differently, like how some people are visual learners.”

Sarah Alu, 21, a fine arts major, believes that tech-savvy students tend to shine brighter in online courses. Stubborn students beware; it is harder for online teachers tell if you are struggling until it’s too late. It’s up to you to ask for help. It can be hard to admit that you are struggling but it’s better than getting a D.

Professor Bates thinks personality type does not matter in this situation, “Yes, some people are more extroverted. Some people are more introverted. But that’s not the point. To be able to function effectively in any human environment you need to be able to communicate successfully, effectively, and this takes practice, whether you like it or not.”

Communication issues worry some students. If the internet goes down, there can be a struggle to balance schedules for group projects. Teachers’ directions can be confusing and you might have to wait hours to get an answer for a simple question.

Milne thinks face-to-face interactions are better for immediate questions. “If you need help with a technique that you want to see visually, the teacher can’t show you, and you need to look up a video instead. It’s more distant. You still get the same amount of attention but have a little restraint. When you ask questions you can’t show, explain,” she said.

Davidson had a different take. “Any time you communicate in writing or email you can’t see

emotion, what the person looks like and their body language. I won’t say it (miscommunication) is more common but unless people are careful about it it can occur.”

To succeed in online courses, students have to stay on task and be self-motivated. Some students struggle because, “It is easy to say I’ll get to that later, I’ll get that later, I’ll get to that later,” said Davidson.

It’s critical for online students to be hyper aware of due dates and tech issues. They need to build a system to balance school and outside commitments.

Genevose recalled, “I’ve had students schedule vacation during an online course, only to find out that their destination did not allow for internet service, or they forgot their laptop, or assumed the canvas app would work perfectly all the time. These are simple mistakes that must be avoided or attended to ensure online success and that burden falls on the student.”

For those who are concerned, Davidson predicts a positive future. Online learning has already come a long way since its infancy 20 years ago. The basic core functions of early online management systems are still there. “However, now the systems can do so much more,” said Davidson.

Video and audio can be easily integrated into course work and teacher feedback. The system is compatible with mobile devices and external apps can be worked into classes. Teachers can grade assignments online instead of going through the hassle of downloading, grading, and uploading again. Group spaces and online tools make it easier for group work to be done at a distance.

Davidson summarized, “When taken advantage of, all of these changes, and more, have definitely contributed to breaking down barriers that in the past may have had students feeling more isolated. So, as technology has advanced, so have the opportunities to more easily create online classes where students feel they are part of a vibrant learning community and not just an individual working his/her way through a subject.”

We already have the tools to make it work. As instructors become more comfortable with media tools it will help lessen some of the disconnect. Online learning will continue to improve just as it has for the past 20 years.



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# Different Relationships in a Different Age

## Connected to electronics, and disconnected from childhood



PHOTO CREDIT: WIKIMEDIACOMMONS.COM

**BY: DIAMOND SCHULER**  
*Centurion Staff*

On any given day, Kiyah, a Bensalem school district fourth grader, spends hours mesmerized by the images on her fancy tablet. “I spend so much time on my tablet at least 5 or 6 hours a day. I’m always finding new stuff it’s addicting,” she admits.

She continued saying, “I use it in the morning when I wake up, and as soon as I’m done my homework after school it’s the first thing I grab.”

Kiyah is not alone. Millions of grade-schoolers and teenagers all over the world continue to have their faces buried in some type of electronic device, tuning out the world around them.

The most common image seen in 2016 are people surrounded by one another, not saying a word because they’re on some type of electronics, and it seems that children are becoming more infected by the electronic bug.

For children nowadays, hanging out with friends means sitting at someone’s house or in a public place staring at the screen of a device, not interacting with those around you.

The word “addictive” that Kiyah uses is the best way to describe it. We are a society that is in love with, and maybe unhealthily attached to, our electronics.

Recently The Kaiser Family Foundation conducted a survey with children ages eight to 18 years old. The survey found that on average they spend seven hours and 38 minutes a day using some type of electronic entertainment.

This number is almost four times the American Academy of Pediatrics recommended two hours per day of screen time for kids ages 3-18.

The average screen time in 1995 was just above the recommended two hours per day, at only three hours.

Electronic use continues to grow rapidly among youth because of its accessibility and convenience.

It’s so easy for kids to access technology nowadays, one would think that kids are almost born with the knowledge of how to work it.

At toddler ages, kids are now able to work electronics on their own.

Being so wrapped up in the electronic world, kids seem to be missing out on the wonders of the world outside of that small screen.

Social and Behavioral Sciences Professor Max Probst says, “Kids are most likely spending more time with electronics compared

to when I was a kid because there are more opportunities to do so.” He continued, “I think kids are impacted by their social environment so if the rest of their cohort are spending a lot of time on the computer, they are more likely to.”

Probst makes a very valid point. During adolescence kids are much more likely to follow the crowd, so if their friends are glued to the electronic screen, so are they.

“I like videogames so I do spend a lot of time on that. But I’m not one of those kids that texts 24/7.

I actually hardly ever text,” said Pennsbury School District eighth grader Christian. He added, “My friends and I play Xbox live a lot, so we’ll all talk on there and compete with each other online.”

Experts, such as Probst, and even parents seem to think that kids haven’t completely lost touch with the non-electronic world yet.

Susan Carabello, a mother of two children in the Pennsbury School District, says, “I can honestly say when it comes to my boy’s friends, when the weather is nice, we hardly see them inside.” She laughed and continued saying, “I always joke around and say that I should move to Florida because then my kids would probably never be on any electronics, and spend most of their time outside and enjoying being a kid.”

Carabello also remarked that even though constantly being online and communicating virtually is becoming more popular, she thinks her boys, as well as their friends, are fairly good when it comes to balancing virtual life with real-life activities.

Probst added, “I don’t think that most kids are tucked away behind a computer in their bedrooms. There probably are a good deal, but I don’t think it is the majority yet.”

Those who were born before Wifi know what it was like to have to actually go over your friends’ houses, or wait until you saw them in school to tell them something.

There was no Snapchat, Instagram, Facebook, Twitter, or even texting. If you wanted to know what was going on, your only choice was to meet face-to-face.

The times of passing notes in class, and whisper down the lane are very far gone. Now everything between children is lost between back and forth text messaging.

“Usually, if I want to hang out with my friends I just call their cell phones, but a lot of the time we just text each other,” said Pennsbury School District fifth-grader Andrew.

When asked if more time is spent on electronics versus spend-

ing time being active or out with friends, Pennsbury School District fifth-grader Jessica had this to say: “Since I have school now I would say I spend more time being with friends, but when I don’t

have school, I think I spend more time on electronics. Especially, my phone. I always have that, but I guess it depends on what I’m doing that day.”

Some kids even realize that constant electronic use can be a problem.

When asked how they would feel if all their electronics were taken away, Pennsbury School District eighth-grader Julianna said, “I think I would be fine with it, only because then I would have a chance to interact with people more face-to-face.”

She added, “I think me being on my electronics a lot can take away from that. So even though it may be annoying at first, it would be a nice change.”

Pennsbury School District fifth-grader Andrew had this to say in response to the same question, “I wouldn’t be all like, ‘oh I hate my life I have nothing to live for now,’ but I’d definitely be sad for the first couple days then I think I would have no choice but to get over it.”

He laughed and continued, “I think I would probably end up doing something more productive like studying or going outside, so I guess that would be good.”

With so much technology and access it’s almost impossible for kids to not grow up too fast, and

ultimately miss out on the simple joys of being a kid.

They’re exposed to too much, way too early, and they lose their innocence and simplicity of life at such a young age.

Now it’s almost as if a lot of parents are just giving up and giving in; accepting that their kid being glued to some digital screen is the new norm.

Probst commented, “Young people are attached to their electronics because electronics exist. As long as manufacturers are making products that appeal to young people, young people will use the products.”

He added jokingly, “I don’t see technology going away anytime soon, unless we have a zombie apocalypse or an alien invasion causing us to lose power.”

Probst finished, “if technology didn’t exist, kids would be attached to something else and someone would be complaining that kids spend too much time doing whatever that is.”

But maybe it’s about time for the kids to shut down the screens, unplug the computers, tie up their sneakers, and go enjoy life as a kid before the real responsibilities kick in.

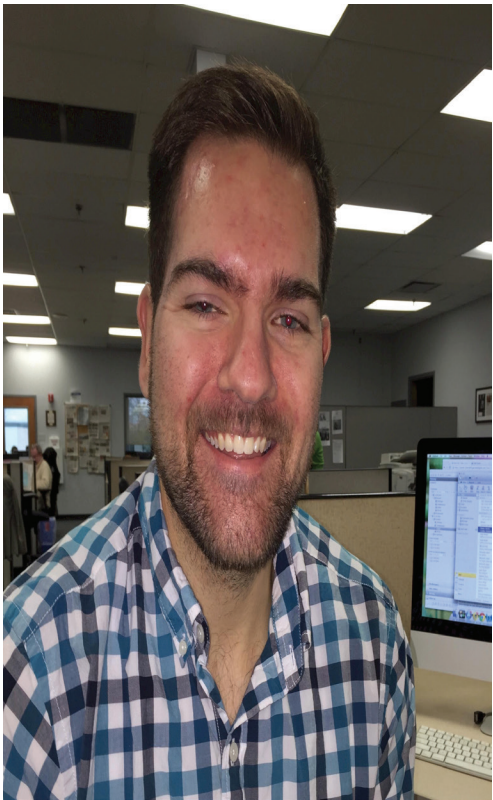
Because honestly there’s so much more life outside of that little screen.





# Bucks News

## Journalism forum focuses on careers in news business



Speakers at the forum from left to right: Freda R. Savana, Matt Flowers, Marion Callahan, Tom Sofield

PHOTO CREDIT: BUCKS.EDU

By: STEVEN CEREBY  
Centurion Staff

The 17th annual journalism forum on Tuesday, April 19, will focus on how students can establish journalism careers in the age of digital news.

There will be two sessions, both held in Rollins 127 of the Newtown campus. One runs from 8 to 9:15 a.m., the second from 11 to 12:15 p.m. The forums are free and open to the public.

Tony Rogers, the head of the journalism program at Bucks, said the forum “is about giving students the opportunity to hear

from professional journalists who are out working in the field.”

He added, “Typically, each speaker will give a short talk on their careers but then we generally open things up and have a question and answer session where students can ask the speakers whatever they want. I think this kind of event can be invaluable in helping students decide whether they want to pursue journalism as a career.”

The featured speakers include Marion Callahan, the projects and video reporter at the Bucks County Courier Times, and her colleague, Courier Times reporter

Freda R. Savana. Matt Flowers, a reporter and online digital producer at the Courier-Post newspaper in New Jersey, and Levittown-Now.com founder and editor Tom Sofield will also be speaking.

Rogers said the speakers will “talk about their careers, how they got into journalism, what it takes to get a job in the news business and what their jobs are like on a day-to-day basis. They will also talk about technological developments in news, such as the increased use of web videos, social media and blogging.”

Rogers pointed out that two of the speakers - Sofield and Flowers

- are recent graduates of the journalism program at Bucks. “That shows there are jobs to be found in the news business,” he said.

Rogers said since the speakers work in both print and online journalism, and use many tech tools including web video, they will be able to offer a fresh perspective on how the news business works today.

“The news business is undergoing a huge transition right now from print to online journalism, so it’s an incredibly exciting time to be getting into this field,” he said.


And while many journalists faced layoffs after the Great

Recession of 2008, many news outlets are hiring again, and are especially keen on finding young, tech-savvy journalists.

Rogers began organizing the forums not long after he began teaching at Bucks in 1997.

“The biggest one we ever had was the one right after the 9/11 attacks, when we had a group of journalists from New York who talked about what it was like to cover ground zero. For that forum we nearly filled the auditorium.”

For more information on the forums or on the journalism program at Bucks, go to: [www.bucks.edu/journalism](http://www.bucks.edu/journalism)



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# Bucks News

## Bucks partners with United Way to help the homeless in Bucks County



Volunteers and the baskets students made up, pictured above.

BY: JUSTIN BIFOLCO  
Centurion Staff

United Way Bucks and Bucks County Community College are teaming up for the third year in a row to tackle the ever-growing issue of homelessness within the community.

Homelessness is a rapidly growing issue all throughout the world, our country, and more specifically Bucks County.

United Way, a worldwide organization, has had a hand in combatting this issue since the 1880's with about 1,300 locations nationally has made it their mission to improve the lives of

the struggling members of our community.

United Way, concentrates on three main issues specifically: access to a quality education, a stable income, and overall good health.

This year marks the third consecutive year Bucks County Community College has been involved in the process.

"UW (United Way) Bucks, the Bucks County chapter of United Way, has partnered with the Bucks County Community College to bring unique volunteer experiences to the students, faculty, staff and alumni on one day called Volunteer Bucks." Community and Volunteer Director, Danielle

Bush, says.

To make things fun and entertaining, Bucks reached out to the students, staff members, and the clubs and programs in an attempt to spread awareness and ask for help.

"This year, we worked to increase participation by turning a traditional service project into a longer supply drive, plus a one-day volunteer opportunity," Bush claims. "This allows more people to participate - even if they have a conflict on the actual volunteer day."

Specific donations include basic household needs like paper towels, bleach, trash bags, along with several other items.

Candidates for the program are chosen through the three partners of United Way Bucks: Habitat for Humanity of Bucks County, Bucks County Housing Group and the Salvation Army (Levittown Corps). The candidates are clients of these organizations.

Bucks staff and students were able to provide 20 welcome home baskets and 60 toiletry bags for men, women and families who are homeless or in transitional housing. "We're so proud of the Bucks team!" Danielle Bush, Director of United Way said when asked about the outcome of the event here at Bucks.

According to Bush, allocation of supplies will be distributed

all depending on the situation.

"Each of our agency partners will work with clients and case managers to determine the best way to distribute supplies." Said Bush. "Since some items will go to people who are homeless and some will go to families moving into transitional or permanent housing, the process will have to be on a case by case basis."

The workings of UW Bucks and Bucks County Community College has had a tremendous impact on the community thus far. For more information, go to: <http://www.uwbucks.org/>

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# Sports

## Philadelphia Eagles making moves in preparation for the 2016 NFL Draft



*Eagles tight end, Zach Ertz, working out in the offseason.*  
PHOTO CREDIT: WIKIMEDIACOMMONS.COM

BY: GIANFRANCO ILLIANO  
*Centurion Staff*

The 2016 offseason for the Philadelphia Eagles has been an exciting one so far. As usual, the Eagles were quite active in free agency.

Free agency kicked off on March 9th, and the Eagles immediately made moves like no other. Philadelphia signed cornerbacks, Leodis McKelvin and Ron Brooks to multi-year contracts, and handed a pair of five-year contracts to guard, Brandon Brooks, and standout safety, Rodney McLeod.

Philadelphia also signed quarterback, Chase Daniel, to a three-year contract along with signing linebacker, Nigel Bradham, to a two-year contract. The Eagles weren't done yet, as they added depth at wide receiver by signing Chris Givens and Rueben Randle to one-year deals.

However, the biggest moves came from trading away overpaid players signed from last offseason.

The Eagles traded cornerback Byron Maxwell, linebacker Kiko Alonso, and the 13th overall pick in the 2016 draft to the Miami Dolphins in exchange for the 8th overall pick.

The Eagles also traded away running back DeMarco Murray to Tennessee and a 4th round pick in exchange for the Titans 4th round pick in the 2016 NFL Draft.

Also, the Eagles traded backup quarterback, Mark Sanchez, to the Denver Broncos in exchange for a 2017 conditional draft pick.

As for right now, Eagles fans everywhere seem to be content with what the Eagles are doing this offseason.

When asked about his thoughts on the Eagles acquisitions, Wayne Watro, 19, from Lower Makefield, studying Criminal Justice, stated, "I really like what the Birds are doing this year. They added players who they really need and got rid of the players who were just a waste of time."

The Eagles have made many

transactions this offseason, even before free agency began. Collin Murray, 18, from Fairless Hills, studying Computer Science says, "They resigned all of their young core players and I think that's even more impressive than what they've done in free agency."

That's right, before free agency began; the Eagles were able to resign their young up and coming players to multiyear contracts.

They resigned right tackle Lane Johnson, defensive end Vinny Curry, safety Malcolm Jenkins, and tight ends Zach Ertz and Brent Celek. Perhaps the biggest name that was resigned was quarterback Sam Bradford, who signed a two-year deal.

When asked if resigning these players was a good move, Brooke Koble, 19, from Levittown, studying Journalism says, "I really think resigning the young players who seem to be vital in the future are great moves."

However, there are some fans who don't seem to be happy with what the Eagles are doing this offseason. "I think the offseason isn't going so well like many other fans think. I don't like the Eagles bringing back Sam Bradford because he gets injured too often. I really don't like trading away DeMarco Murray because I felt like he could've had a better season in the new system," says Evan Hennigan, 18, from Levittown, studying Sports Management.

Patrick Lawrence, 19, from Fairless Hills, studying Accounting, was asked what was the best move conducted by the Eagles this offseason. "I really think the best move this year was getting rid of Byron Maxwell and his awful contract and being able to trade up five spots in the draft."

The free agency frenzy seems to be over around the NFL. Next up, the NFL Draft, which draws so much attention, especially from Eagles fans, who will be seeing their team selecting a player with the 8th overall pick.

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# Sports

## 2016 Phillies poised to showcase talented youth



Aaron Nola  
By: TERREL GREEN & JUSTIN BIFOLCO  
Centurion Staff

PHOTO CREDIT: WIKIMEDIACOMMONS.COM

The Philadelphia Phillies off-season moves have their rebuilding plan moving in the right direction for the upcoming 2016-2017 MLB season. Baseball America has The Phillies farm system ranked 8th in all of baseball, a positive change from their 22nd ranked 2015 farm system.

J.P. Crawford (21), the Phillies number one top prospect, has quickly made a name himself as the rising star in the Phillies farm system. Crawford- cousin of Carl Crawford- All-Star outfielder for the Los Angeles Dodgers, was selected 16th overall in the first round of the 2013 Amateur Draft. He opened eyes almost immediately after posting a .308 average and .805 OBP in 53 games in the minor leagues. Crawford, who is quickly making his way through the farm sytem, is expected to make is big league debut sometime this summer.

The Phillies have the trading away of a previous star package including Cole Hamels, Chase Utley, Jimmy Rollinms, Jonathon Papelbon, and Ken Giles to thank for the recent bolstering of their organizations youth talent.

This improved farm system is the cause of much optimism with-in the Phillies fanbase.

Krunal Bhavsar, 19, from Lower Yardley, sports management major at Bucks reported that he predicts the Phillies will improve this season.

“I think they’re going to be better.” said Krunal. “They’re still a long way from being contenders, but they’re improving nonetheless.”

However, not everyone shares that optimistic approach.

Shaun Murphy, 20, from Lower Yardley, computer engineering major at Bucks reported that the Phillies aren’t going to be good at all.

“To me, they’re still going to be awful. I’ll watch some of their

games, but I know they won’t win much this season.” Murphy proclaimed.

Last year wasn’t pretty for the Phillies as they ended last in the NL East (63-99). One of the biggest problems for the Phillies last year was friction in the front office.

On September 10, 2015, Phillies GM Ruben Amaro Jr. was dismissed as GM with Scott Proefrock taking the reigns the following day.

Trade rumors also swirled around Ryan Howard. Howard constantly heard his name in trade talks last year and with 2016 being his last guaranteed year in a Phillies uniform, he may potentially be dealt to a contender prior to the July 31st trade deadline.

This off-season, the Phillies were very active and went after many free agents. Two players that the Phillies seem to think highly of are Mark Appel and Vincent Velasquez.

Jordan Hill, 20, from Levittown, computer engineering major at Bucks reported that he feels Appel will be great for the Phillies.

“Appel is going to help the pitching rotation, no doubt.” Said Hill. “Ever since the Phillies got rid of Hamels, they needed a good pitcher and I think Appel is that guy.”

Nate McKee, 20, from Yardley, arts major at Bucks reported that he likes the acquisition of Velasquez.

“The dude can pitch.” Said Nate. “Anyone who can help us right now is good and I think he’ll be great here.”

With the Phillies losing 99 games last season, it earned them the No. 1 overall pick for 2016. The last time the Phillies had a No.1 pick, it was back in 1998, which ended up being Pat Burrell.

The Phillies remain silent on which they will draft, but many fans want the 17-year-old pitcher Jason Groome.

Groome attended Vanderbilt University and as a junior, he pitched to a 5-0 record and a 1.22 ERA with 81 strikeouts and nine walks in 43 innings.

Jimmy Finley, 20, from Lower Makefield, sports major at Bucks reported that the Phillies should select Groome with the No.1 pick.

“It’s a no-brainer really.” Said Jimmy. “Flat out, he’s the best pitcher in the draft and we will improve quicker with him on the team.”

Alec Forester, 20, from Levittown, sports major at Bucks reported also that he wants to see Groome in Philadelphia. “I think they have to get this right and draft him.” Said Alec. “Groome is one of those one of a kind players and we need to get him.”

Other potential suitors for the Phillies are 20-year-old Florida south-paw AJ Puk and Oklahoma right-hander 21-year-old Alec Hanson.

Fans may have to suffer another season or two with the Phillies not making the playoffs, but with what they have and the direction they’re headed, they could become a title contender once again in the not so distant future.

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