The negative stigma of community college

Community college has always had a bad reputation, but why should schools that put an emphasis on teaching have to fight against such an unfair stigma?

BY: KAPALINE LIMANOWA-DAO
Centurion Staff

There are many myths about community college. The phrase “13th grade” is well known for the students studying at Bucks: “People my age are not community college as a fallback,” says Ryan Peiffer, 20, a business major at Bucks. “People believe that community colleges are not as good as four-year schools,” Peiffer continues, “that they aren’t as sophisticated, or as stimulating.”

The stereotypical idea of community college is that the students attending are people rejected from four-year schools, that all students are older and that the professors are second rate. Dr. Shanblatt, president at Bucks, works hard to eliminate these myths. “The idea that our professors are second rate is just not true!” The fact that there is a big age gap in the students at Bucks is only seen as a positive factor. “Getting to know people not like you… that diversity provokes thoughts and gives students new experiences,” argues Shanblatt.

Community college leads the financial innovation in education. That is often what students mention first when asked why they are attending community college. It’s cheaper. Research from the College Board of Education shows that on average two years at a community college is only one-third the cost of the first year at a four-year school. You can save over $15,000.

However, that is not all community college has to offer. “At large universities, you’re going to be in classes with 2-3 hundred students compared to classes here with 24 students,” says Shanblatt. “We have a lot of different clubs and we even offer free tutoring.” She adds.

So, if community college offers so many great opportunities, why do they still have difficulty getting students in? “The real college experience is missing,” says 18-year-old high school senior, Jessica Zimmerman. “I am going to Temple University because I want to cheer for college sports and meet new people from all over the world.”

Liberal Arts student from Bucks, Kayla Correra, 20, states, “I am too comfortable here. There is not any personal growth, where people try to figure out where they belong.”

Shanblatt understands that students want a more ground breaking experience, but that is only one of the problems. “Many high schools pride themselves on what elite schools their students are accepted to; therefore, many guidance counselors in high school do not promote community college.” Students listen to what they hear and only a few of them do the research. “Students have a ready skewed view on what college is, but when we can get students to campus. I think they see something different from what they imagine,” explains Shanblatt.

Community college is often thought of as a lot of opportunities because we are missing dorms and the fact that it is too much like home. Continued on pg. 2

Pope’s encyclical tackles climate change, consumer capitalism

Adrian Ivakhiv of the University of Vermont was welcomed to Bucks County Community College on Feburary 11 to speak about the relationship between religion and the environment, along with the Pope’s influence on the world.

Ivakhiv, a professor of environmental studies, thought, and culture at Vermont, as well as author of Ecologies of the Moving Image: Cinema, Affect, and Nature, presented “No Papal Bull: Pope Francis’s Encyclical on Care for our Common Home”.

In his work, the Pope deals with fixing environmental issues and helping the poor by looking towards religion. These issues have affected the world going all the way back to the beginning of civilization, and Ivakhiv notes that Native Americans and Latins have argued that “environmental issues affect non-white communities more than white.”

Ivakhiv also briefly touched on consumer capitalism, or throwaway culture that has emerged from it. Social and environmental justice was a main topic of Ivakhiv’s presentation, along with subjects related to technology, ecology, and science as a whole.

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Ivakhiv provided graphs that concluded that “more people are worried” about the effects of climate change due to hearing the Pope talk about it.

While some did not approve of the Pope’s speeches regarding environmental and social justice, Ivakhiv showed an interesting survey with several questions posed to Catholics and non-Catholics. One question was,

continued on pg. 2

by: Chad dingman
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Pope’s encyclical tackles climate change, consumer capitalism

I think community college is usually people’s last option,” says Maggie Dougherty, senior at New Hope-Solebury High School. According to Dougherty, to offer a great college experience it is not necessary to have dorms. “If you look at the cost and the instruction, I think we come out on top, but students do not think about that.”

Community college offers a head start in the right direction. At Bucks, you can take classes helping you towards acceptance at a four-year school. Seniors at New Hope-Solebury High School, Juliana Holland and Jessica Zimmerman are strongly considering the head start at Bucks. Zimmerman states, “When I realized the rigor of my courses for Actuarial Sciences, I felt that getting some of my electives out of the way at Bucks would be a good idea.” Zimmerman and Holland agree that starting at Bucks would save them money and get them started in the right direction.

So what can Bucks do to wash the negative stigma away? “I already think community college has been on the rise the last couple of years, and the whole idea that community college is for screw ups has faded,” believes Correia. Shanblatt says, “We are trying to attack the problem head on by going to high schools and doing local commercials. We also started our honors program to let good students know that they can have a rigorous academic challenge here.”

The branding is essential and Bucks has worked hard to show that the students who attend here they often succeed. “When our students transfer they typically have a higher GPA their junior year than students who started at a four-year school, that’s a pretty compelling argument.” Shanblatt concluded.

EVENTS

February 20 Baseball vs. King’s College JV (DH) 12:00 PM at Diamond Nation

February 24 Free screening of new documentary “Beyond Measure” in Zlock Auditorium on Newtown Campus from 7:00-9:30 PM

February 25 National Chili Day at Lower Bucks Campus from 12:15-1:30 PM in LBC Commons

February 28 Baseball vs. Gwynedd Mercy JV (DH) 12:00 PM at Diamond Nation

February 29 Leap Day! at Lower Bucks Campus from 12:00-1:00 PM in LBC Commons

March 4 Poetry Reading with Dean Rader & Elizabeth Savage at 7:30 PM in the Orangey on Newtown Campus

March 5 “Snowkus Pocus” circus spectacle at 2:00 PM in Zlock Performing Arts Center on Newtown Campus

March 7 Baseball @ Chestnut Hill College JV 3:30 pm (Away)

March 9 Baseball vs. William- son Trade 3:30 pm Centurion Field

Letters to the editor:

Email your letters to: Centurion@bucks.edu.

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, writer must include the writer’s full name and telephone number.

Continued from pg. 1

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American pianist to play at Bucks

Simone Dinnerstein

By: Brooke Koehle

Acclaimed American pianist Simone Dinnerstein will hold a concert and master class at Bucks on Thursday, March 10.

Dinnerstein has made a previous appearance here at Bucks with huge success. It is expected to draw a great crowd of various different ages and genders.

BCCC music professor Jeff Baumsteiger refers to Dinnerstein as “a remarkable pianist”. At Bucks, music students are taught many of her works, especially those involving Bach.

Bach seems to be a favorite of Dinnerstein. She teaches children how to appreciate classical music in a video on her website called “An Honest Guide to Bach’s Invitations”. Backpacking to School! Back to the elementary school she went to as a child for “I’ve got a crush on Bach”. It is smooth and gentle with a touch of fast and precise. She’s actively listening to every not she plays, and the result is a wonderfully expressive interpretation,” described the NPR.

Her performance reveals the intricate hand movements behind the music. She utilizes the piano and weaves the notes together like a scarf. She moves up, down, and across the keyboard in such a fast and precise way that it is difficult to comprehend.

Beginning at 2 p.m. there is the free master class that is offered to all. The open discussion will be held from 6:30-7 p.m. The concert begins at 7:30 p.m. It is $15 for students and children, $20 for seniors and alumni, and $25 to the general public.

If interested in attending, Dinnerstein can be found in the Kevin and Sima Zlokovich Performing Arts Center, BCCC Newtown Campus.

American pianist to play at Bucks

Teachers of Tomorrow

By: Christian Laird

A new student organization on campus called “Teachers of Tomorrow,” orTOT, has made a tremendous impact on Bucks and the local community.

TOT can be found at the Upper Bucks Campus in Perkasie, which holds its meetings on the first and third Thursday of every month.

TOT is made up of Bucks’ own education major students, who volunteer to help the children, as well as, the families of the local community.

With the ever growing education department at the Perkasie campus, TOT is always looking for people to join and help the cause.

The Teachers of Tomorrow are helping out the children and families in need around the holiday season.

Our next major fundraiser event will be held at Perkasie’s local restaurant, “The Park,” (April 11th between 5-9 PM). Please come out to support The Teachers of Tomorrow and their efforts to help the children of our community.

30% of the evenings profits will be raised for TOT.

Keep in mind that TOT is completely made up of Bucks’ own students, who volunteer whenever they can lend a hand. If helping out the children and families of the local community strikes any interest, please contact the Teachers of Tomorrow.
LEARN MORE ABOUT:
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I am convinced that traveling to the U.S. is just as difficult as getting a job with the Secret Service. I felt like a criminal at my first interrogation. I had to convince The U.S. Customs to let me in by answering a bunch of questions. “Have you ever violated any law related to possessing, using, or distributing illegal drugs?” I tried to get into the mindset of a drug dealer and I concluded that the answer was “no” either way. After comfortably being placed beside the tired guy who thinks your shoulder is a pillow, you get a pamphlet which states that the American government would like to know how valuable your luggage is. So there I sat trying to remember what I paid for my sneakers and how much money I spent on Christmas gifts. Once I arrived, an officer asks you what you are doing in America and while picking the answer that does not make you a lunatic, they take a picture of you and prints of all ten fingers just in case you do anything illegal and lose a thumb in the process.

I arrived in Dec. and learned the phrase: Christmas extravaganza. Not that I do not love Christmas, but after seeing that, I am convinced that Europe celebrates Christmas as they make their homes – minimalistic.

Driving through New Hope, I was worried for the electric bills, which the 5,000 light bulbs and the glowing Santa Clause definitely multiplied ten times.

I do admit it is captivating. However, I do have one piece of advice to the American Christmas enthusiasts: shorten your to-do-list! One thing the Europeans are fond of is the concept that “less is more.” This does not apply to America. Take, for example, your drive-thru. You have drive-thru everything! Drive-thru bank, drive-thru pharmacy, drive-thru… okay, we do also have drive-thru McDonalds – because face it, you may want a cheeseburger, but you do not want to get out of the car. Speaking of fast food restaurants, I think you should rethink your cup sizes. I went to Chick-fil-A ordering a regular sized lemonade. I came out with an amount of liquid that I am sure, could quench the entire Danish population’s thirst!

However, one thing that does apply to the “less is more” fact in America is your public transportation. I mean, where is the bus that drives through my neighborhood every ten minutes? Normally, I can make plans and be on the bus two minutes later. I thought to myself, “oh well, I will just take the bike!” – and I was shocked; where are the bike lanes? These are some solid mistakes, America. Something I do appreciate is your kindness.

In Denmark, we mind our own business and even though that is quite convenient most of the time, I would appreciate someone who cared to ask me how I was doing. Americans sure make up for this. During a day in America, I say the word “good” more than I blink. Because that is what you expect, right? It is not only that question that makes me think of this as a friendly country. One day, I went to buy a snow globe. A helpful employee greeted me and I casually told her that the snow globe was for my brother in Denmark. She suddenly became interested in knowing me and she told me about her Norwegian family. I was a bit thrown off by this stranger’s interest in my life, but in a good way. I remember walking out of there thinking, “that would never have happened back home.”

After living what I consider a normal American life for a month, I have come to one conclusion: traveling is neat. Meeting a population, getting to know them, and loving them. That is what it is all about. I love Americans! However, I still look forward to getting home to my blue buses and my not so friendly neighbors.

Have you ever heard about culture shock? Well, I thought I had experienced this while spending time in Europe. I have now realized that you have to travel 4,652 miles to understand the true meaning of it.
The triumph of ‘Trumpism’: Why Trump’s campaign is working

The struggle of the 2016 Election being officially marked by the Iowa Caucus, the strong showings of the underdog candidates on both sides of the aisle lend themselves to the notion that the primary elections will be anything but a rout. The 2016 Republican bunch, consisting of Florida senator and ex-Speaker of the Florida House Marco Rubio, Texas senator and Tea Party veteran Ted Cruz, and polarizing businessman Donald Trump, un-pitch their tents and uproot their lawn umbrellas, slowly lag along. Perhaps the most surprising turn of events to unfold in the Granite State was the second place finish of Ohio Governor John Kasich. Kasich, who has previously been unsuccessful in finding traction with voters, garnered 15.8% of the popular vote awarding him four delegates. Six less delegates than the distant winner, Donald Trump. Trump’s emergence within the Republican Party, due in part by his aggressive yet charismatic approach and his “anti-politician” rhetoric, has been the overarching headline throughout this election cycle.

The rise of the “Trumpian” revolution may very well be the early signs of a sputtering Republican front-runner. According to an ABC News/Washington Post poll, 10 Republican preferences with Trump’s Muslim Ban. The rise of the globalization threat has brought national unity to the forefront of political prominence. Much like post-9/11 America, fear of the Islamic religion has spread throughout the country. John Petito, Political Science professor at Bucks Community College, attempts to dissect the consciousness of the American public. He views Americans as a population of fearful people who will follow, concluding that “simplistic solutions appeal to a population that is scared so we are always in danger.” Today, Americans want to know what the candidate’s plans are for defeating Isis. Trump says he is going to take away their oil, while Cruz says he is going to attack first and ask questions later. Pettis explains his concern for the now popular stance within conservative foreign policy. “Preemptive strikes were never our policy. I don’t think you become a loved nation of the world attacking other people.” Pettis says. While Trump takes advantage of rampant misinformation and factual inaccuracies about the cultures and religions of those branded as “other” in America, his poll numbers remain steady. America is bored. The American political psyche in 2016 is much different from your father’s, or perhaps your own if you’ve lived long enough. The incessant name-calling, arm-flailing, and gun-slinging is a product of the system currently put in place by the American media. What Donald has exemplified time and time again is the nonmusical opening of half-truths and “something-or-other” statements have landed him no-less than perpetual earned media air-time and thusly, more support. This explains why despite being towards the bottom of the barrel in campaign spending, he remains the Republican fron-runner. Where Trump has been able to find success is through ing the previously apathetic, angry, and disenfranchised voter— an abundant demographic. By providing the public with easy, one-step, cure-all solutions with seemingly no downside, he has appealed to the nomination. Of course, this particular layman is one who is predominantly white, aged, and fearful that their way of life has been challenged by efforts of the Obama Administration. It takes little effort to understand their discontent. Many trust his financial leadership, others support his strict immigration policy. Some simply praise his willingness to do or say what comes to his mind at any given moment. At long last, America has a champion who will bring us back to our roots and make us great once more! “The American dream is dead, but I’m going to make it better and stronger.” Trump proudly chants on CNN. Many Americans are finding themselves sick and tired of business as usual when it comes to the way our country is run. This opens the door for a non-politician such as Donald Trump to flex his anti-political-corrections muscle. As Trump seamlessly continues his walk toward the nomination, the hearty political veterans like Rubio or Cruz fiercely avoid their opportunity to dance. With the so much of the song left to sing- there is no knowing who will be left holding the crown.

Find your path to success. Become a Hawk. That's the magic.
STAR WARS: THE FORCE AWAKENS

The Force Awakens is a grand spectacle that takes the viewer on a journey through the Star Wars universe. It is a sequel to the original Star Wars trilogy, but it also stands on its own as a standalone story. The movie has great moments of action, adventure, and heart, and it is a thrilling experience for fans of the franchise.

The story follows the main characters of Finn, Poe, and Rey, who are on a mission to find Luke Skywalker. Along the way, they encounter other familiar faces from the Star Wars universe, such as Han Solo, Chewbacca, and Princess Leia. The movie is filled with exciting action scenes, including a battle against the First Order and a journey to the planet of Crait.

The acting is all top notch, with John Boyega, Oscar Isaac, and Daisy Ridley delivering powerful performances. The special effects are amazing, and the score by John Williams is as memorable as ever.

The Force Awakens is a great movie for fans of all ages, and it is a fitting conclusion to the Star Wars saga. It is a must-see for anyone who loves science fiction and adventure.

Overall, The Force Awakens is a finely crafted movie that honors the original trilogy while also bringing something new and exciting to the table. It is a fitting end to the Skywalker saga and a great addition to the Star Wars universe.
Beyonce’s new single hits home for some, angers many

By : Jahmeelah Wilson

Beyonce's new single hits home for some, angers many

While some would applaud Beyonce's performance, others don't. The singer wrote, "Didn't realize you needed to the entertainer. While some would applaud Beyonce's performance, others don't. The singer wrote, "Didn't realize you needed to

But in reality, today, we still have active KKK chapters throughout the United States, where racism moves on, hate, and violence, and white supremacy, but few want to admit the white supremacy in America. The whole black lives movement is to bring awareness to what is going on in our communities that people continually turn the other cheek. The movement isn't just about black lives but it is to highlight that black lives, just like anyone else's, matter.

When it comes to the entertain-

The whole black lives movement is to bring awareness to what is going on in our communities that people continually turn the other cheek. The movement isn't just about black lives but it is to highlight that black lives, just like anyone else's, matter. The singer wrote, "Didn't realize you needed to the entertainer. While some would applaud Beyonce's performance, others don't. The singer wrote, "Didn't realize you needed to

Beyonce used her celebrity status to bring awareness to the police brutality that continues to spread across the country. Due to the fact that she is a black woman, many seemed to want to wording. "Beyonce got us to speak out loud, and now we got us to see red like it used to be.

Beyonce used her celebrity status to bring awareness to the police brutality that continues to spread across the country. Due to the fact that she is a black woman, many seemed to want to wording. "Beyonce got us to speak out loud, and now we got us to see red like it used to be.

"Formation" music video was about the black victims of police brutality, not assimilating to white culture, loving her Afro, baby hairs, her melanin, andsburg, the video is to teach other black kids as well as adults to love yourself. People calling her out and claiming that she is racist is incredibly ignorant to the message behind the song. Due to the fact that she came out with a song that doesn't cater to her normal white fans, many seemed to want to tear down what Beyonce was trying to make people care about.

Feminists and anti-beyonce rallies to protest the halftime show perform-

Jesse, Danny, Stephanie, DJ, and Kimmy all come back to the screen, dealing with new families issues and overcoming obstacles of adult hood, since all the characters are grown up. Though the loveable twins of Mary Kate and Ashley Olsen will not be returning, there is plenty to look forward to when it comes out Feb. 26.

"Fuller House" after years of waiting, the cast of Full House has reunited, for a Netflix original series, Fuller House. Joey, Jesse, Danne, Stephanie, D.J, and Kimmy all come back to the screen, dealing with new families issues and overcoming obstacles of adult hood, since all the characters are grown up. Though the loveable twins of Mary Kate and Ashley Olsen will not be returning, there is plenty to look forward to when it comes out Feb. 26.

"Deadpool" Deadpool, the latest Marvel movie is the first R rated comic since The Punisher. Deadpool made a whooping $10 million in the first four days of its opening. Demolishing all other Marvel movies in the box office. Though Ryan Reynolds plays one of Marvel’s most unconventional heroes, he plays a smooth mouth super hero that actually mocks all other Marvel movies in the box office. Though Ryan Reynolds plays one of Marvel’s most unconventional heroes, he plays a smooth mouth super hero that actually mocks

For these reasons, in 1966
Super Bowl 50: Not something to dab about

By : Gianfranco Ililiano
Centurion Staff

Super Bowl 50, to say the least didn’t go as expected. The consensus was that the Carolina Panthers were going to beat the Denver Broncos by at least six points. However, it was the Denver Broncos who ended up winning the iconic game 24-10.

It was also expected that the electrifying Carolina offense was going to put up major points on the board, although, the Panthers were shutdown by the strong Denver defense led by the game’s MVP, Von Miller, who finished the game with six tackles, 2.5 sacks, two forced fumbles, and one pass deflection. Super Bowl 50 was likely Peyton Manning’s last game of his historic career and what a great way to end it—winning the Super Bowl.

While Peyton Manning didn’t play too well in the game, recording 13 completions out of 23 attempts and throwing for 141 yards with one interception and a fumble. Like all of the great competitors say, “It’s not how you start, its how you finish.” When asked about her thoughts about the game, Brooke Koble, a freshman at Bucks says, “The game was pretty exciting, especially because Peyton Manning got his 200th win. Breaking a tie with Brett Favre to have the most wins by a Quarterback in NFL history.

For the Carolina Panthers, there was nothing to dab about. The defense played well enough but the offense looked unprepared. Panther’s quarterback, Cam Newton, didn’t play up to his normal standards. Newton, the 2015 NFL Most Valuable Player, completed just 18-of-41 passes, lost two fumbles and threw an interception while being sacked six times. Perhaps Newton’s worst mistake came when having the ball batted from his hand in the fourth quarter. As the ball hit the ground, Newton hopped away from the loose ball while Denver’s defense recovered the fumble and scored on the next possession.

“Cam Newton should’ve never done it,” says Wayne Watro, 19, from Yardley. He was in no mood to talk after the loss and that just fueled his haters and Newton has taken some extreme heat from the media ever since.

For the casual fan, Super Bowl 50 was boring to watch. There weren’t a lot of points on the board and that’s what draws the fans to the game. “Points! Points! Points!” That’s what I want to see in a football game, especially in the Super Bowl,” states Pat Kania, 19, from Fairless Hills. Like Pat, most fans want to see each team drive down the field and score a touchdown on every single possession. That was certainly not Super Bowl 50 due to both teams being strong defensively.

However, for fans like Col-in Murray, 18, from Fairless Hills, the game was fun to watch, “I thought the game was a lot more entertaining than the other Super Bowls. I think there was a lot more storylines in this game, whether if Cam Newton can continue to be an unstoppable force and if this will be Peyton’s last game.”

While it still remains unclear if Peyton Manning played his last game, it was a pleasure to watch a legendary player win a world championship to cap off his career and famously, “ride into the sunset.”
Bucks baseball on the up and up

By: Carly Pondergast
Centurion Staff

A Bucks baseball revival seems to be coming at the hands of head coach, Robert Fravel, who has high expectations for his 2016 squad. The 2016 season will be Fravel’s first full season with the team; last season Fravel was called upon after Lou Pacchioli stepped down just two weeks into the season.

“Well last year I simply had to play the hand I was dealt. We only had a dozen or so players, half of whom didn’t really realize how much work goes into playing college baseball,” Fravel spoke on the matter.

Not only was Fravel able to work with the team for a longer period of time, but he was able to recruit players. At a time when Bucks athletics has struggled with getting players to come out for their teams, the baseball team has seen impressive numbers thanks to recruiting. Fravel said, “Last season we ended the season with 11 players. This season we will have an 18 man roster. Being able to go out, recruit and have other members of the coaching staff do the same, coupled with getting the word out about the re-generation of the Bucks baseball program has really helped with growing the roster.”

Of course, the number of players doesn’t matter if they can’t perform come game time. To prepare for the season Fravel says the players have exhibition games in the fall, team practices in the facilities at Bucks, gym workouts, a strength and conditioning program, then the team moves back outside for practice when the weather becomes warmer.

Coach Fravel will be looking towards a group of five returning players to come out for their teams, the baseball team has seen impressive numbers thanks to recruiting. Fravel said, “As for the season, which will begin in just a few days, Fravel’s main concern is his pitching staff. “We lost a few arms over the winter and as a result we are going to have to stretch our pitching staff quite a bit to get through the year. The arms that we have are more than capable, and they have the talent to get the job done, but we will need to find a way to get through 250 innings with less than a dozen pitchers,” Fravel said.

Fravel believes his team will overcome their pitching adversity and they will make it to the Region 19 tournament for the first time since Bucks has joined Region 19. Their journey to the Region 19 tournament begins on Feb. 20 with a double header against King’s College’s Junior Varsity team. The first game will begin at 12:00 p.m. at Diamond Nation; the second game will begin at 3:00 p.m. As always Bucks students are encouraged to come out and support their Centurions.