

The Bucks mascot is finally home!

By: **RACHEL ZABLOCKI**
Centurion Staff

Roaring students were gathered at Bucks on Wednesday, Feb. 16, for a pep rally to cheer for the unveiling of the college's first-ever live mascot, the Centurion, performed by Doug Weinreich.

The afternoon was a big success. The Gallagher Room was filled with students, staff and press to witness the mascot's unveiling.

Lunch, free t-shirts, a performance by the Dance Team, contests and prizes run by Radio Bux were included.

The afternoon evolved in to a photoshoot as students did not miss a beat in taking selfies with their Centurion.

"I felt ecstatic, a moment I will never forget," says Weinreich.

The idea was proposed by the Student Life Office in the fall and was approved by Bucks President Dr. Stephanie Shanblatt.



Bucks Faculty and President Shanblatt standing with new mascot

PHOTO CREDIT: RACHEL ZABLOCKI

mascot is really the catalyst for this."

Shanblatt said that on "Nov. 2, 1965, students of Bucks were provided the chance to choose a mascot; in the end selecting the Centurion."

The Centurion is known for being, "vigilant, self-re-

strained, active, and ready to execute orders," and was chosen because it "reflects the qualities most desirable in Bucks students."

Director of Student Life Matt Cipriano said: "Student Life raised approximately \$8,000 in five days to help

pave the way for the professionally made costume," which was produced by Keystone Mascots.

"Money was raised in donations from students, faculty and the community through Go Fund Me and collection jars."

Student Life also held a coin war, where four teams competed to see who could raise the most pennies.

Pennies were positive points and silver coins were negative points.

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Bucks celebrates future S.T.E.M. Building



Artists rendering of future S.T.E.M building

By: **RACHEL ZABLOCKI AND SARAH SEMPLE**
Centurion Staff

A large crowd gathered Feb. 25 in the Linksz Pavilion in celebration of the new Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM) building, a collaborative effort between the community, college and students, set to open in Spring of 2017.

The S.T.E.M. building will

be the staple of the S.T.E.M department, which will provide state-of-the-art labs and classrooms to students in those fields. The current labs are in the basement of Founders Hall.

The first phase of the building project is the construction. The second phase will be to renovate Founders Hall in order to implement physics, engineering, and health labs.

This \$17 million project started about two and half

years ago, though Bucks President Dr. Stephanie Shanblatt said, "it took about one year just to plan the building so as to stay in budget." Financial assistance was provided from the state and the county.

Bucks County Commissioner Chairman Robert Loughery said, "The county backs the college with financial strength in order to assist in supporting the funding." In other words, they allow the school to borrow money.

Dean of the Department of Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics at Bucks, Lisa Angelo, said, "We've had the same labs for many years, and many of them are in the basement, so the glass is going to be so helpful."

The main point behind this building is to bring in more students who are interested in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics without the intimidation of a typical

solid concrete or brick building. The glass walls will add light and make the place more welcoming.

The college has seen a steady drop in enrollment over the past couple years, and staff are hoping that the new S.T.E.M. building will spark an influx of students onto campus that are interested in such fields.

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Bucks News

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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

March 3

Opportunities in the Armed Forces 12:30 pm to 1:30 pm; Penn 257

Voter Registration

10:00 am to 2:00 pm & 5:00 pm to 7:00 pm; South Building, Commons Upper Bucks Campus

Launch Pad--The Confident Communicator

12:30 pm to 1:30 pm; South Building, Library Learning Studio Upper Bucks Campus

March 4

Poetry Reading, Dean Radler & Elizabeth Savage 7:30 pm in the Orangery, Newtown Campus

Movie Preview: Iron Jawed Angels, Part II

9:00 am to 10:00 am; Student Commons Lower Bucks Campus

March 5

Snowkus Pocus 2:00 pm Zlock PAC Newtown Campus

March 7

Film Screening-The Long Night 6:30 pm to 9:00 pm; Zloc Performing Arts Center, Newtown Campus

March 8

Wilmington University Information Table 10:00am to 1:00pm, Rollins Center, Newtown Campus

Delaware Valley University Information Table

5:00 to 6:30pm, Founders Lobby, Newtown Campus

Delaware Valley University Information Table

10:30am to 1:30pm, Rollins Center, Cafeteria, Newtown Campus

March 9

Baseball vs. Williamson Trade 3:30 pm Centurion Field

Are you LinkedIn?

12:00 pm to 1:00 pm; Student Commons, Lower Bucks Campus

The Bucks Mascot is finally home!

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"Silver coins were placed in competing jars to try and throw off the curve, but in the end Business Studies and Art won," said Kelly.

The mascot will not just represent Bucks at sports events, but will also "represent at community special events, and at future signing agreements," says Cipriano.

But who is the mascot? Assistant Athletics Director Justin Burroughs says, "the mascot will be not just one person, but a couple of people, and students can apply for the opportunity (to be the mascot) through Student Life."

As Weinreich explained, "The costume was a bit tight, I'm 6 foot 5, so I'm sure whoever is the next mascot will fit into it better."

Burroughs also says he is "very excited for this moment, because athletics are

continuing to grow; a live mascot will give the school more exposure in the community and help spread good things."

Dance team member Melissa Arrendell, a 21-year-old physical therapy major from Levittown, believes that a mascot makes the school better because "it brings more energy and life to the school." Members of the men's basketball team, including sports management major Brett Wolf from Quakertown, 20, and pre-allied health major Rober Williams from Philadelphia, 20, agreed that "having a mascot is really exciting because now there is so much more school spirit."

Now that our mascot is home, what is the next step? A mascot must have a name. Students will now vote for one and the winner will be presented in the coming weeks.



Bucks' new mascot

PHOTO CREDIT: RACHEL ZABLOCKI

Bucks celebrates future S.T.E.M. Building

Continued from pg. 1

Shanblatt announced that this is only the first step for S.T.E.M. "This new science center is really just the first phase of our S.T.E.M. initiative in our effort to transform S.T.E.M. on campus." The next project will take place in Founders Hall, where new physics, engineering and health labs will be set up.

Shanblatt said the building "is a great start for students who wish to start in the workforce or transfer to a four-year school."

She added, "The country needs more folks to be competitive and use new technologies in order to move forward in this industry," adding that jobs in such fields typically pay well.

Loughery called the building "a great investment and opportunity, not just for the college, but for the county."

"Science, math, and technology are heavily involved in businesses today, which means they need skills from people who not only just graduated high school, but from those who are rebuilding their careers."

He added, "we at the county have a particularly key interest in workforce development, and the workforce as



President Shanblatt standing with the contents of time capule.

PHOTO CREDIT: RACHEL ZABLOKI

employment."

As a student representative, neuroscience major and president of the Women of STEM club, Anna Snyder gave her perspective on the development. "It is very gratifying to know that my college is committed to growth and innovation on an ongoing basis," Snyder says, "these new buildings represent opportunities to broaden my education in sciences."

wood materials and corridors to establish an effective learning environment."

Bucks wants to promote the idea that science labs no longer need to be closed or claustrophobic, but instead should be opened up to the whole school, and surrounded by great views of the outside environment.

The virtual tour revealed open and closed study spaces, in which students can gather for group work. "We want science to be accessible, not intimidating," says Shanblatt.

Angelo noted that "the glass wall is already built and is very welcome as it illuminates new modern labs."

Loughery says aside from the benefit the building will have for businesses and the community, it's really about the kids. "Kids who have an interest in science, students who don't necessarily test well, and those who are unable to get into a bigtime school," he said.

Loughery believes that because there are many obstacles that stand in our way throughout life, "this is an opportunity to unlock individual's potential."

Shanblatt stressed the importance of undergraduate science research, noting that two research projects in engineering and computer science had already been started at Bucks.

Angelo said she was excited

to just simply walk through the doors of the building next year. "This building has been a pipe dream of mine for 11 years and I cannot believe how quickly this has come together," she said.

Angelo also joked, saying, "We cannot wait to get in the building, faculty are already debating on who will get which space and talking about how they are going to use the new alternative teaching spaces."

During the celebration, each speaker at the event contributed items to a time capsule that will be featured at different events and buried within the building in the coming weeks.

Shanblatt contributed a drone, Loughery added an engine block, and Snyder added a Bucks cell phone case, all of which were 3-D printed.

The time capsule is set to be opened in 50 years, at the college's centennial celebration.

The new science building is scheduled to open for classes in January 2017, and partners of the project are anxious see the end result. "It is an opportunity that is really going to fuel our students' education," said Angelo.

The project will be followed on social media where people can live tweet using hashtag #buckscience.

Additional reporting from:
Karoline Lunddal Dam



Crowd at the celebration

PHOTO CREDIT: RACHEL ZABLOCKI

well as local companies will definitely benefit from this. We hope to see an increase in

Snyder also presented a virtual tour of the building, noting that it "has signature elements such as the glass and

Bucks News

Study abroad programs: why students should consider them



Group of study abroad students

PHOTO CREDIT: KAROLINE LUNDDAL DAM

By **KAROLINE LUNDDAL DAM**
Centurion Staff

Studying abroad is an opportunity for students to expand their horizons, but how can current Bucks students do so and how beneficial is it?

There are many opportunities to go abroad during the college experience. Foreign Exchange Students Yama Rauf (Afghanistan), Hidemi Fuse (Japan) and Margrethe Myklebust and Alexander Rauff (Denmark) have all experienced this and agree that traveling abroad is a life changing experience.

“With exchange, you are no longer a tourist, you get to experience the country and its culture on a deeper level,” says Rauff, who was an exchange student in South Africa in 2011.

The most memorable thing for both Fuse and Rauf, who stayed four months at a Danish Folk high school, was the total change of mind.

“As an Afghan citizen, we assumed people would think I am Taliban or a wild warrior, but we realized that the reality is completely different from what we see on television,” says Rauf and Fuse agrees, “I will never think ‘others’ again. We are the same people.”

Myklebust, who is currently working in Germany, says that she is more independent now, “Mom and dad do not live around the corner anymore,” she laughs

Currently, Bucks does not offer study abroad to students, but Kelly Kelleway, interim dean of the language and literature department, does confirm that it lies in Bucks’ future, “We have begun discussions about how Bucks will roll this out, but I would not expect any official announcement or offering until next academic year.”

In 2014, Delaware Valley University established a partnership with Tradium Business School in Denmark regarding exchange. Professor Lawrence Stelmach, Chair of Business and Information Management at DelVal, is

leading the project. He is proud of the outcome of the work both schools have put into it, “Americans tend to be very inward looking, so meeting the Danish students in class and socially is a great experience,” Stelmach says.

Though this won’t be an option until next academic year, there are plenty of study abroad options for students that are planning on transferring to a four year college after Bucks. If you are seeking transfer options, you should consider Temple. Bucks has an agreement with Temple’s campus in Japan, where students can study art, international business, communications or political science.

Students also have the opportunity to find a foreign school and bring their credits back to Bucks. To secure these credits, it is as simple as contacting the dean to confirm the potential transfer.

There’s even the option to attend a language school during breaks, which offers students a shorter abroad experience. These programs are worldwide, but especially known in Europe.

Students can also consider getting an internship abroad, and experience the foreign work life as Myklebust does.

Some students never consider studying abroad because of the potential cost, but Rauf and A. Rauff believe the cost was worth the reward, “You will gain more than you spend! Global studies became a framework in every aspect of my life,” says Rauf. A. Rauff continues, “It is simple; experiences are something that money cannot buy.”

All students that are interested should contact dean of student services, Christine Hagedorn. She has experienced the greatness of studying abroad herself, in Hungary during her college education. “It is a gift,” she says, “I would love to help the students experience that!”

Hagedorn can be reached at christine.hagedorn@bucks.edu or 215-968-8034.



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Bucks News

Artist finds the beauty in anything, dead or alive



Kimberly Witham
By: KAROLINE LUNDDAL DAM
Centurion Staff

Bucks art Professor Kimberly Witham was profiled in National Geographic Feb. 16, in a story about her seven year old art project. The headline? “Making ethical art from dead animals.”

For almost seven years Witham worked with the visual beauty of roadkill animals. She collects the dead animals and arranges them, with other decorations, for photographs. “It is a response to what I see around me every day,” Witham says.

The idea came when she moved from New York, “I had not been driving in a car recently. But I started seeing things on the side of the road, I could not believe how many dead creatures I saw – that did not strike me as normal.”

Witham’s works are informed by her knowledge of painting and art history, and by the things she collect from wherever, “In my studio I have so many dishes

and pieces of cloth. When I collect something I do not necessarily have a plan for it, but I know I like how it looks and that it is going to come in handy someday.”

The animals in most of Witham’s photographs are not examples of taxidermy, but are simply shown the way she found them, “The animals are in rigor, so they can only pose in whatever position they died in,” she says.

Witham works with the animals respectfully, “When I found them, I photograph them as soon as possible and then I immediately bury it.”

Some people use the word barbaric when describing Witham’s art. She says she does not read the online comments, but is aware of the judgment passed on her distinct artwork. “I respect people’s opinions. Certainly, all art is not for everyone, but to me barbaric is letting a beautiful creature get hit by a car and leaving it on the side of the road to rot,” Witham says.

One day her niece showed her a comment that said, “That is so terrible! How can she put a dead animal on a plate?” Witham thought, “I think that is what most people who are not vegetarians do every single night at supper time! It would be an interesting study to go to the butcher’s shop and buy a chicken and put that in a still light photo – would anyone care?”

Even though Witham does not care too much about online opinions, she does find what people think about her work interesting.

“I guess I just would like them to have some reaction,” she says. “The beauty of the photography should strike you first and when you realize the creature is dead, you have to contemplate how it came to be that way.”

Witham’s favorite part is the “tension of the idea that something can be so beautiful, but then there is kind of a darker side to it as well,” she says.

“The roadkill aspect is probably starting to dissipate somewhat,” Witham adds. “There is a new project that I have started working on that involves portraits of things that have elements from the natural world.”

However, the point of Witham’s art will stay the same, “The point of my work is that we are so completely separated from the natural world. This sort of thematically notion about people’s disconnect with nature is one of my real artistic concerns.”



Witham’s roadkill piece PHOTO CREDIT: KIMBERLY WITHAM



Witham’s roadkill piece PHOTO CREDIT: KIMBERLY WITHAM

Bucks Paralegal Club is up and running



Paralegal Club President, Jenny Hinds.

PHOTO CREDIT: KAROLINE LUNDDAL DAM

By: KAROLINE LUNDDAL DAM
Centurion Staff

Last fall, a group of Bucks students began the process of creating an official club for those interested in all things paralegal, and now the club has been officially launched.

The new Paralegal and Law club holds monthly meetings, which are held at 12:30 p.m. and on some evenings. You do not have to commit to anything - whenever you feel it convenient, stop by. In Feb-

ruary, the club had their first event, where a court reporter came and spoke about the connection with the paralegal field. It had a fantastic turnout, and new members were recruited.

“The club is an extension of the paralegal program. Our mission is to prepare for the profession with mutual support and education,” says Club Advisor Brenda Seibert.

The clubs purpose is to offer enrichment opportunities in the paralegal area, as

well as providing relevant information to Bucks students who are seeking a degree in paralegal studies.

“The purpose is job preparedness,” says Seibert.

Paralegal professors Brenda Seibert, Heather Costello and Chris Simcox are a part of this club, but essentially, students run it, and according to club secretary and paralegal major Jenn Cramarossa, that is an exceptional opportunity.

“The professors put the ball in our court,” says Cramaros-

sa, “they give suggestions, but they made it very clear that we can do and run the club how we think.”

Seibert adds, “The role of the professors is really just doing what is needed for the students to be successful.”

The club welcomes everyone. “It is for anyone who wants to learn more about the paralegal profession. Both the club and the program,” says Seibert, adding, “every student is always welcome to sit in on a paralegal class to see

if it might be right for them.”

Cramarossa says that the club is planning to focus on networking with paralegals and alumni for future events.

“When the students design their events, they keep in mind the greater college community, and select events that have interest for paralegals, but also for other groups on campus,” says Seibert.

The club has gone the extra mile to provide a high standard of learning.

Therefore, it is approved by the American Bar Association. They hope that this improves the progress of the club. “I think what speaks to the student is how the program has prepared them for the field, and we hope that the club builds on that,” says Seibert.

“There is a lot that I’m learning on the go, and I’m enjoying it,” says Cramarossa about her experience with the paralegal program and the work with the club.

If this has sparked your interest, stop by the next event on April 5 at 12.30 or 5.30 (Penn Hall 410) and hear more about what the club can offer you!

For more information about the club, contact Club President Jenny Hinds (hindsj20605@live.bucks.edu) or Professor Seibert (215-968-8277/brenda.seibert@bucks.edu)

Bucks News

Donations are needed to help Bucks County families in need

By: LAUREN SAVANA
Centurion Staff

There are homeless men, women, and entire families here in Bucks County and we have the opportunity to help our fellow citizens that are in need of basic necessities.

Living in the community of Bucks County there is a tendency to believe that we are surrounded by luxury and fortune. What we tend to overlook is that there is poverty surrounding our community.

Volunteer at Bucks is an event that Bucks has chosen to take part in, now for the past 3 years. This is a donation based event where all students have the opportunity to donate certain items to help the homeless here in Bucks County.

There are two kinds of donations Student Life & Athletic Office and the Centurion club are accepting.

You can collect items from the list below, meant for individual men and women that are arriving to the homeless shelter with nothing except the clothes on their backs.

We need travel size items

that are easy for them to carry on their person.

There other forms of donations we are looking for, families are also entering secure housing that have nothing to fill their homes with. The specific items that these families are in need of are listed below.

These donations are accepted until March 31 and are collected on a point base system. A certain item gains a certain amount of points; this creates a contest for all that become involved. Whatever club obtains the most points will win a free luncheon and t-shirt for club members!

This is the Centurion Clubs community service project. If you are not affiliated with a club there will be laundry baskets placed outside the Centurion Newsroom, Rollins room 127. Feel free to drop off whatever you can.

This is a wonderful opportunity to give back to your community and help those that are less fortunate then yourselves. So get your club involved.

Over 30 colleges and universities attend Bucks transfer fair to help students take the next step



Transfer Fair in Founders Hall

PHOTO CREDIT: VALARIE LINABERRY

By: VALARIE LINABERRY
Centurion Staff

Bucks held a transfer fair with 30 college representatives in Founders Hall lobby on Tuesday, Feb. 23.

The next fair will be held March 30 from 9:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. at the Links Pavilion.

The upcoming fair plans to be larger than the previous one, giving more opportunities to connect with different colleges.

This is an opportunity where students considering transferring can go to get in-

formation on possible schools they plan on transferring to, with the luxury of not having to go visit all the campuses.

It can also create a chance for prospecting transfer students to discover schools that they might not have even considered applying to.

The fair gives students an opportunity to make connections with a representative from the college they might apply to.

This is helpful if the students does not have the possibility of visiting the school before they apply.

Students have the opportunity to also discuss financial aid options with the representative for their particular school.

Also by attending this fair, a few of the schools offer to waive the application fees.

According to Teddy Willis, a 19 year old media major on campus, even though he didn't plan on originally attending this event, it helped him create a direction and consider possible schools he could attend after his Bucks County Community College experience.

By planning before attending the fair, it gives time to generate possible questions a student may run into for the transfer process and other information about the school they are interested in.

Some possible questions students should ask are what the admission requirements are for their particular school. Also they should discuss what the deadlines for transfer applications are and how many credits to they accept for transfers.

With 30 schools participating at the Transfer Fair, the only con according to Debora Bergen, Assistant Director, Advising and Transfer Services, is the possibility of not having the school you plan on transferring to there. With 30 close colleges there, that is more than unlikely.

Some of the larger schools that attended the previous Transfer Fair were Bloomsburg University, Gwynedd Mercy University, Temple and Villanova.

If you have any questions, contact the transfer services, found on www.bucks.edu/transfer or call 215-968-8031.

You can also send emails at transfer@bucks.edu. By going on the website, it gives a list of the schools attending the upcoming transfer fair on March 30th.

The website also helps with discovering where your credits can transfer to and the different services our advising and transfer department has.

Volunteer BUCKS

3rd Annual Day of Service for BCCC students.

HELP HOMELESS FAMILIES

When families leave the homeless shelter for a home of their own, they often have nothing. Make them feel loved by creating a "Welcome Home" basket full of things they really need.

Best of all, you can win big while helping others! Every item you collect or donate is worth points. The team with the most points will win a free luncheon and t-shirt for club members!

3 Ways to Win:

1. Donate any of the needed items, get points for each item.
2. Donate ALL items on the list and get a bonus for a total of 250 points.
3. Donate \$100 and get 250 points. The money will be used for these products.

Needed items:

Paper Towels (3 rolls) 5 pts
Toilet Brush 10 pts
Dish Detergent 5 pts
Garbage Bags 20 pts
Broom and Dust Pan 15 pts
Plunger 5 pts
Sponges (3 or more) 5 pts
Mop 20 pts
Bucket 10 pts

Pledge 10 pts
Windex 10 pts
Clorox Clean-Up Cleaner 10 pts
Mr. Clean All Purpose Cleaner 5 pts
Lysol Disinfecting Wipes 10 pts
Clorox Toilet Bowl Cleaner 5 pts
Scrubbing Bubbles 10 pts
Free & Clear Laundry Detergent 15 pts
Laundry Basket 20 pts

Donate ALL items & get 250 points - that's a 60 point bonus!

Donations accepted Wednesday, Jan. 27 - Wednesday, Mar. 23

Newtown: Student Life & Athletics Office, Rollins Student Center, Room 112
Upper Bucks: North Building Reception Desk
Lower Bucks: Reception Desk

Volunteer Bucks is a collaboration between Bucks County Community College and United Way of Bucks County. Questions? Contact Student Life at 215-968-8257 or studentlife@bucks.edu.

Volunteer BUCKS

3rd Annual Day of Service for BCCC students.

HELP HOMELESS MEN & WOMEN

When men and women enter the homeless shelter, they often have nothing. You can help them by creating a toiletry kit full of much needed personal items.

Best of all, you can win big while helping others! Every item you collect or donate is worth points. The team with the most points will win a free luncheon and t-shirt for club members!

3 Ways to Win:

1. Donate any of the needed items, get points for each item.
2. Donate ALL items on the list and get a bonus for a total of 35 or 40 points.
3. Donate \$20 for a complete women's kit and get 40 points. Donate \$15 for a men's kit and get 35 points!

Items for women:

Deodorant 2 pts
Razor 2 pts
Shaving Cream 2 pts
Soap or Body Wash 2 pts
Toothpaste 2 pts
Toothbrush 2 pts
Shampoo 2 pts
Conditioner 2 pts
Toiletry Bag 2 pts
Lotion 2 pts
Sunscreen 4 pts
Feminine Care Products 4 pts

Total for all items: 28 pts
Donate ALL items & get 40 pts!

Items for men:

Deodorant 2 pts
Razor 2 pts
Shaving Cream 2 pts
Soap or Body Wash 2 pts
Toothpaste 2 pts
Toothbrush 2 pts
Shampoo 2 pts
Socks 2 pts
Hard Candy 2 pts
Toiletry Bag 2 pts
Lotion 2 pts
Sunscreen 4 pts

Total for all items: 26 pts
Donate ALL items & get 35 pts!

Donations accepted Wednesday, Jan. 27 - Wednesday, Mar. 23

Newtown: Student Life & Athletics Office, Rollins Student Center, Room 112
Upper Bucks: North Building Reception Desk
Lower Bucks: Reception Desk

Volunteer Bucks is a collaboration between Bucks County Community College and United Way of Bucks County. Questions? Contact Student Life at 215-968-8257 or studentlife@bucks.edu.

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Bucks News

Centurion wins six journalism awards

By: STEVEN CEREBY
Centurion Staff

The Centurion won six awards in 2016 Keystone Press competition, bringing the paper’s total number of awards to more than 70 since 2010.

The Centurion won first place for Public Service/Enterprise Package, for “Community Colleges at a Crossroads,” a package of stories about the challenges facing two-year colleges that was written by Michele Haddon.

The paper also won first place in the sports story category, for “Bucks Men’s Baseball Team Gets New Coaches” by Centurion editor Carly Pendergast.

Centurion editor Justin Bifulco won second place in the feature writing category for his interview with Dan Price, the CEO of Gravity Payments who made headlines when he raised the minimum salary at his company to \$70,000.

Sports editor John Gannon won an honorable mention for his profile of star soccer player Reynaldo Bonilla.

Writer Melissa Cohen won an honorable mention for her review of “High Society” at the Walnut Street Theater.

The paper also won second place for its website, www.bucks-news.com

The paper competed in the division 3 category, which includes community colleges



Centurion award winners from left, Justin Bifulco, Carly Pendergast, and John Gannon.
PHOTO CREDIT: LAUREN SAVANA

from across Pennsylvania. Some of the schools competing included Community College of Philadelphia, HACC Lancaster campus, Community College of Allegheny College, and Montgomery County Community College.

The Centurion has won 74 awards in the contest since 2010.

Journalism Professor Tony Rogers, the faculty adviser to the Centurion, said winning the awards felt great.

“It’s a testament to how hard the students in the journalism program at Bucks work,” he said. “Even though the Centurion has a very small

staff, and most of the students who work on the paper also take a full load of classes and have jobs outside the college, they still manage to produce excellent, award-winning work. This is why many of our graduates go on to get jobs at professional news outlets”.

Rogers said the paper had been putting more of an emphasis on covering sports at the college recently.

“We always try to put an emphasis on covering the sports teams at Bucks because we feel they don’t get the recognition they deserve,” said Rogers. “Our sportswrit-

ers also like to write about the pro teams in Philadelphia, but we always tell them our first priority is to cover sports at the college.”

Rogers added, “We always want to achieve more, and we always want to keep improving. The problem with having a student newspaper at a community college is that you have so much turnover; students come into the program, get trained in the journalism skills they need, and then they’re gone.”

“We hope to soon introduce an app that will enable readers to access the paper on

their smartphones,” Rogers continued.

Editor in Chief Pendergast, who is a big reason for all the success the Centurion has had in the past, was asked about her success and what she thinks of the paper’s editing and reporting team.

“I’m so proud!! Our program continues to see success at these awards and it really says a lot about Professor Rogers, that first-time writers are seeing success along with our more tenured writers,” Pendergast said.

“We have a group of fantastic and dedicated writers that take what we do seriously, and now they are seeing results,” Pendergast continued.

The awards will be given out at the Keystone Press Awards Luncheon during the America East Media Business and Technology Conference, on April 6, at the Hershey Lodge and Convention Center.

Plaques will be provided to all first-place winners and certificates to all second place and honorable mentions winners in attendance at the award luncheon.

If students at Bucks are looking to pursue a career in journalism and don’t have the money to go to a 4-year college right away, they can find out more about the journalism program at www.bucks.edu/journalism

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Local News

Adopt, don't shop



PHOTO CREDIT: WIKIMEDIACOMMONS.COM

By: JAHMEELAH WILSON
Centurion Staff

Who doesn't love going to a pet shop, and looking at all the cute two- and four-legged friends as they come running up to the glass window to greet you as you walk by. All of the animals are irresistibly cute and you will do almost anything to take one of them home. Unfortunately, most of the puppies sold in pet stores come from puppy mills.

According to the ASPCA, there are 7.6 million potential pets that enter animal shelters nationwide every year, and only 2.7 million of those actually get adopted.

"Purchasing pet store animals means not only supporting the cruel puppy mill industry but also taking a home away from one of the "4 to 5 million unwanted shelter animals killed each year." Because of the in-breeding and filthy conditions common to puppy mills, they often produce animals with serious health problems which typically result in hefty vet fees. On top of this, pet stores generally do not socialize their animals. The puppies may consequently develop behavioral problems which do not make them ideal as pets. Pet shops dispose of unsold animals in, at times, unscrupulous ways," according to lcanimal.org.

Juno the pitbull is a prime example of when shelters succeed in saving an animal's life. The description of the pitbull read, "Must leave shelter before 8 p.m. on 12/20/15." It is 5 p.m. If the dog does not get adopted, she will be euthanized. She is a six-month-old pit bull, merely a puppy. She has been given a death sentence before she even gets a chance to live. At shelters, such as Animal Care and Control Team of Philadelphia (ACCT), they receive many dogs and cats that are abused, found as strays, or are owner surrenders. This particular puppy was a stray. Growing up on the streets is much different from being in a cage. She hid in the back of her kennel as potential adopters passed by. Luckily, before 8 p.m. the Philadelphia SPCA saved her.

The brown and white puppy went to another shelter, put in another cage, in hopes of finding a home. Within a month, she was adopted and given the name Juno. Though timid, Juno went to a new home and warmed up within a couple of days.

There is also a problem with overpopulation at shelters. Perfectly good dogs and cats are euthanized because they are overlooked, for being too old, or sick. Juno is one of the lucky ones. Let's hope this encourages all who want a pet to adopt, not shop.

Nine Reasons to Adopt a Pet

1. Because you'll save a life
The number of euthanized animals could be reduced dramatically if more people adopted pets instead of buying them. When you adopt, you save your animal and open up shelter space for another animal who might need it.

2. Because you'll get a great animal.

Animal shelters and rescue groups are brimming with happy, healthy pets just waiting for someone to take them home. Most shelter pets ended up there because of a human problem like a move or a divorce, not because the animal did anything wrong.

3. Because you'll get a great bargain.

When you adopt a pet, the cost of spay/neuter, first vaccinations and sometimes microchipping is usually included in the adoption price, which means you've scored a major deal—a fuzzy deal who will thank you with kisses or purrs for years to come.

4. Because of the bragging rights.

No one needs to see another selfie—unless it's a selfie of you with the adorable cat you just adopted, like the hero you are! Adopt a pet, post the pictures and let the love (likes) roll in.

5. Because it's one way to fight puppy mills.

You're too smart to get a dog from a pet store or online seller—you might as well buy direct from a puppy mill. Puppy mills are "factory style" breeding facilities that put profit above the welfare of dogs. Animals from puppy mills are housed in shockingly poor conditions with improper medical care, and are often very sick and behaviorally troubled as a result.

6. Because your decor will thank you.

Many of the pets from shelters and rescues are already housetrained, which means you're not only saving a pet's life, you may be saving your rug.

7. Because all pets are good for your health, but an adopted pet is good for your self-esteem.

Not only do animals give you unconditional love, but they have been shown to be psychologically, emotionally and physically beneficial.

8. Because you're environmentally responsible.

You recycle your paper and plastic so it doesn't end up in landfills, and you know that recycled materials make all sorts of things. A "recycled" pet can make something even better.

9. You'll change a homeless animal's whole world.

And get a new best friend in the bargain. Seriously, what could be better than that?

*Courtesy of the Humane Society.Org



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National News

Trump takes presidential race in a strange direction

By: CHAD DINGMAN
Centurion Staff

One year ago, it seemed almost inevitable that the two presidential candidates facing off through the summer of 2016 into November, would be Former Florida Governor Jeb Bush and Former Secretary of State Hillary Clinton. Whether you liked it or not, the narrative was going to be about these two destined aspirants hoping to continue a past political dynasty, or lay claim to new one.

Last week after the South Carolina Republican primary, Bush dropped out of the race. His poll numbers only continued to dwindle, and it soon became a matter of time before his fate was realized. Although he lasted until February, Bush’s coup de grace truly came only a day after he declared.

On June 16, 2015, along came businessman Donald Trump, with charisma, a catchy slogan, and an ability to energize the conservative base. Frankly, these were three things that Bush did not have in his arsenal, and that played a part in his rapid demise. Trump soon became the frontrunner, and it was the year of the anti-establishment candidate.

Michael Hagen, a Political Science professor at Temple University, offers his view on



PHOTO CREDIT: WIKIMEDIACOMMONS.COM

how unpredictable both the Republican and Democratic races have been. While it may seem that both races have had some interesting twists and turns, one is vastly more unforeseeable than the other.

“The Republican race is more unusual, though more for the identities, assets, and styles of the candidates than for the structure of the contest,” Hagen says. “If [Trump’s] competitors can keep raising funds and stay in the race, that might produce a

truly unprecedented contest.”

The Democratic race has seen the emergence of Vermont Senator Bernie Sanders, whose attempts to spark a political revolution have been met with unprecedented success. Beyond that, Hagen acknowledges “it’s rare for a front-runner who’s not an incumbent president to go unchallenged. The usual pattern is for a front-runner to emerge early and then a challenger to emerge, then fade.”

Sanders has proven to

be formidable so far, but it remains to be seen how long he can last against the former First Lady. “I would be surprised if either race is still in doubt at the end of March, but I’m prepared to be surprised,” Hagen says. The second part of that sentence encapsulates this whole election season. The only thing that is predictable is that the rest of the race will be unpredictable.

The charisma and freshness of Trump and Sanders have, more than anything, given

the electorate something to think about. They are offering a prodigious challenge to the status quo, and have forced their opponents in that direction.

The vitriolic rhetoric that has been present in the race, notably on the Republican side, is generally considered to be used heavily in primaries, and in moderation during the general election. Hagen does not believe this will be as prominent a trend as in elections past, saying that “presidential campaigns now seem to devote more resources to mobilizing the party faithful than to persuading (the shrinking number of) swing voters.” He does concede however, that both eventual nominees will likely “try to shift voter impressions of them toward the center one way or another.

Donald Trump, Hillary Clinton, Bernie Sanders, Ted Cruz, and Marco Rubio all believe they can become the next president of the United States. The path for some may be tougher than others, but if there is one thing we have learned during this election season, it is this: Expect to be surprised, because more twists are bound to be in store in the coming months.

The internet makes voter registration easier than ever

By: ANGELA GRABOSKY
Centurion Staff

The Pa. Online Voter Registration released a press release on Feb. 18 celebrating an almost 100,000 user milestone and reminding voters that the registration deadline for voting in presidential primaries is March 28.

More than 97,000 people in the state have done online voter registration. The majority were new voters at 60 percent. The other 40 percent were registration updates like changing a person’s name, address, or political party.

“Since August, nearly 100,000 voters have discovered for themselves the ease and accessibility of online voter registration,” Cortés said during a press conference at the Dauphin County Bureau of Registration and Elections.

Online registration is convenient, efficient, and secure. The registration website is bilingual, so far it is available in English and Spanish. Online forms result in a more efficient application process. It reduces the amount of time staff spends processing paper applications and saves on mailing costs. Fast and accurate applications are especially important during a presidential election year. Pennsylvania primaries are quickly approaching.

“Given the fact that this is a presidential election year and we are this close to the registration deadline, we are very pleased with that part of the process,” said Director of the Dauphin County Bureau of Registration and Elections Gerald D. Feaser Jr.

“This tool will help provide us with the most accurate voter rolls possible as we approach the primary election,” Pa. Secretary Cortés said. “This is especially important with the volume of new registrations and updates that the counties process in a presidential election year.”

The website keeps personal data more secure than a paper trail because the forms are directly deposited to your county voter registration office. Cyber security is closely monitored and updated.

The online voter registration site is linked to PennDOT. If you have a driver’s license or a state ID card the website already has your signature. PennDOT will be quickly linked to your voter record. Those who do not have a state ID can print, sign, and mail the application or request the Department of State to mail you a signature card to sign and bring to your county office.

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WEDNESDAY 2/3

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WEDNESDAY 2/10

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Arts and Entertainment

A hip hop marvel: Every hero has his Villyn



Rapper, Tony 2 Step
By: GEORGE MEANS
Centurion Staff

The creative magic occurs on the second story of an average Levittown type of home that has been converted into a studio-style apartment in Croydon. The room is made up of plain white walls, still partially wood paneled, between an average tan carpet and drop tile ceiling that can be reached when standing on tippy toes. The furniture consists of a plain wooden dresser, coffee table, and a nightstand that sits beside a futon sofa. The only difference between this room and my high school hangout is the missing haze of smoke and stench of marijuana. If you can picture the cast of That 70’s Show hanging out upstairs, rather than Foreman’s basement, then you get the picture.

The resident: a 29 year-old entrepreneur with a style of his own. A black Villyn baseball cap tops his wardrobe comprised of khaki colored skinny jeans and a green-sleeved Philadelphia Phillies “2008 World Series” shirt accessorized with black gauges—nearly an inch wide in each earlobe. A unique, grungy, hip hop swagger. A Travis Barker/Mac Miller hybrid. He resembles a hardcore vape shop employee minus the pretentious ego.

This creative genius, is known as Tony Two-Step.

The man behind the crafty rap moniker is Anthony Fiorelli. A local hip hop artist and aspiring clothing designer. In a world where so few pursue their dreams, Fiorelli is always taking the risks that are associated with success. Fiorelli went from performing in rock and heavy metal bands in his high school years to becoming a solo artist in the Philly hip hop scene.

“You can’t rely on anybody but yourself if you want to get things done the way you want to get them done,” says Fiorelli.

In his journey to becoming a solo artist, he experienced a domino effect of tragic losses. As he was entering high school, Fiorelli’s mother died and he was sent to live with his grandmother. Half way through high school, Fiorelli was faced with another unfortunate tragedy, his grandmother passed away—forcing him to pack up and live with his father.

He admits that he was trou-

bled during these years. He would act out through truancy, partying, underage drinking, at one point, he even got in trouble for vandalism. The culmination of these behaviors led to him getting kicked out of Bensalem High School and sent to an alternative school at the end of his sophomore year. After graduating from Middle Earth, Fiorelli started writing and recording music right away.

“It wasn’t as saturated as it is now with everybody [that] thinks that they’re a rapper,” he describes the hip hop scene in the early 2000s.

“I could shine a little bit,” Fiorelli continues, “I could express myself in a different way than acting out.”

The benefits of music are clearly evident to Fiorelli. “There are no boundaries on creativity,” he explains.

“It’s great to have an imagination still as an adult,” Fiorelli adds, “A lot of people lose that.”

In person, Fiorelli is a down-to-earth guy with a good sense of humor. Always appearing cool, calm, and collected, but still cracking jokes whenever the opportunity arises. On the microphone, he can only be described as a verbal contortionist or a linguistic acrobat. He has a charisma that is accentuated by his hyperactive energy which his whole audience feels when he’s performing. “Man, there is no father to my style,” Fiorelli jokingly quotes the late Ol’ Dirty Bastard. “I’m not really boxed in. It’s like an alternative/hip-hop mix,” he describes.

Fiorelli’s music is plastered all across the internet on sites like Youtube and SoundCloud. Tony Two-Step’s name is widely known in the Philadelphia hip hop scene and he has performed shows with more popular artists like Logic, Peedi Crakk, Dice Raw, Snow Tha Product, and Audio Push. Fiorelli has been pursuing his musical dreams for over a decade despite the difficulties of trying to make money in the music business.

“People aren’t really buying music like they were 10, 15, 20 years ago,” he explains.

Artists spend thousands of dollars just putting an album together and it is not guaranteed that they will ever get that money back. Fiorelli wishes that he would have put more money into his music when he was younger, “because I may be somewhere

else now.”

To pay the bills, Fiorelli works full-time as a manager at Custom Apparel Company where he gets to use his skills in t-shirt printing that he has acquired over the years. Fiorelli is still writing and recording music, but he is considering putting it on the backburner so that he can focus on his own personal clothing line, Villyn Clothing Co. Villyn apparel is an urban, street wear clothing company with a style that resonates with the hip hop heads and skater crowds.

Jokingly, Fiorelli says, “I am a grownup now and I have to do grownup things.”

PHOTO CREDIT: REJI B. PHOTOGRAPHY

He still plans on putting out music, but there may be a few changes in his priorities.

“I’m not giving up, I’m just being smart,” he explains.

Fiorelli plans on releasing a full length album by the end of the year and also has plans to shoot a couple of more music videos in that time.

His advice for young entrepreneurs is “to have money to put into it” Fiorelli explains, “Nobody’s going to take you seriously if you won’t back yourself financially.” With a few regrets about not putting enough money into promoting his music, he hopes to do things differently with his clothing venture. Villyn is

currently available for sale at www.villyn.bigcartel.com.

Fiorelli’s five-year-plan includes opening a boutique, expanding his clothing line beyond t-shirts and hats, and possibly going back to school to study graphic or fashion design.

“It would be awesome to just be able to live off of what I love to do,” he explains. His ambitions used to be for fame, but that isn’t why he continues to chase his dreams. “I’m in it to be able to express myself.”

Fiorelli stays connected with his community doing charity work, feeding the homeless, and getting involved with non-profit organizations like “The Freedom Project.” He came up with the name “Villyn” because he claims that “everybody has a villainous side to them,” but it appears that Fiorelli’s wicked side has been exterminated by a decade’s worth of musical expression.

Fear causes many people to abandon their ideas. The fear of failure, alone, deters many people from following their desires. Even though there is “fear” in the rushed pronunciation of “Fiorelli,” he is certainly a stranger to the emotion. It’s clear; he does not use the “Tony Two-Step” moniker as a mask to hide behind or as a supplemental persona. Tony Two-Step is the passion-driven artist that resides within Fiorelli himself.

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Sports

Men’s Basketball makes a splash



Centurion Basketball team

PHOTO CREDIT: CENTURION BASKETBALL FACEBOOK

BY: GEORGE PEGRAM
Centurion Staff

The Centurion men’s basketball team is looking forward to next season. With a team of mostly freshmen, the team can only get better and better.

This season was seen as a success, as the team finished the 2015-16 campaign with a record of 13-13, and a playoff berth.

In order to progress further into the playoffs next year, the Centurions will have to decide who the head coach will be. Interim Coach Justin Dunbar is hopeful that he remains coach for next season. “There’s a good chance I’ll be there next year” says Dunbar, “They like me.”

This was an exciting and eventful year for Dunbar, 26. He took over in the midst of a 5-game losing streak, “It was a tough time for us... (we) would like to avoid those things next year.”

Even though this was his first time coaching, he’s already discussing areas where the Centurions can improve, and strengthen areas where they already have talent.

Dunbar believes his team showed great resiliency throughout a somewhat turbulent season. The team’s vigorous mentality was showcased in their playoff loss to Bergen. The team started the game off on the wrong side of a 19-0 lead, and were still able to cut the deficit to just 3 twice in

the second half. The Centurions’ tenacity is something Dunbar is looking forward to seeing again next year.

Resiliency can make up for a lot of inefficiencies. The team’s greatest fundamental weaknesses were “rebounding and shot blocking,” according to Dunbar. The Centurions didn’t have a true big-guy to help with these flaws this year. “Our big (guys) are more perimeter players” said Dunbar.

The coach would like to address the issue before next season, but believes the current group of guys can overcome their fundamental disadvantages because of the experience and continuity they will have next season.

With any team, confidence is key. One thing Dunbar would admit to bringing to the table was his ability to “bring positive energy to the team.” The coach believes it is one of his biggest strengths.

This ability was put to the test in the middle of a 5-game losing streak in late January. The Centurions regained their composure just in time for a successful late season playoff push.

Dunbar believes both he and the team can learn from this year.

“It was a learning experience for everybody, especially myself, being my first time (head) coaching,” says Dunbar.

The team will lean on

their experiences from this year next season. There’s no question that experience is a valuable asset to the team, and the Centurions will have that on their side next season.

Twelve months ago the Centurions were coming off a disappointing 2-21 season, but there was none of that this year. In just one year the Centurions have made themselves into a real playoff threat.

With an experienced and talented team, the Centurions are poised to do big things next season. Coach Dunbar’s probable return could result in the perfect combination of talent, timing, and continuity.

There’s a bright future for men’s basketball here at Bucks.

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