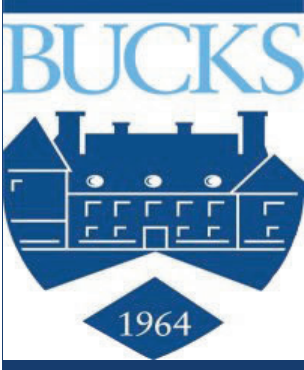


# The Centurion



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

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## Shanblatt Slams Wolf Budget for Community Colleges

MIKE VIGILANTE

*Centurion Staff*

Governor Wolf outlined his proposed budget for 2017-18 last week, and while it touts an increase to overall education spending, Pennsylvania's 14 community colleges and four state-related universities are not set to receive any additional funding.

In a statement from the Pennsylvania Commission for Community Colleges, concerns were raised over the potential impact of Governor Wolf's proposed budget, that will keep community colleges funded below 2008-09 levels.

To help alleviate the growing pressure and concerns, the PACC requested a \$28 million increase in the operating appropriation as well as a \$2 million increase in their capital appropriation, that would help the 14 community colleges in the state to recover from years of static funding increases.

"We recognize the fiscal realities of this budget, but level funding from the Commonwealth will further stretch the colleges' resources and our ability to serve our students," wrote Dr. Stephanie Shanblatt, president of Bucks County Community College, in a statement earlier last week.

Community colleges in Pennsylvania enrolled 326,786 students in the 2015-16 academic year, and while they still offer higher education at a reasonable price, in comparison to larger, private schools, growing budgetary concerns may result in a rise in tuition for students.

But despite the important role that community colleges play in the education and workforce systems, the colleges still receive the lowest per-student resources from the State.

"For the 2016-17 fiscal year, the Commonwealth's per-student

funding at community colleges averaged \$2,570 compared to per-student funding of \$3,352 at state-related universities, \$4,405 at state-system universities, and \$13,641 at other publicly-supported institutions," the PACC wrote in their statement.

Additionally, capital funding that typically goes towards things like staff and technology, is also slated to remain static in Governor Wolf's proposed budget. "The \$2 million increase requested by the Commission would have been the first increase in capital funding since 2013-14," writes the PACC. "A 2014 survey of the capital needs of the colleges determined that they had a capital need of more than \$700 million."

Community colleges provide more than just low cost tuition; they can teach technological skills that are highly coveted throughout the country. Many professions like radiation technicians, dental hygienists, electronics repair, etc., only require a 2 year associates degree that are often times overlooked at four year institutions.

"Community colleges are the engine of change, playing a vital role in the economic health of our community," wrote John J. Sygielski, president of Harrisburg Area Community College, in an article he penned for The Sentinel. "In Pennsylvania, the 14 community colleges are the largest public provider of higher education."

In her statement, Dr. Shanblatt stressed the fiscal realities of the budget, and expressed concern that level funding from the Commonwealth would further stretch the school's resources and their ability to serve the students. "Any additional funds will help us to continue to partner with K-12 education, businesses, and employers to offer additional opportunities for students and to keep their success at the center of our mission."



Top To Bottom: Stephanie Shanblatt, Tom Wolf

PHOTO CREDIT: BUCKS.EDU, WIKIMEDIA COMMONS

## Courses: Online or Face-to-Face? Students, Professors Debate

KAYLEY NAGLE

*Centurion Staff*

With the increase in academic technology, Bucks has given students the opportunity to take online courses, which allow people to complete their credits through an online site, instead of taking face-to-face classes on campus.

Both sources of learning provide students with a substantial college education, but offer quite different experiences that hold both positive and negative aspects.

Face-to-face classes, which are the traditional college setup, allow for an interactive learning experience, giving students the chance to communicate and socialize with their peers while also being able to interact with their professors.

Psychology professor Wilma Starr agrees, stating "There is a sense of 'community' when you are in a classroom of other students. Before the instructor comes in, students talk about the class and if they understood what happened last class period. I hope my students make new friends out of their classmates. It's that regular contact that is a part of the 'college experience' which I think is what makes college special."

"I love teaching face-to-face classes because I enjoy getting to know my students and interacting

with them. I can intervene if I think a student is struggling. The best part of teaching is teaching. I feel more of a 'grader' than a teacher when I used to teach an online course." Starr continued.

Students also seem to benefit from this original style of learning, "Interacting with teachers and classmates helps me to keep my focus. I enjoy being able to ask questions when necessary and get an instant response" Nursing major Kaylee Miller, 19 from Morrisville, explained.

Exercise Science major Toni Andress, 18, from Fairless Hills thrives in a face-to-face environment, "I benefit more with face-to-face learning because I am a visual and auditory learner." She feels she needs to hear the professors voice and physically see what is being taught to progress academically.

This traditional process does have its downsides though, since face-to-face classes are on a specific, organized schedule, this causes a stress inducing environment for students who are juggling several responsibilities.

Online education allows these students to learn on a more flexible schedule. "Online classes can give you the freedom to pursue your education while giving you the peace of mind that if work gets hectic or your days become busy with something else, you aren't bound to a certain day, place, and time for classes." Said Marisa

Krause, 23, a Liberal Arts major from Doylestown.

Krause also explains that online learning gives she and other students the ability to be in full control of their education. "The students become a key component to their success and mastery of the subject. You may get slideshows and discussion boards to help with your subjects, but with online classes you are in control of what you learn."

Communication and Theatre Arts professor Michelle Pen-

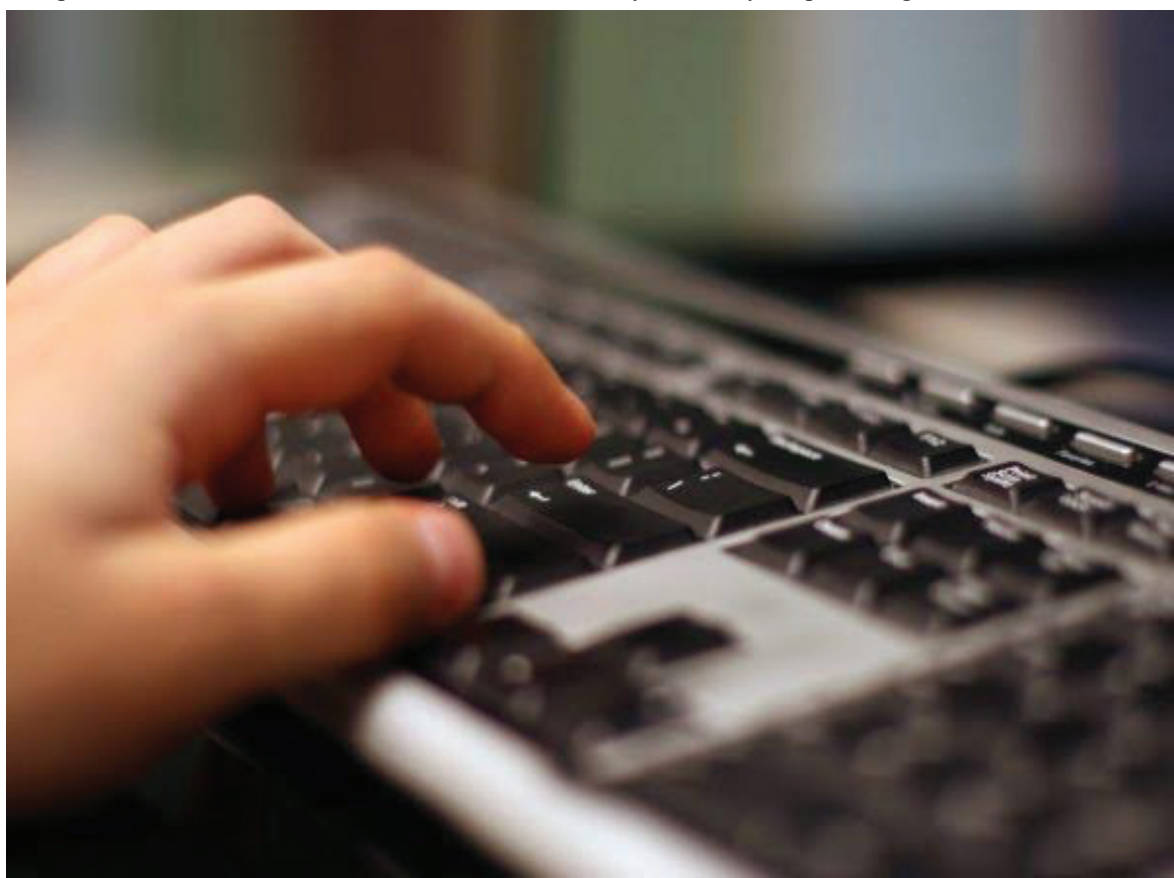
timall feels that teaching an online course helps to breakdown obstacles that may be present in a face-to-face environment. "The benefits for teaching an online class would be the same for the professors as the students and mostly involves flexibility. It is particularly useful for keeping the course on track during inclement weather since the work is done from any location."

Though these different styles of learning gain what the other may lack, she believes they ultimately

balance each other out. "We strive to make the experience the same" Pentimall explains.

These separate options of academia are molded to fit to individual needs, but both result in personal success.

Bucks allows students to thrive academically in their own way. Whether it is through an interactive environment or a flexible online system, the college gives students the opportunity to succeed academically to ensure a promising future.





# Bucks News

## Wind Catcher Max Project Blows Us Away

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**ROWAN HALDEMAN**  
*Centurion Staff*

The team of Aneeqa Karu, Pavel Lelyukh and Jim Napoli, were able to create an environmentally friendly wind turbine that was also safe to the wild life; after being rewarded \$10,000 from PECO, they plan to use this money to further their Wind Catcher and build a prototype.

Christine M. Delahanty, the associate Professor of Engineering science, technology, and math motivated her students to go ahead with the Wind Catcher max project. Delahanty was asked, out of all the ideas, how did your students come up with the Wind Catcher max? She replied, “A student of mine [Paul Lelyukh] came up with it a year ago. He investigated an alternative energy source. I told Paul to go with the idea. Six months later, a seventy-two-part design of wind power was created.”

The Wind Catcher Max is said to be a new style of wind turbine that takes up less space, does not threaten wildlife, and recycles water. When asked if Delahanty could elaborate more on the topic, she replied, “The Wind Catcher Max is a wind tower that is designed to maximize energy output at a lower cost than standard wind turbines or solar panels. It takes up much less space than solar panels and is not harmful to wild life like standard wind turbines.”

Throughout this whole journey of creating the Wind Catcher Max, many students showed that they are capable of working together and showed excellent teamwork. Delahanty expanded on how this group of people




One of the wind turbines that the students made

PHOTO CREDIT: ROWAN HALDEMAN


showed great teamwork stating, “The videography students of the Arts Department, under the direction of their professor, Stanley Timek, were kind enough to shoot, and produce a 90 second video for the online entry to the 2016 NSF Innovation Challenge. The students were very helpful to the team. We are grateful for this wonderful collaboration. Their video helped the students make the final round of the challenge, which included the top 10 teams out of 75 entries. As a result, the students went to a boot camp in Arlington, VA and presented their Innovation on Capitol Hill.”

After the group of students entered their project into the NSF challenge, they were able to receive a grant from PECO. When questioned on what she plans to do with the ten thousand dollar grant to further the project, she replied, “We plan to investigate the physics of the structure and study its feasibility. [We plan to] investigate the fluid dynamics. In addition, [our students] are very excited to be collaborating with the business students. We hope to create a workable prototype.”

Lastly, one of the main reasons why the Wind Catcher was created was to hopefully gain awareness and garner creative outlets for Bucks students. Delahanty stated, “[We entered] the start me up challenge, to gain interest in businesses. It also creates awareness that students can perform outside of their curriculum. In addition, it was a real world study of innovation.



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# Bucks News

## Bucks Holds Lecture to Discuss Eating Disorders

ALI GISH  
*Centurion Staff*

On Wed. March 1, in the Gallagher Room, The Renfrew Foundation which helps to prevent and treat those who suffer from eating disorders presented a lecture attended mainly by nutrition students curious about the growing obsession to stay thin and how the age of those who are affected, mostly teen girls, is becoming increasingly younger. Part of this issue is due to the major role which media plays in our society as young girls who spend excessive periods of time on social media may develop a distorted image of what their bodies their supposed to look like.

This event was organized by Dekia Smith, a counseling director at Bucks. Speaker Wendy Cramer, MEd is currently a Senior Profesional Relations Representative who has presented locally and nationally to spread awareness of eating disorders. She received her Master’s degree in Counseling Psychology from Temple University and has been in the healthcare industry for over 25 years.

Cramer begins by explaining anorexia, the eating disorder which she referred to as most often affecting “overachievers and perfectionists” who develop a false sense of control as they starve themselves to achieve their ideal image. Cramer points out the dangers of this disorder, stressing that “20 percent of those diagnosed with anorexia will die” and also warning against the dangers of menstrual irregularities which can occur due to lack of nutrition and in some cases can lead to infertility.

Cramer continues on the subject of an equally harmful form of eating disorder known as binge eating. Binge eating is a compulsive consumption and later purging of food, which leaves many women “feeling out of control” and cause cause major damage to teeth, and in fact Cramer has seen “some

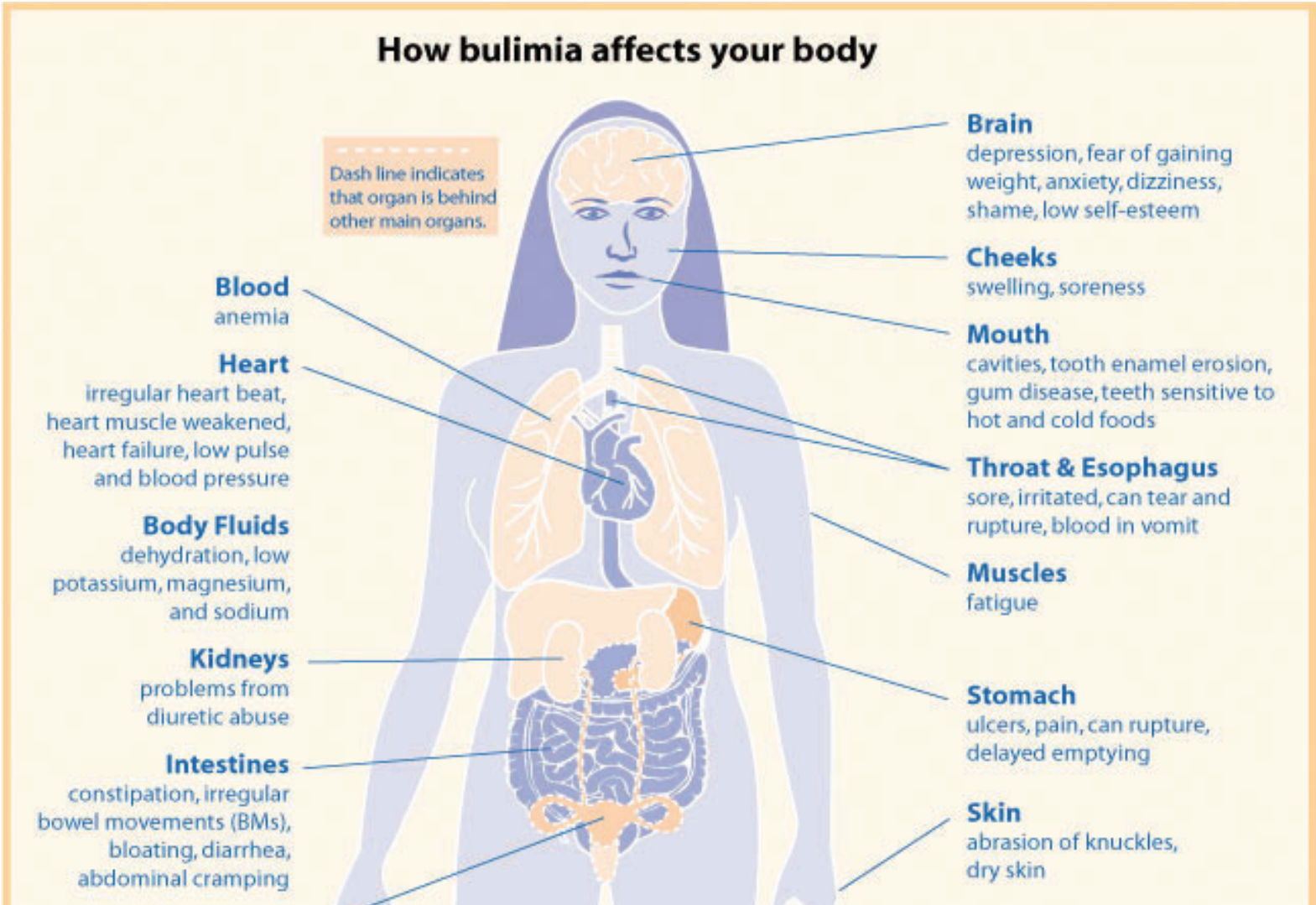


PHOTO CREDIT: WIKIMEDIACOMMONS.ORG

patients that have no teeth” as the enamel is worn away by stomach acid. Cramer warns against another form of purging including excessive laxative intake, as she recalls seeing some woman take as many as “80-100 laxatives a day” which can lead to serious internal damage.

While Cramer reminds that all cases are different, she does see trends among those who suffer from binge-eating disorders as being “social, compulsive, exhibiting reckless behaviors and often resorting to drug use.”

Some women have described their purges as “punishment”, beating themselves up for not appearing the way they think they should. Others describe it as a release, expressing that it is the only thing in their lives they feel they have control over. Overexer-

cising is also used to rid the body of excess body fat, as there are cases where women have become so obsessed with exercise that it surpasses the healthy amount of weight loss.

Many associate eating disorders with drug addictions, and while Cramer is hesitant to categorize the two together it is understandable to see the relation between the two as they are both obsessions which many people feel they cannot live without. The similarity between the two goes deeper as many women abuse diet pills to lose weight. Cramer looks down on the dieting culture, pointing out that this “\$66 billion industry” exposes women to dangerous risks as they use often addictive pills to help women lose weight when “95 to 97 percent gain the weight back later.”

It is important to raise awareness of this disorder and the different methods of starvation and purging as it continues to grow among our society, especially because of younger children and teen girls who are pressured by social media which can distort the way we think we are supposed to look. It is becoming common to promote being thin and staying fit in today’s society, which is something that needs to be considered as young girls are beginning to judge themselves based upon the things they hear in the outside world.

Social media is a major contributing factor the rise of narcissism in our society, which can lead those who are impressionable and naive, such as teen girls, to becoming confused about why they don’t look a certain way, and con-

vincing themselves that physical appearance is more important than personality. It is important that we find a better way to educate and warn young teens about the dangers of using eating disorders as a way to control the way we look and the misconception behind the “ideal proportions” which qualify a woman as attractive.

Eating disorders are difficult to confront, but if you have reason to believe someone is putting themselves in danger, it is necessary to intervene one on one to get them the help they need. Interventions do not work for people with eating disorders as a method of treatment and need to be handled with caution and in a private manner. Sometimes you have to leave your comfort zone even if the person is uncomfortable in order to protect them from harming their bodies.

# Bucks Library Exhibits Students Talent

HAL CONTE  
*Centurion Staff*

It’s a confrontation: a heroic informant pitted against a shady criminal operation in a final battle, firearms pointed, with shots exploding out of barrels amidst the decrepit background of a shadowy warehouse.

Where does this drama take place? Is from the latest hit Netflix show? If you guessed yes, you’d be wrong: this is a fight scene from “The Sting,” a five-minute video that is part of a series of student films that have been playing in Bucks’ Newtown campus library building since the beginning of the spring semester.

“We have a film festival every year, and this year, we put on the final productions from the fall semester class. Now you can see those films on the TV in the entrance area,” explained Stanley Timek, professor of arts and

multimedia at Bucks.

Timek, who has taught at Bucks for 12 years as an adjunct instructor, described the format behind the movies. “The parameters are simple: five minutes or less, and they have to tell a story.” Students are asked to come up with two ideas and then choose one to shoot.

Asked what element was most essential in making a good movie, Timek answered, “The story is king. If they have a good story, they can do anything.”

The plots of the various short films vary widely. “There have been everything from action films to personal interest stories,” Timek said. “It’s just like [going to] the movies.”

Due to their prominent location in the entrance of the library, the films have garnered the attention of many students. Michael Finazzo, who plays a character in “Zombie Western” and is studying video production at Bucks, explains that “I’ve had a lot of



Both photos are two of the many films made by Bucks student

people come up to me and ask, “is that my film?”

In the plot of “Zombie Western,” two filmmakers argue about whether to make a zombie movie or a cowboy movie, but eventually decide to make a “post-apocalyptic zombie western.”

Michael explains that “Zombie Western” is based on the concept that “two people would be talking

about making a film even as it happens.” He was asked by his friends who are taking the class if he could be part of the film, as the students directing the films are forbidden from acting in them, according to Everett Mitchell, one of the directors of “The Sting.” Asked what gave him the idea to produce “The Sting,” Everett replied that he wanted to try an action scene to test his skills. “Basic premise: it’s the climax of a longer movie.”

“The Sting” was shot in an HVAC warehouse as well as in Tyler State Park, a common filming location for students. “We had to be careful, because we had fake pistols,” Everett said.

Special effects in “The Sting” were largely added using after-effects, although Everett says that he wished that he could have used more practical affects. Although the editing took most of his group’s time, they were able to

PHOTO CREDIT: HAL CONTE

shoot the film in sequence in just about two days.

While this short production time may lead one to believe that moviemaking is simple, Timek warns that creating a good picture is far harder than it looks. “Many students enjoy it, but you come into the class having watched hundreds of movies. By the time they start their first project, they realize that there are a lot of jobs that have to be filled.”

Nonetheless, he argues the rewards of producing a quality film are worth the time and effort. “To be able to sit in an auditorium and see your work on the big screen-it’s great.”

Everett seems to agree. Although he describes himself as “very nerve-racked” during the film’s initial screening, he has been quite pleased with the reactions of his fellow students. “People I have asked say they like it a lot.”





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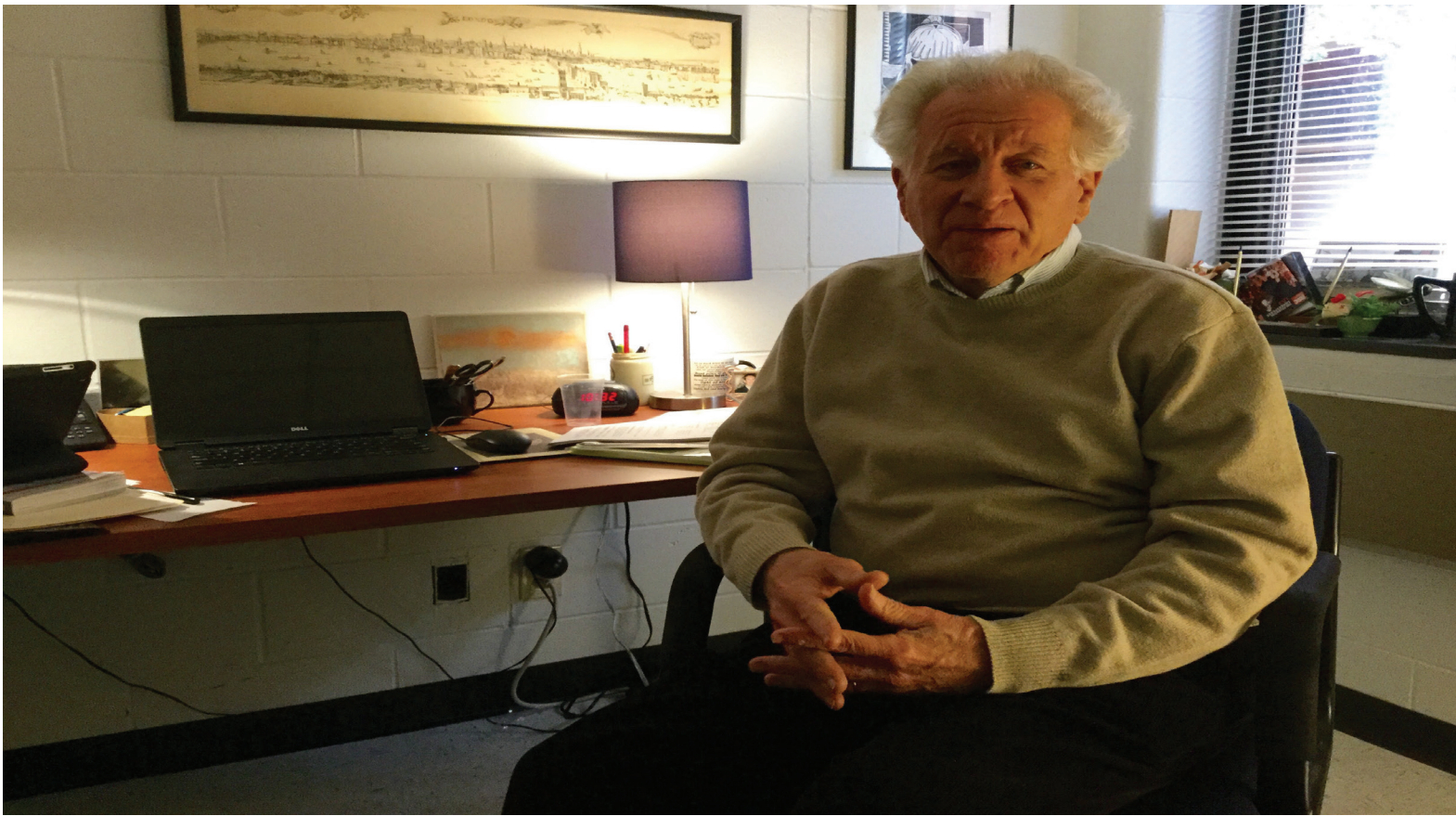
# Bucks News

## A Look Into the Life of Passionate Professor O’Neill

HAL CONTE  
Centurion Staff

The office of Steven O’Neill, professor of Language and Literature at Bucks, is perhaps the closest thing Bucks has to Doctor Who’s legendary Tardis – not just in its occupant’s ability to travel through time, but in the way it floats above it, flying through change with a sort of eternally resonant mentality. Its contents – yellowed books, a battered copy of The Oxford English Dictionary, pictures of London and a digital alarm-style clock – highlight the timeless persistence of its occupant, one of the longest-serving professors at Bucks. O’Neill, a 75-year-old grey-haired, angular-faced passionate tennis enthusiast and a volunteer for Bucks County’s Meals on Wheels program, has been working at the college since 1969, and has been a tenured professor for as long as he can remember. Before he came to Bucks, he worked in advertising and copywriting. “I loved it,” he explained, “but a lot of pressure and little job security.” He thus decided to look for a more permanent career at Bucks, but it is likely that even he didn’t know how long this would last. After serving as a professor for nearly 50 years, O’Neill has finally decided to retire at the end of the spring semester.

Talking with O’Neill, one gets the impression of a passionate yet thoughtful instructor who has neither caught up with, nor fallen behind, the times. In a way, one cannot imagine him looking any different than he does now, with his silvery Einstein-like hair, his reasonable height, nearly invisible eyebrows, fit body, and scholarly demeanor. His outfit – a green sweater and black pants – could have been purchased at any time in the past 40 years. Yet the world around O’Neill has irrevocably changed. During O’Neill’s time at Bucks, two additional campuses have been built, along with countless new buildings on the Newtown campus. Classes have gone from being something held in person using a blackboard, to online experiences that can take place anywhere. One-third more people live within the borders of Bucks County since O’Neill started. The types of courses taught, and



**Professor O’Neill** which courses students choose to take -- have all been transformed. New generations have been born, and the nation has gone through 10 chief executives. However, one thing remains the same: even though they used to come in jackets and ties, O’Neill makes the point that “the students haven’t changed as individuals.”

In a community, relationships matter. Perhaps they are good, maybe they end poorly, but to O’Neill, the relationship between students and the learning process has provided continuity amid a hailstorm of transformations that have swept through the college during his tenure. “Was the school different? Well, it was a different planet.” There were very few administrators. “We taught in Tyler Hall... I taught a course in what used to be Mrs. Tyler’s bedroom.” There were no remedial courses. Even the portable classrooms had yet to be built. “We didn’t know about computers, so it was the way it was.” Speaking in a slow, quiet voice, O’Neill described his first semester at Bucks and what preceded it.

“I started at Penn, took two courses, realized that I was not a scholar, I was not a researcher. What I really loved was teaching the students.”

“They’re still the same

hard-working, eager, ambitious – for the most part – students that I was teaching in 1969. And they all have the same hopes, dreams and problems. Nothing has changed in that respect,” O’Neill explained.

As he described this, he appeared more pleased and content. Despite the consistency of the student experience, O’Neill has become increasingly concerned with what he feels to be negative trends in education. “There’s a move away from the basics in elementary and high school, and that has not served the students well.” Thus, he rues, students need more and more remedial courses to get their writing skills up to snuff. “However, we now have a tutoring center in the library, that’s a wonderful addition, and is very important.”

Throughout his career at Bucks, O’Neill’s classes have morphed and molded around new authors, new trends, and new cultural experiences. Writers come and go, entering and exiting his curriculum like passengers on a cruise ship. But every boat needs its crew, and Updike, Hemingway, and Fitzgerald have been employed there for a long time. The grand master of this professor’s frigate is Shakespeare, O’Neill’s favorite writer and a central

figure in every course he teaches. A portrait of old London hangs above his desk, and he has gone on two sabbaticals, both involving Shakespeare, including attending an avant-garde production in London. Like O’Neill himself, the literature he teaches seem to have an eternal relevance, no matter what form it takes. “I find student responses to these books to be similar year to year, decade to decade. They are responding to the human condition, and the human condition doesn’t change.” He paused, and then added “Well, that’s my view.”

Aside from the Bard, O’Neill’s other preoccupations range from racing cars to spending time with his grandson, but his biggest love is tennis, which he plays frequently despite his age, as a sort of stress relief from the grittiness of everyday life. Although his hands may appear weathered, even delicate, they betray their true strength out on the court, where he has won many games against fellow players – including professors.

While O’Neill appears both respectful and careful, he is somewhat concerned by a few of his students’ habits, especially their preoccupation with the internet and social media. Of all of the shifts the world of higher edu-

**PHOTO CREDIT: HAL CONTE** cation has undergone during his lifetime, he argues that the influx of laptops, tablets, smartphones, and other modern digital technologies is perhaps the greatest. “The biggest change is technology. It’s wonderful, and it’s intrusive at the same time. And it’s monumentally frustrating at times. And we are too dependent on it.” Yet on the whole, by detaching himself somewhat from change, O’Neill has also embraced it. Indeed, he could even be described as a fan of progress. “The hippie movement was very exciting. And now I’m seeing, with the protests against Trump, that old fire, that old spirit, that old willingness to challenge the establishment.”

With his retirement fast approaching, O’Neill enjoys looking back on the past, while remaining apprehensive about the future. “I’ve seen people retire from many different types of jobs, and they wake up the next morning and say “Oh my God, what have I done!?” They are just cast adrift.” He believes, with hope, that this fate will not befall him as he will still be teaching one course every semester despite giving up full-time instruction. And indeed, it is unlikely that it will, as to a man like O’Neill, retirement is just one more shift in a long and rich life.

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# Bucks News

## Bucks Athletes Pay Visit To Ronald McDonald House

**JOE ROATCHE**  
*Centurion Staff*

Since the start of the semester, the Bucks County Community College Athletes took it upon themselves to visit the Ronald McDonald House in Camden, New Jersey this past semester, to brighten the spirits of children battling illnesses.

Groups from the Bucks Athletics department set out for the Ronald McDonald house on four separate occasions starting Sept. 25, and continued to visit until Feb. 23, and have plans of going back.

“We hung out with the kids that were at the house for about an hour,” said Josiah Thompson, Exercises Science major at Bucks. Many other groups had such a good experience they stayed to spend more time.

Thompson also said, “an enjoyable part was playing tag outside with a few of the boys, and then even watching an Eagles game with them.”

Other activities that the athletes performed with the kids at the house included dancing, playing games, building Legos, drawing, and simply just hanging out and enjoying some laughs. This of course was not the only thing the athletes did to entertain the children, Thompson said, “we also had a two versus two soccer game along with shooting around a ball a little.”

After some physical activity, he also noted, “we watched a student of Bucks communicate with a younger Spanish girl for another student of ours, and seeing how the language barrier was not an issue for the two of them.”

When asked about his overall

experience at the Ronald McDonald House, Thompson said, “overall the experience was eye opening for all of us, I think each of us were touched in a different way.” He also added, “we got to see a different side of ourselves that others are not used to seeing.”

Another student, Morgan Montgomery, a Nursing Major at Bucks, also chimed in on her experience at the Ronald McDonald House. “Everyone should go there at least once, even if it’s only for a little bit.” She went on to say, “I loved spending time and making the young kids feel special.”

When asked about going back to the Ronald McDonald House, Montgomery said, “I can’t wait to go back.” While also adding, “seeing those kids smiling and having fun makes the experience so much better.”

Putting a smile on the children’s faces at the Ronald McDonald House is also what another student, Matt Rickets, a Business Administration major at Bucks, enjoyed as well. “Just to put a smile on those kids faces for even just an hour makes it worth more than worth it to take time and go help out.” He also added, “I just think that the time the basketball team and Bucks County Athletics in general put into community service is huge for our community.”

After visiting the Ronald McDonald House several times already, the Centurions have fresh plans of going back and serving up more smiles to the children in New Jersey, as some of them have built special bonds and relationships that may last a lifetime.



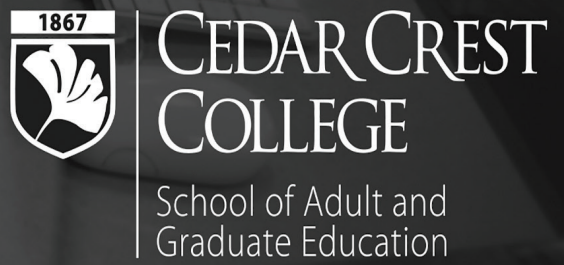
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SUNSHINE KARNS  
Centurion Staff

Last month, the Trump Administration decided to rescind the guidance put in place by Obama in May 2016, which allowed transgender students in public schools to use the bathrooms and locker rooms that coincide with the gender they identify. The federal law affected by this policy shift, known as Title IX, is a preexisting civil rights law that protects students from discrimination based on their sex. The additions made by the Obama Administration were put in place to clarify the inclusion of transgender students and to urge schools to treat students equally and in a way that is consistent with their gender identity. The new letter says that the Obama Administration’s guidance was issued without undergoing a formal public review and by rescinding it, the Education and Justice Departments will be able to “further and more completely consider” the controversial issue. According to a report from the New York Times, Education Secretary Betsy DeVos argued against withdrawing the guidance, and resisted signing the new letter, stating that she was “uncomfortable” with “the potential harm that rescinding the protections could cause transgender students.” Trump, however, was reported by the Times to side with Attorney General Jeff Sessions who pushed dropping the guidance. When the Obama-era guidance was put in place nearly a year ago, Trump seemed to have a different opinion. In response to the passing of the North Carolina Law that stated that people had to use the bathroom that corresponded to their gender at birth, Trump

stated “You leave it the way it is.” Weighing in on the economic backlash caused by the North Carolina Law, he stated “There have been very few complaints the way it is. People go, they use the bathroom they feel is appropriate. There has been so little trouble. And the problem with what happened in North Carolina is the strife and the economic punishment that they’re taking.” The retraction of the guidance has caused a civil rights uproar, leaving many feeling like the law is no longer on their side. A written statement from the Leadership Conference on Civil Rights said that “By rescinding the guidance today, the Trump administration has taken the opposite stance. They have sent a deeply troubling message to students that the administration will not stand up for students’ civil rights.” According to the Williams Institute at the UCLA School of Law, about 150,000 young people ages 13 to 17 identify as transgender and will be affected by this. The Leadership Conference on Civil Rights went on to say that they “condemn the administration’s decision, vow to fight to enforce Title IX, which continues to protect transgender students, and call on individual schools and districts to treat students consistent with their gender identity and consistent with the rescinded guidance that accurately explained the law.” Mike Marten, a Computer Science Major at Bucks said that while the retraction of the law “doesn’t really affect him” he feels that it is “unfair” to students who do face the day to day struggle with gender standards getting in the way of gender identities. A fellow student, Megan Gallagher, 19, pursuing a psychology degree agreed that this is simply “unfair” pointing out that “women

use the men’s bathroom all the time when the line is too long.” The current letter has stated that transgender people will still be protected from “discrimination, bullying, or harassment” under Title IX and the two departments are “committed to the application of Title IX and other federal laws to ensure such protection.”

The director of the Stonewall Center at the University of Massachusetts and coordinator of the Trans Policy Clearinghouse at Campus Pride, Genny Beemyn, hopes that colleges will continue to enhance their protection of transgender students noting, “There’s nothing that prevents colleges from putting in place

all of the suggestions” in the Obama administration’s guidance. According to Beemyn, “It’s going to be much more of a free-for-all. And I think you’re going to see many more efforts to repeal state laws that protect trans people on the basis of gender identity.”



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## Trump Attacks News Media, Praises Keystone Pipeline at CPAC

BRANDON CUMMINGS  
Centurion Staff

President Trump made headlines leading the 44th Annual Conservative Political Action Conference (CPAC) while Bucks political science Professor John Petito had a first-hand view. For those unfamiliar with CPAC, it is the yearly convention that any conservative would give an arm or leg to go to. It’s that time of year where they address all that’s going on in American politics, and then lay out their plans for the upcoming year. In short, at CPAC, right-wing political figures lay out their agenda for everyone to behold. Not surprisingly, President Donald Trump’s speech was a highlight this year. Trump continued to complain about what he calls the “fake news” media, including established journalistic outfits such as CNN and The New York Times. “A few days ago I called the fake news the enemy of the people. And they are. They are the enemy of the people. Because they have no sources, they just make them up when there are none.” He then went on to use an article with nine anonymous sources in an attempt to prove that the media are making up testimonies. This is happening at a time when Americans’ trust in the media has hit an all-time low. Fox News reported that in their latest poll, only 44% of Americans have faith in the media. This isn’t a real drop from 2014, however, it is down 11% since 2002. While this is becoming an increasing problem, some news outlets such as the New York

Times have taken steps to prevent distrust from growing. Last year the New York Times implemented a rule that does not allow writers to use anonymous sources unless approved by the top editor. John Petito, a professor of history and political science at Bucks, also attended the conference, speaking on multiple topics including anonymous sources, the Affordable Care Act (“Obamacare”), and the Keystone Pipeline. Petito, a registered Democrat and a self-proclaimed liberal, still tries to go to CPAC on a yearly basis despite his ideology. “One reason I go to these conferences is just to take the temperature of what is happening politically on the right,” he explained. “I could tell about a year and a half ago that Trump had a chance at getting elected due to the anger at these conferences, directed at the Republicans and Democrats. They were just as angry at the Republicans.” One would expect someone with liberal views to reject conservative politics out of hand, but Professor Petito seems to be somewhat of a novelty. He is willing to see both parties come and work together for the common interest of the American people. When asked about the president’s comments on anonymous sources not being allowed in news forums, Petito said, “Well, ask students at Bucks County Community College if they think that when they evaluate teachers at the end of the semester, should they do that anonymously or would they like their names associated with their comments?” Unfortunately for the people in the media, many have brought



PHOTO CREDIT: WIKIMEDIA COMMONS

into question how honest the writers and editors of the press are being with the American people. Trump, however, has a different perspective, saying, “They shouldn’t be allowed to use sources unless they use somebody’s name. Let their name be put out there. Let their name be put out. ‘A source says that Donald Trump is a horrible, horrible human being.’ Let them say it to my face.” Unfortunately for the people that hate drama, this is not going to go away soon. However, Trump did outline a couple points other

than just “fake news” during his CPAC speech. When asked about the Republicans’ “plan” for health insurance, Professor Petito said, “I don’t think the Republicans have ever planned to replace Obamacare.” However, he did mention later that President Trump has been making good on his promises, and will most likely push the Republicans to come up with an alternative: The Affordable Care Act! When asked about the Keystone Pipeline he stated, “I think we ought to transition to sustainable

fuels that don’t pollute as much.” While many activists hate the prospect of an oil pipeline going through native reservations and historic landmarks, others believe it could help jump-start the economy. President Trump certainly thinks the latter. He estimated that the pipeline would create about 42,000 jobs; but many have said that it probably won’t have the effect the President is looking for, as it takes only about 50 people to run on day-to-day operations.



# Arts & Entertainment

## Black Mirror Continues to Captivate

EMMA KULICZKOWSKI

Centurion Staff

Black Mirror, a creation of Britain’s Charlie Brooker, is a show like no other, leaving you with a disoriented feeling and existential thoughts.

Black Mirror is a science fiction anthology series that originally aired on British Channel 4, but now is available for streaming on Netflix. This series features three seasons, ranging from three to six episodes per season, each being around 1 hour long.

Each episode on Black Mirror takes place in the future, all with a plot of plausible scenarios that may possibly be achievable in our lifetime. Each episode has a different storyline, with different characters as well.

These stories can range from the invention of eye contacts, allowing you to have a pause, rewind, and play button on your entire life, to a VR-like, simulation game system able to enter your deepest, darkest fears.

After watching each episode, you may experience emotional exhaustion but with an even greater urge to dive into another episode. The stories that Black Mirror shows plays with every emotion or extreme thought you’ve ever had.

The most recent season that has come out, is receiving great feedback, which is much deserved.

Season three consists of stories

of love, war, and social acceptance. The first episode, “Nosedive,” perfectly depicts the world that comes along with social media. The show follows a young woman, living in a society where social media credibility is at the forefront of everyone’s lives.

Each person is locked into their devices, constantly rating or liking each person they come into contact with. Everyone has a personal status; the higher the number, the higher on the social ladder you are. With everyone striving for perfection, there is no room for error, which in consequence of that, would mean a lower social ranking.

This episode alone facilitates our own fears of unacceptance and makes you wonder the lengths people are willing to go to achieve social recognition.

My personal favorite episode, “San Junipero”, makes you question what actually happens after you die. It also features stunning cinematography, making you want to experience this surreal dystopia for yourself.

This story follows two young women, Kelly and Yorkie, and their journey of love and defiance of space and time.

This episode is set in a magical California-esque party town, everyone there being young, beautiful, and worry-free.

This is one of the more Americanized episode in Black Mirror, where other ones are set in the U.K.

As the episode escalates, the



dialogue starts to implement some ideas of these two having a previous life, Yorkie confesses her diagnoses of death, and so Kelly invites her to meet her in “real life.”

Confused, the episode goes on to show an elderly woman visiting her friend at a futuristic looking hospital, where we see that these

two women are Yorkie and Kelly.

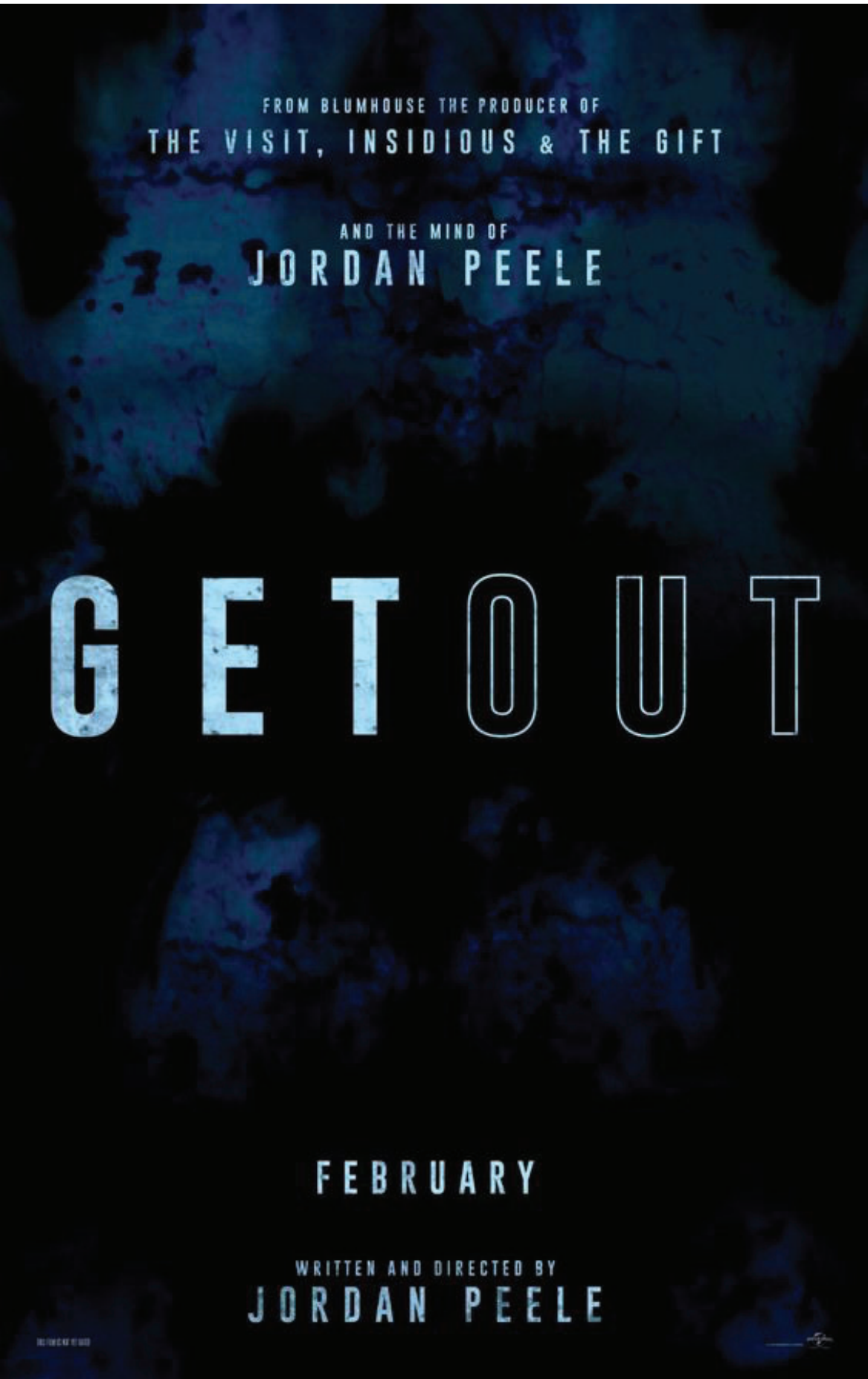
We are soon to find that people are offered different options for an afterlife other than just death, where if you choose, can exist in an alternate reality for the rest of eternity.

Upon finishing this episode, you may be left with an eerie feeling in the pit of your stomach and a

face wet from tears.

Not only is this series an extraordinary example of where society and technology seems to be headed towards, it is a perfect reflection of where humans seems to be going as well.

## A Look Into the Horror Comedy ‘Get Out’



JACOB FISHER

Centurion Staff

Jordan Peele’s horror comedy breathes life into the horror genre with the focus on unease and tension rather than cheap scare tactics.

“Get Out” does an amazing job of creating the fear of a killer like Michael Myers or Jason Voorhees, into that of smiling, “friendly” white people, but without becoming preachy. Racism is used heavily as a story device, but by the end it’s clear that racism is the only fear Chris shouldn’t be worried about.

Daniel Kaluuya plays as Chris Washington, a successful photographer going with his girlfriend (Allison Williams) to meet her parents for the first time. With this being “uncharted territory” for her parents, Chris shows concern that she never mentioned to them that he is black.

The concern is well deserved, but for the wrong reasons. Neither parents, played by Bradley Whitford and Catherine Keener, seem racist. But everything and everyone in the suburbs is off, from their mannerisms of the family, friends, and workers, Chris can’t help but feel something is wrong, and expresses concern to his girlfriend and friend Rod, Milton Howery, over the phone.

From the trailers alone it may be a surprise to hear that this is a horror comedy movie, as its solely been advertised as a horror film. One look at the director, Jordan Peele, who’s best known for his comedy skit shown “Key & Peel”, it would make sense that his work as a comedian would not go unused. Characters crack jokes and one-liners, with Rod doing an excellent job of relaying what the general movie-goer is thinking and making the general tropes and clichés the horror genre uses into something to laugh about.

With comedy being a portion of the movie, it is not what anyone would say a gut-buster. “Get Out” is, first and foremost, a horror movie, and relies on the feeling of unease and tension rather than the norm of jump-scars, which is used rarely. The film builds this unease through the majority of the movie, and as soon as the revelations are revealed, the movie transitions and relieves all feelings of unease and dread in the third act over a 30 or so minute slaughter fest that relieves stress the audience themselves have been feeling since the beginning.

While Jordan Peele does such a wonderful job of straying away from general horror clichés, there are a few instances where these clichés poke through and worsen the experience. Excessively loud increases in musical score, jump scares, and gore are seen rarely, but when they do show up they stand out and overall feel cheap when the rest of the movie pokes fun at the overused clichés seen in the horror genre.

For performances, all actors do a wonderful job of acting human, which shouldn’t need to be addressed, but for a genre known for making the characters as ignorant as possible it should be noted. Daniel Kaluuya does a great job of acting natural while also trying to be as polite as possible in a truly uncomfortable situation.

“Get Out” has its jump scares and cheap scare tactics, but brings a heavy amount of original ideas and aspects that the horror genre has been missing for so long; making the main characters relatable and aware of their own concerns. “Get Out” does not show an ignorant teenage walking into their doom, or foolish adults believing the world can’t hurt, but rather an intellectual normal person who can be defined as more than “soon-to-be-dead”.



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JENN KOPSIE '14

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# Sports

## Bucks’ Men’s Tennis Team Faces First Match



PHOTO CREDIT FOR BOTH PHOTOS: BUCKS.EDU

**JOCELYN PAPPAS**  
*Centurion Staff*

The Men’s Tennis Team at Bucks will face off against Mercer in their first match on March 28 at the Bucks campus. This leaves another 20 some days till their first match, with another match against Williamson expected the day after the contested competition against Mercer, making there two games in the same month.

There are eight games scheduled thus far for the 2017 season, with the bulk of them reserved for April.

Of the games planned up to this point, four are home games. Typically, the team goes competes with another team one a time, per each game session.

With coach Mehul Shah, the team has been meeting at Newtown Campus least three days a week to vigorously prepare for their upcoming matches against other schools in New Jersey and

southeastern Pennsylvania.

Surprisingly, the team practices alongside the Women’s Tennis team, who start their seasonal games much later in the Fall Semester.

Mercer, along with Ocean Community College are just some examples of schools the team has competed against in the past, and has even gone to regional tournaments.

The team itself has won some a couple of accolades, including a championship in the EPCC league in 2010. Two other awards were given previously, one reserved for a past coach and another for a player.

“I try to stress that Tennis is a lifelong sport,” says Alex Diamond, a current player on the team and student at Bucks.

It isn’t Diamond’s first semester on the team, having been a part of the team prior to this semester.

According to Diamond, various players on the team come from all sorts of clubs, including other sports teams.

Others such as Diamond

himself, became acquainted with the Tennis team through the club palooza, which is a general club event occurs near the beginning of both the fall and spring sessions.

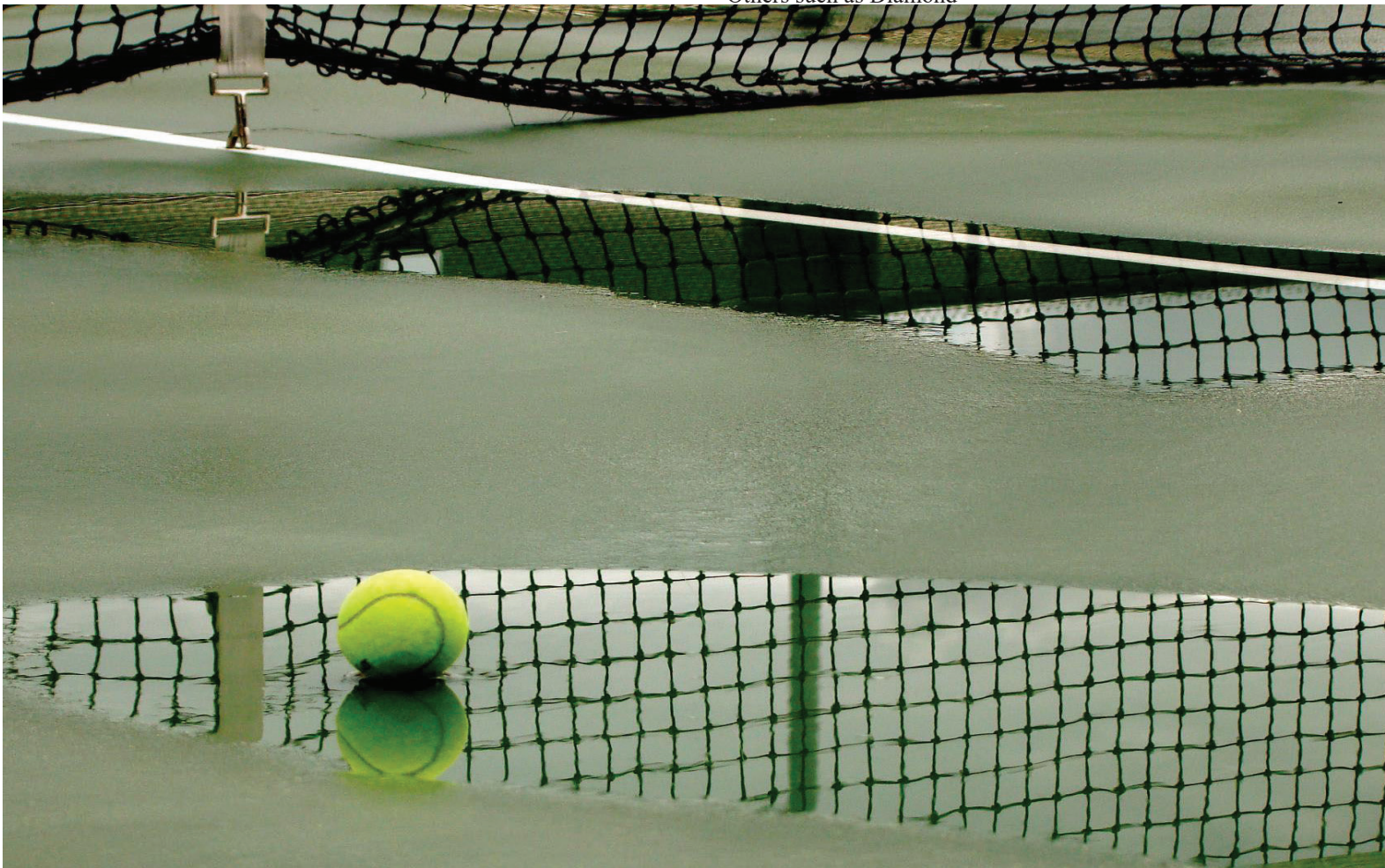
Diamond went onto emphasize the importance of specific strategies in Tennis, especially when going up against more difficult teams such as some teams from New Jersey.

“As long as you constantly hit it over the net, they have to play it,” he explained, further describing the art of Tennis to be akin to a mind game.

Diamond exemplified knowledge of Tennis terminology, such as a topspin and a serve, furthering his point.

Despite the competitive nature of tennis, he emphasized an important aspect of tennis that may hold true for many other sports. “No matter what you’re playing, always have fun.”

Aspiring players and students interested in learning more about the team can contact Shah through email, stretch.shah@gmail.com



## Phillies Report To Clearwater For Spring Training

**JARED SAIAS**  
*Centurion Staff*

Zero. That’s how many players remain from the 2008 championship team. A night that filled the hearts and the eyes of fans with joy. But unfortunately, in baseball years that was an eternity ago. It has been time to move on for a while now and they are finally on the road to recovery.

The Philadelphia Phillies finished the last season in the middle of the pack, going 71-91. Just like the other teams of the city, the Phils are in the midst of rebuilding a young core and with that process, comes underwhelming seasons.

With the rebuild, comes struggle and with struggle comes lack of entertainment.

Home games were empty; the team was shutout multiple times. It was a roller coaster ride for the Phillies this year.

“I went a couple times last year” said Bucks student Mike Reick, “Sometimes it was hard to watch, they barely scored runs.”

Another student Justin Longo mentioned he was “going to go the next season when some of the prospects are up from the farm.”

But in this past season we saw emergence of young stars that will structure the backbone of this team. Odubel Herrera, Maikel Franco, Freddy Galvis all seem



like the players that will turn this team around for the better. They will be place all through the batting lineup and hopefully contribute power, speed and consistency.

If you look deeper, the farm system can finally become what everyone predicted them to be. They have eight top 100 prospects, which leads the MLB. The call ups should and will become more frequent after strong spring outings.

J.P Crawford said to be the next great short stop is standing at the

phone ready for the call. Power houses Rhys Hoskins and Dylan Cozens combined for 78 home runs in Double-A last year and the likes of Jake Thompson should bolster an already strong rotation after getting his chance last September.

“I went to see him when he was at Triple-A Lehigh Valley, said Justin Longo about J.P Crawford, “I can’t wait till he is in Philly with the Phillies.

These players and others may not see immediate success at the

professional level but getting them up here and seeing playing time is crucial for the future of this team.

In addition to the farm, they also signed former all-star Michael Saunders from the Blue Jays and acquired Howie Kendrick from the dodgers this past off season. They will add power depth and consistency to this lineup.

Although they don’t seem that important to the future of the team, veteran presence is needed after the departures of Ryan How-

ard and Carlos Ruiz.

“I think we can turn some heads this year” said Bucks student Matt Gornall, “We’re young and rapidly improving.”

Nobody knows that to expect this year, “they have high hopes” as Harry Kalas used to say, but they have some ways to go before consideration for another appearance in the fall classic.