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Faculty Say Repairs
Needed in Grupp Hall

BRENDON LAUFF
Centurion Staff

Grupp Hall has seen better days, and while many repairs have been done, more may be needed.

The building, located toward the back of the campus, holds rooms for Business Studies, Communications, Language & Literature, Social Science, classrooms and faculty offices.

The four-story brick building, apparently built in the late 1960s or early 1970s, has seen its share of problems.

The main issues are within the basement of the building. This is the location of the faculty offices.

The building has had a history of leaking pipes or other water issues. Six years ago a small flood of water formed due to leakage within the basement.

The college responded swiftly to the leak, doing a full clean out of the basement and the offices.

After properly sanitizing and cleaning out the area, they spent the summer taking measures to avoid having this problem again.

All along the back of Grupp Hall, professors watched crews dig out the soil just past the office windows slightly above the ground.

They installed stone and what appears to be a PVC drainage system.

These changes were made to both back exterior walls on either side. They are also viewable from the middle basement stairwell.

There is also a sump pump in the basement to prevent another flood and pump out any water. Carpet was ripped out in the offices to

prevent mold.

However, the faculty still had concerns about the possibility of mold and the general air quality in the basement.

Provost Lisa G. Angelo said, “Grupp Hall is an old building and it seems there is an endless list of ongoing problems. I know our physical plant workers and managers are aware of the issues and have been addressing them.”

A company came in to analyze the air quality. The results came back as clear. The report stated there were no harmful contaminants found.

Fast forward to today and the faculty are once again raising issues about Grupp Hall. Most recently was this past winter; when some of the heaters within the offices weren’t properly working.

This made some classrooms too cold and improperly circulated. After the faculty went through the proper channels, these issues were resolved within a day or two.

However, it’s unclear whether or not all rooms are functioning properly to circulate the heat.

Some faculty continue to have concerns over the air quality.

Faculty Union-President Professor John Strauss stated, “I was made aware of air concerns and we are currently looking into having a different company brought in on behalf of the faculty to complete another check.”

While Grupp does need some fixes, there have not been any reported safety concerns.

Speaking off the record, several faculty members described

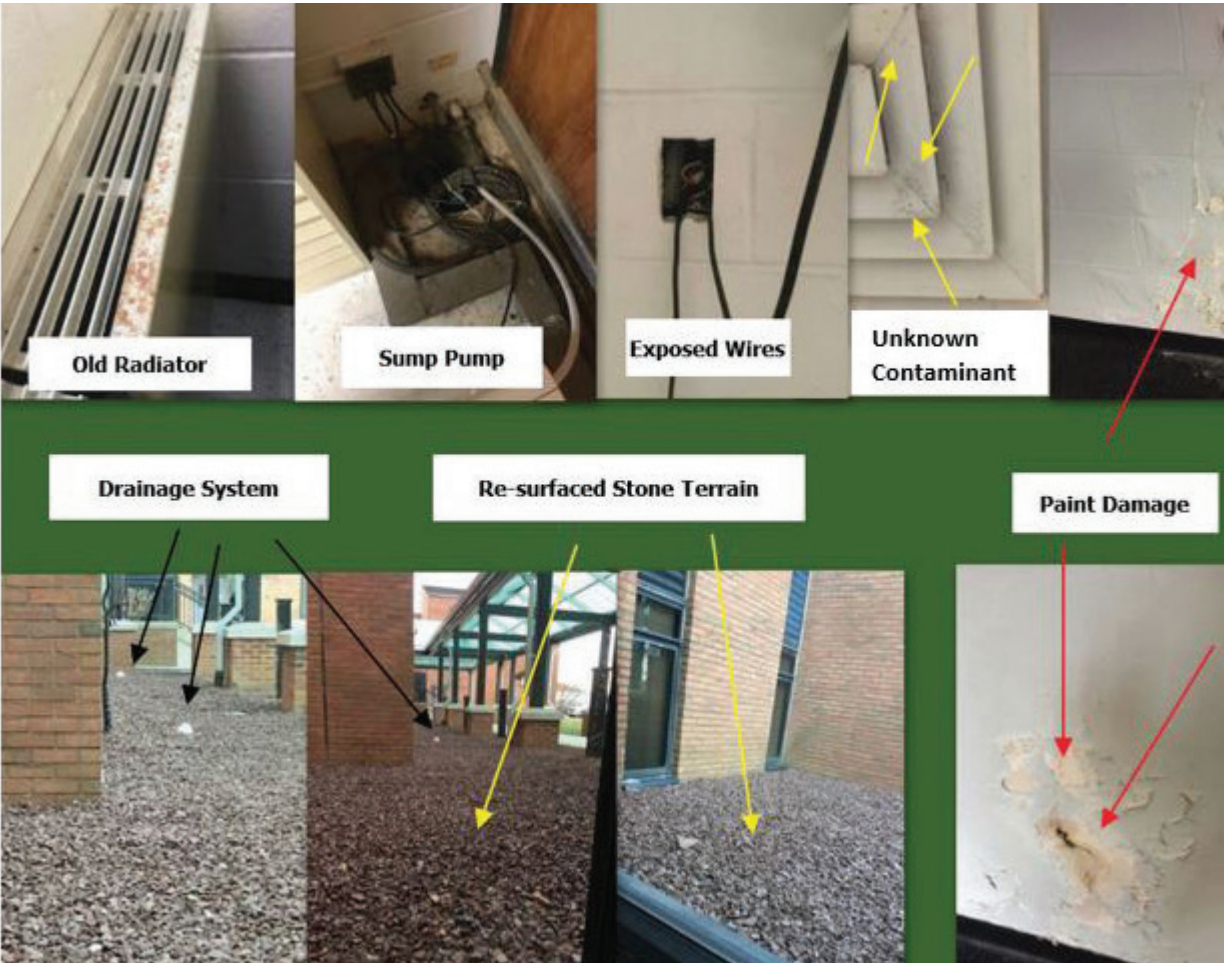
photo courtesy of Brendon Lauff

the basement as “a sick-building, filled with rattling rafters, a few dead bugs, cold and drafty, a few problems before.”

English Professor Dr. Ellen Pratofiorito stated that, “I have reported the problems before and was informed that they were being handled or have been resolved, about a month ago.”

All other concerns made by faculty were brought to the attention of either the provost, dean, or discussed in faculty meetings.

Grupp Hall has seen its share of problems. However, it has been in the best interest for the faculty and students to use the building that serves the needs of the students and stands tall as the inspiring educational institute it was built to be.



Big Changes for Business Department

TYLER SEALE
Centurion Staff

In an effort to promote new skills sets for students, Bucks has changed the name of the Business Studies Department to the Business and Innovation Department

These skill sets are quickly becoming essential in the evolving business environment.

Tracy Timby, dean of business and innovation, said, “The business world is focusing a lot on analytics and data gathering to make decisions.” This innovation has led to a growing number of opportunities in the form of new classes and certificates.

A new class on innovated decision-making, and a certificate in innovation business analysis were created thanks to collaborations between STEM and business departments.

The art department has also collaborated similarly to help provide



photo courtesy of Bucks website

a social media and marketing certificate.

This certificate has five classes and connects with 30 employers looking for interns in social media and digital marketing, showing a

real effectiveness to cross-circular programs.

Timby said, “Multiple departments can help provide students with skills that employers look for.”

She also mentioned two of these skills as initiative and creativity, which are cultivated in events such as the Hackathon hosted every semester. Continued on page 9.

Bucks News

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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.

JON CORLEY
Centurion Staff

Bucks Journalism Program and the Centurion student-run newspaper present “Journalism Careers in the Digital Age,” else known as the 20th annual Journalism Forums.

This event was created by Prof. Tony Rogers which allows students to get an insight on what goes on in the world of journalism. “We have some great speakers this year,” said Rogers.

He emphasized that these forums were “A really great way for our students to get a sense of what a career in journalism is really like, and how to break into the business.

During the forums, students will participate in a roundtable discussion with journalists in the Centurion newsroom, where classes are held and the newspaper is created. This event is free and open to the

Bucks Gears Up For the 20th Annual Journalism Forums



Shane Fitzgerald

public.

Jared Roberts, 20, journalism major from Plumstead, had attended last year’s forum, and he said that “it’s a good insight into the journalism career.”

“Some of the people on the panel are Bucks students, and it really drives home the point knowing that they succeeded,” he said.

The forum will be held in three parts taking place April 17 and April 18, featuring many journalists, with some from Bucks’ own journalism program.

The forum will be held in Rollins 127 on the Newtown campus.

The first forum will be held on Wednesday, April 17, from 9:25 a.m. to 10:40 a.m. It features Shane Fitzgerald, Dana O’Neil, and Mike Sielski.

The second forum will take

place the next 8 a.m. to 9:15 a.m. It features Charlotte Reese, Tom Sofield, and Marion Callahan.

The third forum starts after the second forum at 9:25 a.m. to 10:40 a.m. It features Sofield, Callahan, and Anthony DiMattia.

In each forum, journalists will talk about their experience on the field, and they will offer advice to students and aspiring news writers.

Fitzgerald is the regional-executive editor of GateHouse Media. He oversees four daily and six weekly newspapers in Pennsylvania, New Jersey, and Delaware.

O’Neil is a senior writer for The Atlantic and has worked for more than 25 years as a sports writer, covering the Final Four, Super Bowl, World Series, NBA Finals, and NHL Playoffs.

She also worked for ESPN and



Tom Sofield

the Philadelphia Daily News.

Sielski is a sports columnist for the Philadelphia Inquirer, The Philadelphia Daily News, and Philly.com. He is also an author of two books.

The Associated Press sports editor voted him as the top sports columnist in the country in 2015.

Reese is a news writer, and a podcast producer of KYW Newsradio. She is also a Bucks graduate.

Sofield is a former journalism student from Bucks and has covered Bucks County news for the past four years. He co-founded LevittownNow.com in 2013.

Callahan is an award-winning reporter who works with video at The Bucks County Courier Times in Levittown, and the Intelligencer in Doylestown.

She has also taught journalism at Temple University.

DiMattia was a student at Bucks before becoming a reporter and editor for the Bucks County Courier Times, The Intelligencer, and the Burlington Times.

He was also an award-winning writer and editor for the Centurion before graduating from Bucks in 2012.

These forums will be a great opportunity to get an idea of what is expected in the world of journalism, reporting and editing. It will also be a chance to hear about the topic from those who have first-hand experience with the field.

Everyone is welcome to attend this event and to have fun while learning about the subject of journalism.

For any questions regarding these forums, you can contact Rogers through his email bucks-journalism@gmail.com.



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April Fools

Brutus Stepping Down as Mascot After Gritty Conflict

JOHN FEY
Centurion Staff

Centurion mascot Brutus will be stepping down from his role as the college’s mascot effective April 1st after a pep rally altercation with Gritty, the fresh and fury face of the Philadelphia Flyers.

“I understand the consequences of my actions and will take full responsibility for them,” Brutus said at a recent press release. The Bucks mascot is said to have exchanged words with the Flyers mascot backstage at a recent Flyers game and, according to Mr.

Gritty’s lawyer, “Professional wrestling moves were exchanged between the two parties.”

Gritty is alleged to have then spilled an array of drinks and water on Brutus, claiming self-defense. While the Flyers mascot did not make an immediate comment, as he only seems to speak through his Twitter account, but his lawyer said he will not be pressing charges.

“I sincerely apologize to the Philadelphia Flyers and Mr. Gritty and, moreover, I sincerely apologize to Bucks County Community

College for my actions.” Brutus plans on returning to his prior job training fellow Centurion soldiers to become future community college mascots.

In response to the announcement, Philadelphians proceeded to destroy the city of Philadelphia. It is still unclear as to whether this was in celebration or anger, though that does not seem to matter to the City of Brotherly Love.

The Philly Phanatic could not comment on the matter, as he was last seen on a party, rampaging through Philadelphia.



photo courtesy of Wikimedia Commons

The Rodger Dodger



photo courtesy of Wikimedia Commons

JOSHUA THOMPSON
Centurion Staff

Many of us here at Bucks know Tony Rodgers as the journalism teacher, and as the advisor of the Centurion newspaper, however, his past has recently come into question.

For years now, he has claimed to have been a star reporter for many different publications but now, he wants to set the record straight and clear his conscience.

“Before becoming a reporter, I was a professional wrestler...” Rodgers said boldly.

“As much as I wanted to be a news reporter, I also wanted to get into the world of professional wrestling. After all, it’s just like begin a reporter...at least the traveling around part is...”

Rodgers made his wrestling debut as “Rodger Dodger” in the Bucks County World Wrestling Federation. From there, his career took off, and dispute what critics thought, he had a very successful wrestling career.

“A lot of people would take a double take of me and say “you’re really a wrestler?” and I’d tell them, “Yes, I am a professional wrestler!” Many also thought that I was going to get eaten up by the other wrestlers, but I proved them all wrong.”

“Rodger Dodger” took the wrestling world by storm, winning 12 titles, and begin involved in many underrated classics such as a 25-year iron man match with Abe

Lincoln, a 300 man royal rumble in Sparta with special guest referee Julius Caesar, a Black Friday battle royal in a Walmart, and an arm wrestling match with Mr.T, all of which he won.

“I was kicking butt out there... literally my finishing move was a swift kick in the butt.”

Dispute all of this, Rodgers wanted to move on to bigger and better things.

“As much as I enjoyed begin a wrestler, I wanted to go back to my dream job of begin a reporter. It was my calling after all, and as I was wrestling I saw more and more people were becoming uniformed of the things that were happening around them.” Rodger said.

“Rodger Dodger” had his final match against Elvis Presley, who also was at one point his tag team partner. After the match, “Rodger Dodger” gave a speech telling fans that he’s glad he could have a chance to wrestle, but that he had to move on to become a reporter.

Many in the audience cheered on “Rodger Dodger” as he left the arena, and to this day Rodgers still remembers his days as a professional wrestler.

“Yeah, begin a reporter is cool and all, but it will never beat the days of jumping off the top rope onto some fool who was laying on the mat. Also, the pay was really good, and we got free pizza on Fridays. “

“Rodger Dodger” may not be well known today, but he will never be forgotten.

Shocking New Weather Report



photo courtesy of Wikimedia Commons

JOSHUA THOMPSON
Centurion Staff

The weather almanac, like wiki, is trusted by many people in America, along with many students at Bucks (especially for research papers.) But some people are fearing what the weather almanac is predicting for this year’s summer.

The weather almanac is predicting that this summer is going to be hot, like really, really, really hot. So hot that if you go outside, you’ll evaporate.

Not many people were too happy about this prediction.

“I don’t want it to be hot bro. Like it can’t be hot, I’m allergic to the heat bro...” said some guy named Larry whose last name I forgot to get, but I’m sure he’s probably from around here...

Also, while writing this article some guy shouted at me that we need to build a wall to keep the sun from shining down on us, a sound idea, though it sounds kind of expensive.

Many in the area have started to panic, running out to get all the water and air conditioners they

can get, before the start of this summer. Fist fights, arguments, and even dance offs all broke out at every retailer that had a fan big or small. These people, wanted to get their hands on some air conditioning.

I spoke to Dr.Quack, a science expert who studies...whatever the name is for people who study the weather, and this is what he had to say:

“I think everything is goanna be fine guys. Yeah, it’s goanna be hot, but I’m sure if you go outside, you won’t burn alive. Besides that, the earth getting warmer is normal. There is no such thing as global warming, it’s just a hoax made by aliens. Trust me, everything will be fine, I promise you.”

Shortly after that the Doctor fell asleep with a bottle of “Kool Aid” in his hand. Because I’m running on a tight schedule, I went around and quickly asked some students what they thought of this crazy weather. While I didn’t get their names, or where there from, I did get some really legit quotes.

“Huh?”
“What?”
“What’s going on now?”

“Dude slow down I can’t understand what you’re saying...”
“Uhhh...”
“Zzzzzzzzz”

I also tried emailing professors but they’ve yet to get back to me, so now I’m about 200 words short on this report and I don’t know what else to type, so now here comes the part where I give you advice.

Stay inside. Don’t go outside. Stay inside. Drink lots of water. Stay inside.

Make sure all doors are closed before turning on the air conditioning, otherwise you’re just gonna waste electricity, and nobody wants that.

Stay inside. Eat fruit. Did I mention staying inside?

Alright, almost at 500. So, how’s everybody’s day so far? Right now, I’m looking up prices for water and apparently, they’ve gone up by a lot...like on Amazon a bottle of water is about \$50 dollars, and a whole case is \$200! I probably should have just added that to the article earlier but hey now you know.

Oh, finally, I made 500 words. Well, enjoy the summer guys and remember to stay inside!



CHARLES BEACH

Bucks News

New State of the Art Kitchen in Founders



photo courtesy of Bucks' website

MELISSA STEWART
Centurion Staff

On February 28th 2019, with a slice of a ribbon Bucks unveiled the new Culinary Arts Lab at the Newtown Campus.

This ceremony marked the grand opening of the new 1,370 square foot culinary lab, located on the second floor of Founder’s Hall. The lab includes cooking stations, deep fryers, freezers, refrigerators, steam kettles, convection ovens, and a whole lot more for students who are enrolled in the Chef Apprentice and Hospitality Program.

The new kitchen lab cost around \$875,000 and was converted from a chemistry lab.

Bucks has been training students in the chef apprentice

program since 1978.

Chef John Angeline, who has worked at Bucks for 17 years as a chef-part time instructor, and 11 years as a chef- full time instructor expressed his excitement for the new lab.

When asked what it means to be a chef instructor Angeline said, “Teaching allows me to pass on the knowledge and experience that I obtained to the students at Bucks County Community College. Students inspire me to stay current on what is going on right now in the culinary world.”

Angeline added, “I am very excited to hold classes in the new lab and grateful to the people here at Bucks that made this kitchen possible. Thanks to Tracy Timby, Dean of Business + Innovation, Chef Earl Arrowood, Provost Lisa

Angelo and President Dr. Stephanie Shanblatt. We really have an excellent facility.”

“Chef Arrowood put a great deal of time and effort in the planning of the lab and Dean Timby, Provost Angelo and President Shanblatt deserve recognition for their continued support of our culinary program,” said Angeline.

The new culinary lab will improve student’s ability to learn more, become a better chef/baker, and obtain experience.

According to Angeline, “They will experience working with equipment similar to what they will find in job situations.”

In detail, Angeline described the new features of the culinary lab.

Chef Angeline explained, “The culinary lab has eight self-contained workstations. Students will

have the ability to prep, mix and/or cook without spending time gathering equipment from various places. This will maximize the time they have for hands-on learning.”

At each station is an energy efficient induction cooktop. The deep fryers have a filtering system that extends the life of the oil. We also have an oven that can perform multiple operations at the same time.

It can detect how much food has been placed inside and distribute the heat evenly. It can even cook two or more different products at different temperatures at the same time.”

Improvements in the lab have helped students as well, according to Angeline, “The layout of the new kitchen enables students to

learn in a more efficient way. The workstations are self-contained, so students do not need to run around to find the equipment they will use.”

The new kitchen has already allowed Chef John Angeline’s students to create delicious dishes.

“We have a five week modular course called Chocolate Essentials that just ended a couple of weeks ago. We used the new facility for two of our kitchen lab sessions. Chocolate desserts and confections are one of my favorite areas in pastry, so those two classes included making my favorite things,” said Angeline.

The new kitchen will let those students in the Chef’s Apprenticeship and Culinary Arts Programs continue to expand their skills.



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Arts & Entertainment

How Will Game of Thrones End?

JACKIE SCHAEFFER

Centurion Staff

As the countdown to April 14 continues, Game of Thrones fans are growing more anxious for the season finale.

Game of Thrones is one of HBO's most-watched series, with over 16 million viewers, all of whom have their own theories as to how the show continues.

Season seven came out July 16, 2017 and since then fans have been awaiting for the final season. There are many different theories about how the show is going to end, from the Night King taking over everything to the Starks beating the Lannister's and controlling the kingdom. Whatever it is, it still has fans sitting on the edge of their seats.

HBO released its official trailer on March 5. In the trailer, we see a lot of fighting, which is to be

expected with the war against the Lannisters and the Night King.

"There's a theory that the Night King is a Stark and the 13th captain of the night's watch," said freshman Amber Linder of Bensalem. "He didn't appear till a Stark left Winterfell. I think he is probably going to go to Winterfell to get his wife, the night queen."

Season 7 ended with all the Starks except Jon being reunited in Winterfell. Before their return in the last episode of season 7, there hasn't been a Stark in Winterfell since season 3 episode 9, when Robb Stark was killed at the red wedding.

"I think Jon Snow is going to end up ruling the Kingdom," said sophomore Joe Martin of Philadelphia.

The Night King burned through the wall with one of Daenerys' dragons in the last episode of season 7. The Night King and his

army are making their way south to Kings Landing.

"The Lannisters will end up winning the war but will not sit on the iron throne," said sophomore Matt Gallagher of Bensalem. "I think it will end up being Jon Snow. Not sure exactly how that is going to happen, but it is. I'm most looking forward to the Battle of Winterfell."

The season also ended with Jon Snow on a boat with Daenerys Targaryen headed to Winterfell with their army. Jamie Lannister left his sister Cersei to go to Winterfell to help the cause. Cersei is working with the Gold Circle and is not sending any help to Winterfell, as she doesn't see it as her problem.

"I'm most looking forward to the longest battle in the history of television," said Martin.

"Daenerys' white walker dragon is going to fight the white walkers when it sees her and then she's going to sit on the iron throne," said freshmen Riley Gray of Bensalem.

"Everyone is going to die," Joe D'Andrea sophomore from Bensalem. "I'm just hoping it was worth the wait."

No matter how we think it's going to end, fans are anticipating many different outcomes which make the season finale more interesting to see what actually happens. We will found out which house will win the battle or if they will come together and beat a common enemy or if they will fight each other and the Night King will win control over the kingdom.

photos courtesy of Google Images



Cindy and TREVOR



BY JACK BRULLIEA

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Bucks News

The Mystery Inside Tyler Hall

FRANCIS KLINGENBERG
Centurion Staff

Within the old corridors of the elegant Tyler Hall lies a mystery that custodians and security of-

ficers are willing to tell anybody about – ghosts, noises, and voices. Tyler Hall is a mysterious building on campus that looks way too elegant and regal for a community college and many people have

heard strange, paranormal things that shouldn’t be coming from the mansion. The wooden floors creak and crack while chandeliers glare from above. The walls speak of history

and age, hinting toward dramatic events that occurred in the Tyler family’s mansion.

Matthew Metcalf is the Historic Preservation Program Coordinator, and an instructor at Bucks. He doesn’t stay often into the night, but he has experienced something unique.

“I’ve really never heard anything,” said Metcalf, “but I can feel a presence at night.”

“When you’re there at night, and it’s dark – yeah, you can feel something,” he said.

The feeling in the air is hard to detect, hidden by a dusty, humid scent. Yet, it’s there. There is a foreboding, ominous shadow that looms over anybody’s heart who walks these halls – but isn’t evil.

Metcalf described the feeling as not being malicious, but not being friendly either. “It’s just there.”

Senior Administrative Assistant Sue Pfizenmayer said “I don’t think there’s anything here.” She has an alternate explanation for these noises.

“Bats, birds, and snakes do sneak in occasionally. That could be the source of these noises,” she guessed. It would be very easy to explain the noises, but it doesn’t explain the voices.

Like the tunnel that runs between Tyler Hall and the Orange-ry, the mansion is susceptible to rodents and birds getting lost.

Pfizenmayer mentioned, “The Tyler family really didn’t have any unfinished business, they were

pretty happy.” Lynn Bintliff, senior administrative assistant, said, “I haven’t felt a thing.”

However, she still believes in the paranormal. “I do believe that there are ghosts, but the Tyler family had happy memories. They aren’t angry,” she concluded.

The Tyler family shaped the course of Bucks County through its significant land ownings, and they was rich. They would have enjoyed the luxuries of life.

“I’m always looking around for that sort of thing, but I haven’t experienced anything,” said Bintliff.

Jared Roberts, writer and editor for the Centurion, gave his opinion. “Life just doesn’t end, it goes somewhere, right?” he wondered, looking away.

“There’s a lot of history in Tyler Hall, so there has to be something there,” he guessed.

Mike Woelk, a CR South graduate, personally doesn’t believe any of it. “All the ghost sightings you see on TV are faked, staged, or hoaxes,” he mentioned.

There really isn’t a consensus on what truly lurks in Tyler Hall – whether it’s the ghosts, a lost bird or snake, or just a hoax. Perhaps that will forever remain a mysterious part of Tyler’s history.

What is true, however, is that nobody can deny that Tyler family had a great impact on Bucks County, and that there will always be a story to be told from those hallowed halls.



photos courtesy of Francis Klingenberg



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Bucks Professors

Queeney’s View on Communications in the 21st Century

JOSEPH SHERIDAN
Centurion Staff

“So, what is the nature of reality?” Professor Shawn Queeney asks of his Communications class in the midst of a lively discussion about virtual reality.

The response is ripe with the opinions of young adults yet to eat lunch, eager to consume the fruits of wisdom.

Professor Queeney, all 6-foot-something of him, towers over his seemingly tiny desk as students share opinions and experiences related to the topic at hand. Unlike the atmosphere of many morning classes this one seems to be filled with a willingness, even an eagerness, to learn.

The only time Queeney interjects is to offer encouragement or direction to the conversations, standing calmly in his dapper beige sweater often saying nothing more than “that’s interesting,” “I never thought of that,” or “you know, you’re right.”

“Professor Queeney is kind of hard to describe, man, he always seems, like, really calm. He’s smart, he’s a good teacher, and he always makes class entertaining. I’m pretty sure he’s getting his PhD currently. He’s really smart,” said Chris Schumann, a Freshman Communications major and student of Queeney’s said after class.

It doesn’t take long to understand this sentiment after sitting

in on one of the professor’s classes. How is a man who’s smart, entertaining, and seemingly well respected difficult to describe?

Simple, he’s also incredibly humble.

His answers are often a bit lengthy, but he’s usually well aware he has broken into a soliloquy and quickly apologizes.

He enjoys a class with engaged students who value doing the work, the type of individuals you can meet halfway, never wanting to impose his ideas too heavily upon impressionable minds.

In a world filled with an overload of information and opinions, not to mention more than enough platforms to share them on, Professor Queeney prefers listening.

With a bachelor’s in Business Management from Wilkes University and a masters in Communications, Queeney is working on completing a three-year PhD program focused on conflict resolution.

A long-time interest for him, Queeney hopes people will eventually begin to think differently about how we handle conflict on both the micro and macro level. He believes humanity needs more foresight and better negotiation before getting into conflicts.

Before falling into the wormhole that is communications and its theories, Queeney had his sights set on owning his own



Bucks Professor Shawn Queeney, photo courtesy of Joseph Sheridan

business in marketing, and avoiding the gloominess of working in a corporate setting.

He quickly witnessed downside of such work after seeing one of his superiors take the fall for her team not receiving their paychecks, something she had no control over.

Realizing that owning a business would almost certainly mean having to let people down, Queeney reassessed and waded into communications.

It’s a field that some critics claim is useless and a waste of money.

As a man who genuinely enjoys practicality and logic, and someone who marvels at human tendencies and humanity, Queeney found a field that harnessed all his creative talents, hard work, and enjoyment of reading,

writing, talking, and learning.

The lack of number crunching was also enticing.

Years later, Queeney sits in his office answering questions between taking bites of his turkey sandwich while I cram barely legible notes into the 9.5” by 6” copybook I use for three different classes.

“Rodney Dangerfield, he might be before your time, has a line that makes me think of what it’s like being in communications; I don’t get no respect,” Queeney says in his incessantly gentle tone.

Queeney is well aware of the negative connotation that surrounds the study of communications; he believes it may come from the the fact that the skills involved –talking, writing and sharing ideas – are things every-

one does all the time.

He’s enthralled by the idea of humanity talking and becoming closer, hopefully leading to fewer or more easily resolvable conflicts. Humans seem to be pushing limits, but we’ve yet to see whether or not it’s for the best.

Even after he leaves class and turns the lights in his office out for the night, Queeney is still running on the energy of communications.

It comes to fruition when working alongside his pre-teen son, while losing an argument to his spouse, or when he’s talking some smack amongst his bowling peers.

He claims that if there’s one thing he’s learned from his long run in communications, it’s that he’s actually pretty bad at it, as are most of us.

Leading by Example: A Look Into Professor Petito’s Classroom

SARAH SIOCK
Centurion Staff

John Petito comes to a pause in the midst of our conversation when I ask, “what was the moment that made you realize, ‘this is why I am a professor?’”

He scratches his head and begins to recall all of those “aha” moments teaching has brought him. The question weighs heavily on him. After reminiscing about students he responds, “seeing a student who did not know they had it in them take a leap and succeed.”

He ends the sentence with a smile across his face.

There was not that one specific moment for Petito, but many of them.

Petito pushes students to think harder, study longer, and research smarter. All which brings out the best in them and creates an infinite vault of “aha” moments.

Now as a professor in the Social and Behavioral Science department he strives to tie currents events into all the material he teaches.

It can be a difficult task to teach current events in today’s tumultuous political climate.

However, Petito takes on the task. He does not steer away from

the uncomfortable topics.

Petito challenges all students to voice their opinions in hopes of changing their outlook so that perhaps they will end up less divided.

Petito spent his adolescent years hating the classroom.

Textbooks and countless exams just never appealed to him. None of the facts and information he memorized seemed relevant to him.

Now at age 72, Petito has been a professor at Bucks County Community College since 2004.

He keeps his classroom lively.

His hands move in every direction as he tries to emphasize important points while lecturing.

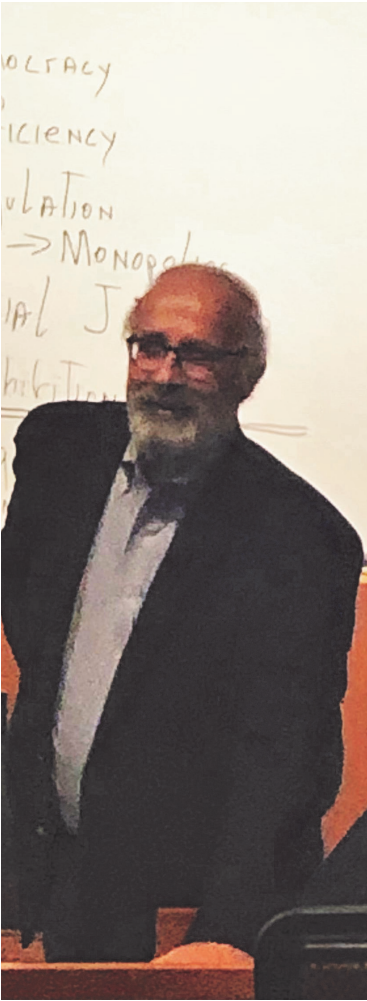
He springs out of his chair to emphasize an idea a student made.

He captures every student’s attention. Students come to class ready to share an article or news story that connects to what they have learned.

Petito runs a classroom where the students are active participants.

His teaching style was developed by understanding what students dislike the most about learning.

Becoming an educator was not



Professor John Petito, photo courtesy of Sarah Siock

something he planned for but like many events in his life it just happened by chance.

Petito had a privileged child-

hood.

He grew up in Princeton, New Jersey. He is the son of an Italian immigrant who became a banker later in life.

Petito evidently admires his father’s Italian roots and how hard he worked to become successful. Petito’s dad’s eight other siblings grew up in the not-as-lavish Trenton, New Jersey.

“I got to see both sides,” he said. Petito described how he has always been more interested in those who were less fortunate than him, even though he attended a private school.

He simply ran into a former dean of Bucks who mentioned that the school was in need of a history professor.

“If I had not overheard that comment about the position I would not have been here,” said Petito, “and it is the luckiest thing that has ever happened to me because I love teaching.”

After years of working one odd job and then another, Petito finally found a career that was truly special.

At Bucks, Petito teaches both history and political science courses, in a time when people are very politically divided.

“I am up front about my political stance,” said Petito. He

wants to be able to challenge his students.

There are certain topics in a political science course that are unavoidable.

“I am not only a teacher but a preacher, I preach bipartisanship,” Petito explained proudly.

“The only way we are going to get out of this jam the country is to forget about party labels.

Bipartisanship seems to be a desired goal for his vision of the country, and he can have a small impact on it happening by teaching it in the classroom.

“If I have one strength it is making students feel comfortable in the class room,” said Petito.

His inclusive classroom helps drive home the idea that working together accomplishes more than keeping a closed mind.

Petito never makes a student feel ostracized for having a different opinion.

After jumping from career to career Petito found one constant in his life, that it is impossible to plan anything.

Even though teaching may have not been what he had also envisioned for himself it is clear this is where he is supposed to be.

Bucks News

Transfer Center Makes the Transition A Breeze

PAIGE SCHOLL-D’ANDREA
Centurion Staff

Students tend to think transferring from Bucks to a four-year university is a complicated and daunting task, but it is actually easier than most would believe.

Debora Bergen is the director of Current Student Advising and Transfer Services. Her office is located on the first floor of the Rollins Center in room 60. She is very knowledgeable about the transfer process and has a lot of insightful information for students looking to transfer.

When asked when students should start considering the transfer process, Bergen says “I recommend starting their very first semester. We would start off with a career assessment to help them chose a school that has the right program for them”.

Students tend to talk to their specific advisors about transferring out of Bucks. However, Bergen and the other six transfer advisors have a lot of insight to offer. Bergen says, “We talk to students about their majors and always encourage visiting, which is why we encourage our transfer fairs”.

The transfer process can be intimidating because many Bucks students have gone

though this process before. Applications, application fees, financial aid and college visits are just some of the tasks to complete before officially being able to transfer.

Bergen mentioned there are many myths about this process, saying “Typically I get they think it’s a complicated process but there’s three main steps; one, apply to the right university, two, send transcripts, and finally three, adding the university to the students financial aid”.

Along with advisors at the Newtown campus, there is one at the Upper Bucks campus located in the North building, accessible by calling their front desk or visiting and scheduling an appointment. There is also one advisor at Lower Bucks as well, located in Room 145 and also accessible by calling their front or visiting to schedule an appointment.

There have already been two transfer fairs at the Newtown campus and one at Upper Bucks, but there is still one at Lower Bucks on April 10th for interested students. Students are able to attend these fairs without having to sign up, and there is a list of colleges that will be attending at www.bucks.edu/transfer.



photo courtesy of Sarah Siock

Business Deparment

Continued from page 1

The Hackathon is a problem-solving event in which teams of two to four members collaborate using creativity to come up with solutions.

This semester’s Hackathon, the “2019 Small Town, Big Solve Hackathon,” is on April 13 at the Newtown campus and is focused on solving a problem for Middletown Township. **Story**

Middletown is looking for a way to measure performances for police, public safety, and parks and recreation departments allowing students a chance to find a solution

to present to judges and win a \$2,000 prize.

The push for innovation goes past just students as cross-campus innovative mind-set training has been implemented. This has faculty across campus engage in a month-long process to learn the pillars of entrepreneurial thinking.

Faculty act on this training by identifying a problem at Bucks together and then coming up with a solution. There is also a faculty innovators program in which faculty revise their courses and assignments in order to include a creative and innovative think process for students.



photo courtesy of Bucks’ website

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**JUST A 20 MINUTE
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Education

WTHS Teacher Leads Big Revolution!

FRANCIS KLINGENBERG
Centurion Staff

Dina McCaffery often goes up in front of the class and starts her lesson by asking the students how they are.

“What happened?” she asked a student, eyebrows drawn high and her face tilted. The student in question had a leg cast from just above his knee down to his foot.

“I got hurt playing football,” Jeremy said. “I’m all good, though.”

“Well, I am so glad to hear that,” she said with a lilt to her voice.

“That sounded so sarcastic,” deadpanned a student from the back of the class.

“I would never,” she laughed. “For real though, I hope you feel better, Jeremy.” McCaffery then went into her lesson on analyzing Super Bowl ads.

McCaffery works day and night to enrich the lives of students. She cares more than most, she loves more than most, and she teaches more than most. While other teachers may teach their subject and leave it at that – McCaffery brings all parts of life into her lessons.

She has a face of a mother – wrinkles from worrying about every one of her students. Many affectionately

call her a nagger, although she says, “I just don’t want anybody to fail my class.” She has a bright smile that she tries to hide whenever she is proud; but she can’t hide that twinkle in her dark eyes. She has long, jet-black hair that would help anybody point her out in a crowd, if she wasn’t so short.

McCaffery hasn’t always been a teacher for William Tennent High School. She started out on the same path that I’m taking – pursuing a journalism major. She earned her degree, and went to work for the Northeast Times, a Philadelphia newspaper. She enjoyed every second of it and wouldn’t take it back for the world. “I still have every single press badge,” she admitted with a cheeky grin.

When the person in charge of starting The Metro in Philadelphia couldn’t do so because she was sick, McCaffery stepped up to the plate. The Metro is a Swedish newspaper that is given away for free on the SEPTA. McCaffery was able to start it up and get it running.

Besides a colorful career, she has always been interested in teaching. She found a position at WTHS, and made a decision to become a teacher.

Chris Kajkowski, a senior at WTHS, said that

McCaffery honestly cares about her students. “I feel like I can trust her to care about my work, and my feelings,” he said. Not many teachers are like that.

Kajkowski also mentioned that she revitalized his passion for being creative. “She encourages all her students to try new things, and that’s what made it so special to me,” he admitted.

It’s obvious that the students care about her, and it’s transforming how they learn. Students are becoming re-invigorated with school because of McCaffery.

Her classroom fosters a sense of family. This sense allows for experimentation and creativity that allows for higher level thinking that isn’t found normally in other classrooms. She actually cares.

Dina McCaffery is an example of how a teacher should teach, how a teacher should interact with their students. It is revolutionary, and it can change schools forever. The effects that come from this teaching style are extraordinary. It lets students feel comfortable with their work. It makes students interested in school again. It changes lives.

This short woman with a huge heart is leading a teaching revolution.



Dina McCaffery and Francis Klingenberg



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Online

Free Money Apps: Are They Too Good To Be True?

ERIN SMITH

Centurion Staff

An app seen on Snapchat created by Smartwallet is targeting young people especially in college with its promises of paying members for doing nothing.

Smartwallet is a news-like website dedicated to providing its followers with cheap deals and ways to make and save money.

The ads tagline is “How to Literally Get Paid to do Nothing if You’re 20.”

Following the link to the advertisement shows a list of apps claiming to help you make money, including one called the Panel App. Panel is a mobile app that pays you money and other rewards by simply letting the app run in the background while you use your cell phone regularly.

According to its description on the App Store, members can earn points on the app by sharing your location with the app, taking “location-based surveys”, and referring friends and family members to join Panel App as well.

They also share at the very end that the Panel App “measures device data, including apps and location, for the purpose of market research and analysis.” So, while the app emphasizes on members sharing their location and taking surveys to make money, it also collects the info you use from your apps while it silently runs in the background on your phone.

While there aren’t any incidents including privacy known to date, Bucks students still remain skeptical of using apps like this.

18-year-old biology major Megan Smith from Langhorne shared her opinion on the app, “It seems very shady to me, because I know the internet isn’t a very trustworthy place. Anybody could make an app like that and promise to pay me. It just sounds too good to be true.”

Another student. Molly Burs, a 20-year-old art history major from Philadelphia, shares that she is most of all creeped out by the prospect, and dubiously asks the question, “What do they want to know about me? What are they trying to find out that is so important to them?”

Besides the skeptics concerning whether or not your privacy will still be unharmed after installing the app, the way that members are paid or rewarded is also deemed sketchy.

The ad by Smartwallet claims that you get paid by doing nothing. However, it seems that the app does not actually pay you in money at all.

A man named Brok, who runs a blog called “Full Time Job From Home” where he shares his experiences with money-rewarding apps and websites in hopes of informing followers about which ones are scams and which ones are actually the real deal, wrote an entry on

the Panel App and how it works.

Brok shares that as a Panel App user, he was able to exchange the points he earned for rewards, but the rewards he received were gift cards for services like Amazon priced as high as \$5. Users used to be able to cash out their earnings using PayPal, but this option was retired for unknown reasons.

Brok shares, “...this won’t be a big income. If you invite some friends or win some Sweepstakes, you can earn more, but a \$5-\$15 monthly income is what you’ll be looking at with this app.”

With so much access to app information and little reward why are people actually willing to sign up for apps like these?

According to Andrew Scully, an 18-year-old computer science major from Deptford NJ, “People always think they’ll be able to get money without working for it. I have to admit, it is good marketing, creating these ads for young people who most likely go to college because we are the group of people are perceived to be the most broke and are always looking for opportunities to get cash.”

While it seems like these apps are advertised to young people and students to take advantage of their financial situation, it’s safe to assume that this group of people are not so easily swayed by these promises of “free money.”

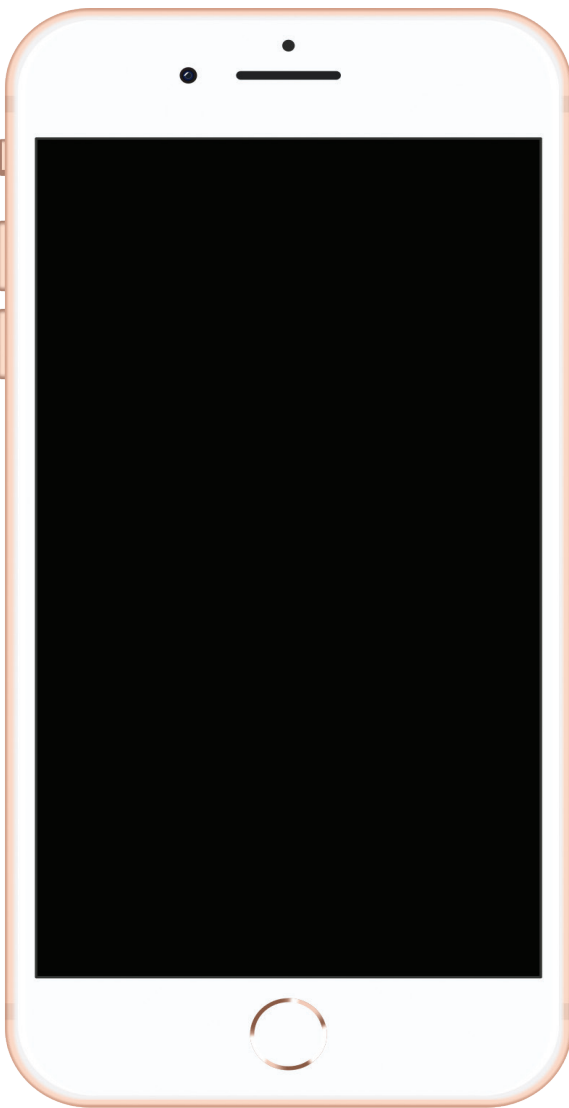


photo courtesy of Wikimedia Commons

Should Parents Be Worried About Momo?

JACKSON WEAVER

Centurion Staff

Parents are terrified as a previously existing internet challenge known as the Momo Challenge has made a recent resurgence.

The Momo Challenge is an internet meme that involves an image of a statue with an unnaturally elongated face. Supposedly it would appear in videos on the internet where it would urge people to do things that would cause harm to themselves, or even kill themselves for the sake of “Momo”.

It has appeared as early as 2018. However recently it been rumored that videos of the challenge have arrived to the YouTube. Promoting children to take part in its self-detrimental agenda.

A growing number of skeptics have also been on the rise. Some say only the first iteration of the challenge was fake, others say the entire thing is fake.

Professor Shawn Queeney from Bucks, who specializes in studies concerning communication, and knowledgeable on the internet, expressed his stance on this potential issue. “I think any time there’s

false rumors about something, it makes the situation worse.” he said.

This is not the first time something like this has happened, however. A perfect example of this is the Slender Man Stabbing, where two girls attempted to commit murder for a popular fictional monster on the internet.

There have also been examples of rumors like these being false. Such as 80’s scare of the satanic messages that can be heard when certain tapes are played backwards.

When asked if he thought that the Momo Challenge and victims at least could be real, Bucks student Ethan Merckx stated, “Yeah probably, I mean two girls have killed someone over slender man.”

Bucks student Liam Egan responded to the same question, “It could happen, but I’d only imagine it being some kind of charismatic person or someone who can really convince easily manipulated people.”

The biggest change that is occurring is the rising use of social media and the internet. This change



photo courtesy of Wikimedia Commons

has been brought up time and time again for different issues, however for this one it has everything to do with it.

Queeney when asked if it would get worse said, “No, honestly not any worse than it has already been.” He explained “All of these new technologies always induce a lot of fear and uncertainty in people... whether it was the telephone, the radio, the television.”

Issues like this highlight the separation of parent and child. While many younger people who have grown up with the internet may find Momo harmless, parents are horrified and confused.

When presented with this idea and asked if parents should indeed be more in touch with the internet, Queeney said, “Yes ... It shows this generational divide, where you’re venturing into this territory

you don’t know much about, and maybe parents aren’t even that interested in it.”

Whether or not the challenge is indeed real, it’s effects certainly are. Its presence is felt and amplified by so many worried parents, enough to draw the ire of public school districts.

Sometimes the legend of something can be more real than the thing itself.



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Sports

Join an Intramural Basketball Team

JAMES WISTER
Centurion Staff

Bucks is gearing up to host their third annual Intramural Basketball Tournament. The event is free to join for any current Bucks students.

The event has been put together every year by assistant athletic director Justin Burroughs.

It is hosted every Tuesday and Thursday.

Burroughs sees this tournament as a great way to bring students together. “The tournament is a way to have students here meet and make connections. He hopes it’ll make Bucks feel less like a commuter school.

Burroughs also hopes to add more intramural sports events so for students who enjoy sports other than basketball to get involved in.

Zau Wawhkyang, a 19-year-old music major originally from Burma, joined the tournament because he loves to play basketball in his free time and saw it as an opportunity to have some fun in between classes. Zau said he’s become friends with just about everyone playing in the tournament.

Harshil Patel, a 20 year old computer science major originally from India also joined the tournament because he too loves playing

basketball and that he has made new friends with everyone on his team.

Shawn Spedale, a 21 year old biology major from Doylestown. “I enjoy getting to play against my friends and it gives me something to look forward to coming to school. I knew a lot of the players before the tournament but playing has made us close,” said Spedale.

For students looking for something to get involved in at school, this is the perfect activity for people who have busy schedules because the games are played when most students have a break between classes.

“It’s hard to balance school and work and find time to be a part of something but I am glad to be a part of the tournament,” said Spedale.

The tournaments are held every Tuesday and Thursday at 12 p.m. in the gym. Students are broken up into four teams of six. Players from the school basketball team act as the referees.

Teams play games of four on four with two 20 minute halves with a running clock. The teams play a round robin style tournament before a single elimination playoff.

Students who are interested in playing in the next tournament that will be held next semester are

encouraged to talk to Burroughs for further information.

Students are welcomed to suggest ideas for any other intramural sport by emailing Student Life/Athletics at (215) 968-8257 or studentlife@bucks.edu



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