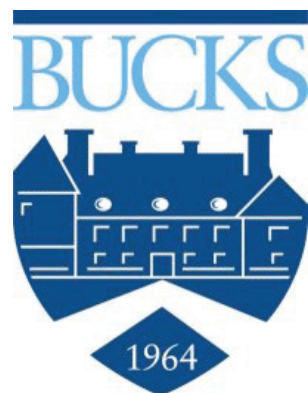


The Centurion



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The Results and Winners of Bucks' 2020-2021 Student Body Election

LEAH MILLER

Centurion Staff

The winners of the student body election for Student Government Association (SGA) were limited to three students who ran during the election, while the rest of the roles are actively being filled.

From Sept. 22 to Sept. 24, students were encouraged to log on to their Bucks accounts and vote remotely. Elections are usually held this way, so the impact of the pandemic was minimal.

Blake Churchill ran without opposition for President and won. Position for Vice President was won by Samantha Gillespie and the Director of Diversity and Inclusion was won by Nicholas Berube.

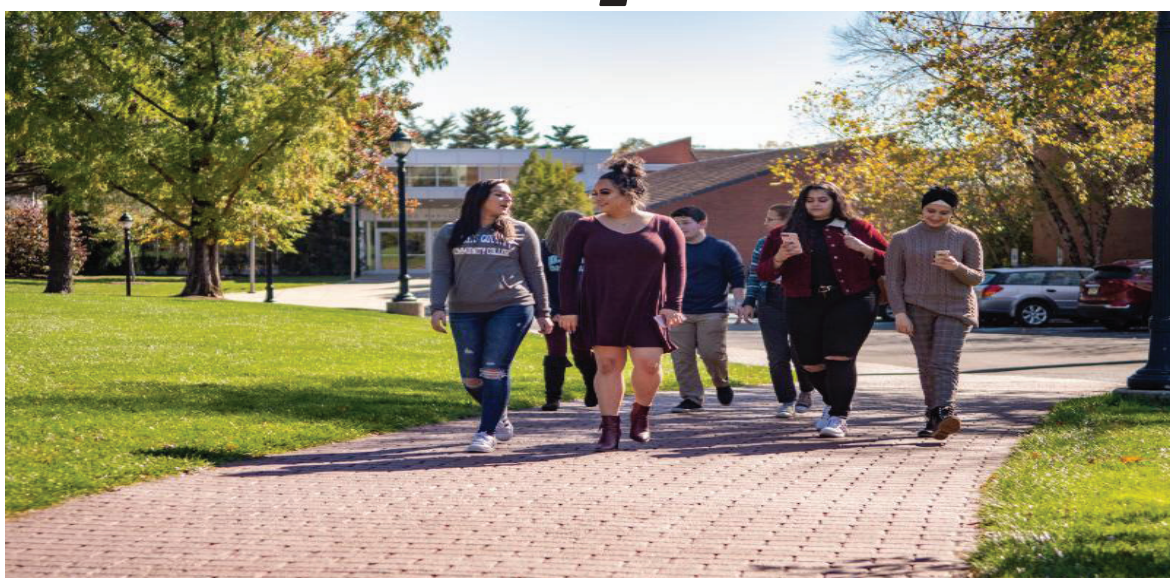
SGA exists to hear concerns of the student body. They also plan events on campus meant to bring students together. They oversee individual club operations and their needs such as finances, otherwise known as the Student Activities Fee.

During the election, candidates must adhere to strict rules and guidelines for their campaigning

efforts, such as the number of posters and flyers are limited in number. Handouts may only be candy and it must all be student run and involved, meaning no family members or non-Bucks students may contribute.

There are also term limits, which differ for officers. Executive officers may run for one academic year, until the following years' Annual Student Awards Luncheon every May. Incumbent officers shall serve for 2 consecutive semesters, and as long as there is sincere intent for their continual enrollment at the college, they may run for reelection.

There are two meetings that the SGA holds, the Executive Board Meetings and the Full Board Meetings. Executive meetings are held at discretion of the of the SGA President and the Full Board Meetings are held every Tuesday at 12:30 p.m. and are open to the public. Due to the pandemic, the school has required all clubs to meet over Zoom. The Zoom link will be provided to the student body for those who wish to attend.



Courtesy of Bucks' website.

BCCC details the election process and the job of SGA, making every step clear and properly conveyed to the student body. Their work is transparent.

Professor Shawn Queeney from the Communications Program at the college had great optimism for this year and the SGA. He stated that SGA has "a high level of student engagement and adaptation, but students need to participate to foster real change."

One thing Queeney thought that the SGA has done a great job with was the introduction of charging cables to campuses. With the challenges the community faces this year with the pandemic, he is optimistic that the college has a good infrastructure of committee and government, so adaptation of the school should not be too difficult.

Elizabeth Watson, 20, communication major said, "Being

remote will help with thrive more because they have more time to discuss changes that need to be made on campus before being back on campus."

A lot of questions and concerns have risen from the community regarding the pandemic and ways of communications, but many are confident in the SGA to take lead and make changes during this time.

What Students Think About Mail-In Voting

KAYLA GIDZINSKI

Centurion Staff

Amid this year's general election, requests for mail-in ballots have been widely requested due to the COVID-19 outbreak.

Those who are registered voters can apply for a mail-in ballot online with an issued driver's license or photo ID from the Pennsylvania Department of Transportation. Other options include applying for poll in person at a county election office or by downloading and printing an application to be mailed off.

Multiple experts claim this method of voting is safe and secure, though how do students at Bucks County Community College think?

20-year-old Betsy Watson voices her concerns about the mail-in ballots.

"I think more people should be concerned about the mail-in ballots because Donald Trump has threatened multiple times, convincing others that this approach is corrupt. I will be voting in person, social distancing of course," said Watson. "My only trouble with these ballots is that in one way or another, they will be influenced. I am not sure if our president is right in saying that Biden will persuade voting individuals, though I believe Trump is going to sabotage him. However, I worry about whatever the outcome is, and I hope it ends well."



Courtesy of Wikimedia Commons.

During the presidential debate, President Trump argued how voting via mail is significantly dangerous because of potential cheating and can be fraudulent in certain cases.

Brooklyn Coughenour, 18, nursing and health care major, said, "I do not oppose the idea, but I feel like it does not bring the same feeling as going and voting,

excluding the current circumstances we are in due to the virus. Often, there are lots of post office issues and that may interfere with how many votes are sent in. To be honest, I am unsure who I am voting for or if I am even voting at all. Yet, if I decide to do so, I do not mind the mail-in ballots. Still, I would very much prefer to go out and vote in public."

Given the conditions regarding COVID, counting people's votes will most likely take much longer because several states may allow additional time for ballots to arrive.

David Southworth, nursing major, said, "I mean, I believe the idea is alright, but nothing should be tampered with in the process of one voting. Also, it is possible

that those who are not citizens of the United States can send in things to sway the election."

Southworth is cautious about the mail-in ballot's procedure, believing it may assist specific voters. "Personally, I do not know too much on how secure they will keep it, but I think it will really help conservative electors in the long run," he said.

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Presidential Profiles

Joe Biden Profile: The Democratic Candidate

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ELIZABETH WATSON
Centurion Staff

Joe Biden is the Democratic candidate running against Donald Trump for the 2020 Presidential Election.

In Aug. 2020, Joe Biden became the official Democratic nominee. Biden is best known for his vice presidency alongside former president, Barack Obama.

According to CNN, some of his biggest successes include being a defense attorney for criminal cases, begin elected to the Senate in his late 20’s, and becoming the chairman of the Senate Committee along with introducing the Violence Against Women Act, a



Courtesy of Wikimedia Commons

bill proposed to protect women against acts of abuse.

In 2008, Biden had also run for president, but withdrew to become vice president of running mate Barack Obama. After becoming Vice President, Biden stepped down from his position as Senator of Delaware.

As part of his campaign proposals, Biden wants to make national COVID-19 tests and make masks mandatory. He also wants to raise the minimum wage and use more

green energy. Biden wants to help eliminate systemic racism by promoting criminal justice reform and giving grants to minority communities. His biggest talking points are a reflection of what is currently happening in society.

Biden has named Kamala Harris as his vice president.

Harris is best known for being the second African-American woman and first South Asian-American senator in history.

If Biden wins, she will be the first woman vice president and the first person of color vice president.

Some of Harris’ greatest accomplishments include winning a historic mortgage settlement case that helped more than 84,000 California families during the housing crisis. Alongside this, she has come out against for profit colleges, and her work lead to SCOTUS decision in favor of marriage equality and prosecuting

Donald Trump Profile: The Republican Candidate



Courtesy of Wikimedia Commons

GINA DONAGHY
Centurion Staff

Donald J. Trump is the 45th president of the United States. Before becoming president, he had no prior government experience. He was a real estate mogul, businessman, entrepreneur, and reality star.

Trump grew up in New York to a very wealthy family. He attended Fordham University and has a bachelor’s degree in economics from Wharton School of The University of Pennsylvania.

He took over his father’s real estate business and renamed it “The Trump Organization.” The organization built and renovated hotels, casinos, skyscrapers, and golf courses.

Throughout the course of his

life, he has married three times. He married his first wife, Ivana, a Czech model who he shares three children with, Donald Jr, Ivanka and Eric. He also has 10 grand-kids. After a divorce from Ivana, Trump married actress Marla Maples, who he had daughter, Tiffany with. After divorcing Marla, he met his current wife and First Lady, Melania, a Slovenian model. They have a son named Barron together and have been together for 15 years.

In 2004, Trump hosted the show “The Apprentice” which was shot at Trump Towers and showcased celebrities doing project-based events to see who the best leader was out of the group. The show ran for 14 seasons and established Trump as a reality tv star.

Trump’s popularity from the show only benefitted him in his quest to run for President of the United States in 2016, when he accepted the Republican party nomination.

He went on to win the electoral college vote, although not the popular vote, and beat former First Lady, Hillary Clinton, to become the 45th President of the United States with the campaign slogan, “Make American Great Again.”

During his presidency, he has proposed a travel ban on several Muslim countries for security, as well as appealing the Affordable Care Act, also known as Obamacare. He withdrew from the Trans-Atlantic Partnership. He also wants to reinforce border

security by designing a wall along the U.S-Mexico border.

After facing difficulties through his presidency, Trump was impeached on Dec. 18, 2019 on charges of abuse of power and obstruction of Congress. He was acquitted of all charges on Feb. 5, 2020.

Most recently in Dec. of 2019, the COVID-19 outbreak started in Wuhan, China, and spread worldwide. On Jan. 31, COVID-19 was officially classified as a public health emergency. Trump is widely known to have publicly played down the seriousness of COVID, attempting not to cause a state of panic in the American people.

Trump is also known for having a terrible relationship with the press and media. He is known for

accusing the press of constantly writing “fake news.”

Trump currently has a poor approval rating with the public from the amount of times he has mocked the disabled, made misogynistic comments about women, and talked down about people in the military.

As far as accomplishments go as a president, Trump has passed record-setting tax cuts, achieved energy independence, replaced NAFTA with the US-Mexico-Canada agreement, and invested \$2 trillion to completely rebuild the military.

Trump is running for re-election, and with trying to hold as many outdoor rallies as he can, he is determined to spend another 4 years in office.

Debate

An Overview of the First Presidential Debate



Courtesy of Wikimedia Commons

DEAN GUILIANO
Centurion Staff

The first presidential debate between President Donald Trump and former Vice President Joe Biden sparked a vocal response from voters all over the country.

The first of potentially three outings, as the president’s recent COVID-19 diagnosis compromises any future appearances, was met with criticism, mainly aimed at Trump’s performance.

Trump’s plan seemed to consist of attacking Biden personally, taking shots at Biden’s children while comparing turnouts at

each other’s voter rallies. Biden avoided being baited by Trump’s remarks and instead focused on answering the questions the best he could.

Moderator Chris Wallace spent much of the debate reminding Trump of his numerous interruptions and struggled to control the chaos that ensued from the President’s non-compliance on the debate stage. The 90-minute bout left many with lots to say afterwards.

Aedin Vetere, student at the University of Pittsburgh at Bradford, stated, “Well in my opinion

I feel as if the debate was pretty poorly organized, it felt as if it was constant interruption after interruption and not very much was said to be influential. I hope the VP debate is a whole lot better.”

Matthew Davies, Yardley resident, shared, “Donald Trump’s lack of listening and constant interruption was comparable to that of a 2nd grader. His constant changing of subject goes to show his ill preparedness for topics important to the American people.”

Albert Wilson, Bensalem resident, said, “Biden wasn’t a clear victor but he achieved his

goal: avoid gaffes and let Trump implode. It’s also hard to say that Trump truly lost the debate, as moderator Wallace took a hefty beating.”

Bucks student Kayla Gidzinski said, “I found it to be incredibly frustrating, yet entertaining at the same time. On a serious note, I felt it was extremely disrespectful on Trump’s behalf to mention Joe Biden’s sons, especially the one who sadly passed away in 2015. Trump basically called the former vice president’s son, Beau, a ‘loser.’ That part in particular amid the debate rubbed me the wrong

way, considering Biden sent his condolences to Trump once his brother, Robert, died a little over a month ago.”

The next presidential debate has been cancelled as Trump refused to do a second debate virtually after contracting COVID.

As the election approaches, undecided voters have less than a month to figure out which candidate they prefer. Will Trump earn another four years in office, or will Biden be able to rebuild the legacy former President Obama left behind?



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Vice Presidential Profiles

The Vice Presidential Candidates: Mike Pence and Kamala Harris

JACOB MAIRONE
Centurion Staff

With some of the oldest presidential candidates in history running for office, one should not only educate themselves on who they are voting for, but their second in command as well. Mike Pence or Kamala Harris, which do you want speaking for the house?

When it comes to the environment, Harris cares. When it comes to gun freedom, Pence protects. Most Republican beliefs are shared by Pence while Democratic ones are shared by Harris.

If the economy is what you want your vice president to focus on, Mike Pence would be your candidate. When he was Indiana’s governor, the state enjoyed a \$2 billion budget surplus with a triple-A credit rating. In 2012 he closed a deal giving a \$1.1 billion give-back, the largest tax cut the state has ever seen.

If protecting a woman’s right to safe abortion is what you want of your candidate, Kamala Harris would be your candidate. One of Pence’s goals in office is to stop giving tax payer money to facilities that perform abortion. Harris, however, had always been a women’s activist and would dare to take away the opportunity.

Mike Pence went to Hanover College and graduated with a Bachelor of Arts in history in 1981. He continued his education at Indiana University McKinney



School of Law, where he would earn his Juris Doctor in 1986.

Kamala Harris graduated from Howard University. After getting her Bachelor of Arts degree in 1986, she went on to University of California Hastings College of Law and graduate with her Juris Doctor in 1989.

In 2017, Harris got elected into office as senator of California, being the first South Asian-senator. She also served as district

attorney of San Francisco. Now, she’s running for vice president.

On the flip side of the politicized coin is Mike Pence. Before President Trump chose him as a running mate, he was the governor of Indiana. And before that, he was a Republican Conference Chairman.

In his early career, Pence ran for congress twice in 1988 and 1990, and he would lose both elections. Feeling ashamed about his line



Photos courtesy of Wikimedia Commons.

of attack ads, he wrote an essay titled “Confessions of a Negative Campaigner” where he vowed to choose the moral high ground from then on out.

Harris has a few published works, such as a piece in 2009 she wrote with Joan O’C Hamilton titled “Smart on Crime”. She also wrote a children’s book in 2019 called “Superheroes Are Everywhere” where she takes kids through her life to empower them.

Also, in 2019 she wrote “The Truths We Hold: An American Journey” which was a campaign book.

Both candidates speak for many die-hard supporters and passionate groups of people who want to see real change, so make sure to vote smartly for the change you want to see happen as November approaches.



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Congressional Profiles

Congressional Race Overview: Fitzpatrick vs. Finello

PAYTON SCHREIER
Centurion Staff

Brian Fitzpatrick and Christina Finello are currently battling to see who will win over the people of Bucks County to serve in the 1st Congressional District in the U.S. House of Representatives.

Recently, the two faced off at Bucks’ Lower Campus where they discussed topics such as COVID-19 and racial discrimination, among others. Fitzpatrick and Finello agreed that the vaccine needs to be 100 percent safe and that they should note release a vaccine ahead of schedule just to please voters.

Finello also criticized Fitzpatrick for voting against the Affordable Care Act, and Fitzpatrick said the only reason he did so was to fix the corrupt system within the ACA that was allowing millions of Americans to not have insurance.

Fitzpatrick, the Republican candidate running for re-election, has worked as the National Director for the FBI’s Campaign Finance and Election Crimes Enforcement Program, and was the national supervisor for the Political Corruption Unit. Fitzpatrick gained respect from his peers and was given the FBI Director’s Leadership Award for his work.

He graduated from Penn State University and LaSalle University, along with the Dickinson School of Law. He then became a licensed Certified Public Accountant, an attorney, and an Emergency Medical Technician.

Fitzpatrick is pro-life and voted in favor of Born-Alive Abortion Survivors Protection Act. He supports providing financial aid



Courtesy of Wikimedia Commons

to businesses and corporations that were negatively affected by COVID-19. He supports gun-control legislation, as well as government funding for the development of renewable energy.

While supporting repealing the ACA, he states that, “With skyrocketing costs and thousands uninsured locally, Obamacare is failing. Every man, woman, and child should have affordable health insurance... (the ACA) desperately needs to be fixed or replaced with a system that works better for everyone. That should be the goal for any lawmaker,

regardless of party.”

Finello, the Democratic candidate, gained a joint law degree and Ph.D. in clinical psychology, from Villanova Law and Drexel University. She interned at a prison in Missouri where she interviewed and performed psychological examinations on the prisoners. After completing her internship, she returned home to serve the community.

Finello has worked the last 10 years to improve care delivery from the governmental systems. Finello stated that she wants accessible and affordable healthcare



Courtesy of finelloforcongress.org

for those who suffer from mental health and substance use. She also stated that the government needs to be treating mental health on the same level as physical health within the world of health coverage.

Finello wants to raise the minimum wage for over 8 million Americans across the country and pass a law for protecting workers by guaranteeing 12 weeks of paid family leave, along with workers being able to earn paid sick leave.

Finello wants to make community college free, reconstruct student loans, and lower interest

rates on those loans. Finello also pushes for investments in alternative energy and for the U.S. to re-join the Paris Climate agreement. She would also like equality for all in employment, housing, and marriage.

Finello also wants background checks for people purchasing guns, banning military style assault weapons for the public to purchase, and pass a law that prevents domestic abusers from owning guns.

The Importance of Purple State Pennsylvania in the Election

LEAH MILLER
Centurion Staff

The 2020 Presidential Election is drawing near, and Pennsylvania is showing out to be one of the most important, if not the most important, swing state this election.

Analysts are keeping a close eye on the state’s political status, especially regarding which candidate is carrying the lead. In 2016, PA was categorized as a “perennial” swing state, which President Trump was able to narrowly snatch. PA’s history of being on the winning side gives it more reason to be coveted by either party and publicly scrutinized by the American people.

Bridget Gillespie, 24, communications major was born in Southampton, but currently resides in North Carolina. She said that her home state raises curiosity among North Carolinians as to what her political views are. She relayed that she would not be surprised which side PA ends up taking in this election, as it could go either way.

Nathaniel Rakich, an elections analyst for website FiftyEighty.com stated in a recent article that PA’s geography plays a role in this election. The “working-class western and northeastern” areas of PA are increasingly supporting the right, showing a demographic change in comparisons to the early 2000’s.

Gillespie stated that PA’s status as a swing “makes everyone’s vote seriously important this year.”

Nicholas Myers, 22, of Perkasio also shared Gillespie’s thoughts that voting this year is important,



Courtesy of Wikimedia Commons

especially because “a lot of recent presidents that won took Pennsylvania.”

In regard to which way the election will go, Myers said, “A lot of people have already had their mind made up and agree with their candidate’s viewpoints while ignoring everything the other side has to offer.”

This led Myers to believe that swing states, specifically PA,

may find their direction through independent voters, as they are unpredicted by surveying polling efforts.

With the election getting closer, civilians, celebrities, and politicians are encouraging people to vote through social media. Singer and songwriter Taylor Swift, a PA native, endorsed Joe Biden as of recent, which will ultimately help increase young voter turnout as

Swift is one of the most followed and well-known celebrities out there.

Efforts to have young adults vote are always emphasized during presidential elections, as historically there is always a low record of young registered voters. People also encourage the spectating of the presidential debates that take place before the election, to help inform their vote.

Registering to vote is simple and can be done online through websites such as Vote.org and RockTheVote.org. Early voting has been conducted since Sept. 14 through Oct. 27 and is encouraged, given the state of the pandemic, so that Election Day will not be overwhelmed and expose many civilians to the virus.