

The Centurion



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Remembering Dr. Keri Barber

ANGELA LEAMON

Centurion Staff

One of Bucks' Language and Literature Professors, Dr. Keri D. Barber, recently passed away at age 45.

Barber had been battling metastatic colon cancer for about 2.5 years. On Feb. 1, 2021, Dr. Barber's fight with cancer was over, with her husband, Taliloo "Junior" M. Fuaau, by her side until the end.

Barber was a loving (and loved) professor, daughter, sister, aunt, wife, and mother to her two cats, Leonard and Virginia. Being diagnosed with cancer helped her grow stronger connections with these people in her life as well as life itself.

Born in Lakewood, CA on July 1, 1975, Dr. Barber has lived in California, Washington, Montana, Japan, and Pennsylvania. She received her undergraduate degree from California Polytechnic State University, Pomona, her Masters from California State University, Los Angeles, and her PhD from the University of California, Riverside.

Dr. Barber's greatest passions were academics, education, literature, travel, dining, family, and friends. Her deepest intellectual passions were for classic feminist authors Virginia Woolf, Emily Bronte, and Mary Shelly. Dr. Barber would quote each with ease and explain each stanza with exquisite detail. She was an educator for 23 years and an English Literature and Composition Professor at Bucks for the last 12 years.

Nicole Tracey, the Dean of the Language and Literature department at Bucks said, "All of us in the Language & Literature



Keri Barber, courtesy of Frank Klingenberg

Department are deeply saddened by the loss of Dr. Barber. She was a dedicated teacher and wonderful colleague who was loved by her students. Dr. Barber brought an enthusiasm for teaching, a love for writing and literature, and a wonderful sense of humor to the classroom."

At Bucks, Dr. Barber led many committees and assisted with the Student Research Conference every semester, as well as offered support to her fellow colleagues.

A close colleague and friend of Dr. Barber's, Dr. Ethel Rackin, wrote a few words for a virtual faculty memorial held in Barber's honor:

"Keri and I started at Bucks at the same time: August of 2010; we were in boot camp together—and I think both were feeling excited and bewildered by being

the new kids on the block. Keri had just driven across the country at lightning speed with her sweet husband, Junior, and two cats. I quickly developed a deep admiration for Keri. I loved her sense of humor, her quick wit, the sparkle in her eyes, her strength, her decisiveness. She was brilliant in every sense of the word.

When we started teaching, my admiration only deepened. I could tell her students loved her. Once, I remember walking across campus and hearing a student yell (across Gallagher), Dr. Barber—you're the best! She was stricter than I in her policies and it worked. The students respected her for it, learned a ton, and her popularity was earned.

Socially, Keri was just as wonderful. She was so much fun, her laugh was infectious, she always

had interesting things to say. We shared our experiences as we progressed in our time at Bucks, and I'm forever grateful for this wonderful colleague and friend.

In her struggles the past two years, my admiration grew and grew. Her bravery, stamina, grace, and continuing love of life was incredibly inspiring. The way she cared for her friends as she was sick—always asking how we were doing and waiting to hear the answer—was remarkable. As devastated as we all are by her loss, I can only imagine that she'd want us to live more fully in order to honor her," wrote Dr. Rackin.

The Department is planning to dedicate a bench in Dr. Barber's honor, with an on-campus ceremony to be held later this year, as well as to initiate a student scholarship to pay tribute to her

legacy.

"It is our hope the scholarship will be available soon enough for some of Dr. Barber's own students to apply," said Tracey.

Barber wished for no formal services to be held in her honor. Her husband and family will bury her in Lake Isabella, CA, with her late great-grandparents, William and Elizabeth Brady. She has been a beloved part of our college community and will continue to live in the hearts of her colleagues and students.

Donations can be made to the BCCC Foundation by check or credit. Checks should be made payable to the BCCC Foundation, earmarked for the Keri Barber fund, and mailed to BCCC Foundation, 275 Swamp Road, Newtown, PA 18940.

Honors at Bucks Holding Women's Shelter Drive

GABRIELLA PIRMAN

Centurion Staff

From Feb. 1 to Feb. 26, the Honors@Bucks Club will be running a drive alongside the Bucks Student Government Association to collect supplies for Women's Shelters.

The shelters being donated to are Third Street Alliance and A Woman's Place. Both offer shelter and resources to women and children in need, particularly those fleeing domestic violence.

"A Woman's Place is very near and dear to some of our faculty, and the shelter has done tremendous things to give back to women and children in need. Therefore, we decided we wanted to include them in our fundraiser to further support their efforts in bettering the community. Third Street Alliance also works wonders in helping the women and children," said Samantha Gillespie, coordinator of the event.

The drive is looking for items such as: paper towels, wipes,

masks, blankets, disinfectant spray, hand sanitizer, mops, bath products, cleaning gloves, and other cleaning and hygiene essentials. The full list can be found on the SignUp Genius page for the drive.

Items such as clothing, mattresses/box springs, or used toys will not be collected. Donations are accepted at all three campuses

A donation drive is surely tricky to navigate during a pandemic, but it has been designed to follow all COVID guidelines.

"In regard to dropping off the material, we have one to two members of our club present at each location and time slot. These members will be wearing masks and gloves, as well as following all COVID safety guidelines. When the donor arrives, a club member will simply pop their trunk and have the donor place the items inside the vehicle. The goal was to make this process as contactless and safe as possible," said Gillespie.

This isn't the first drive that has been held at Bucks this year,

according to Gillespie. "This past fall we ran a food drive. The Alumni Association and Honors@Bucks worked collaboratively to donate food to 20 food insecure students, as well as 500 dollars in gift cards."

To donate, simply visit the SignUp Genius page and pick a time slot at whichever location is most convenient.

If a student wants to help but isn't able to donate, there are other ways to help.

"The club appreciates the sharing of the flyer across social media platforms. The more advertising, the more successful the drive. We greatly appreciate any form of advertisement whether it be through the sharing of a flyer or done in another manner," said Gillespie.

The donation drive ends at the end of February, and likely will not be the only drive before the end of the semester. Unable to donate? Just keep your eyes peeled for the next opportunity to support your community through Bucks.

Women's Shelter Drive

A Woman's Place

This drive is a collaborative partnership between Honors@Bucks and the Student Government Association.

Sign up to donate!

Link: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10c0d49a9aa29a4f5c25-womens>

Questions? E-mail Samantha Gillespie at gillespies80594@live.bucks.edu

WISH LIST

- Paper towels
- Disinfecting wipes
- Masks
- Baby and toddler blankets
- Adult fleece blankets
- Disinfectant spray
- Hand sanitizer
- Mops
- Baby bath products
- Baby wipes
- Cleaning gloves
- Empty spray bottles
- Crib sheets
- Kids toothbrushes
- Travel sized first-aid kits

THIRD STREET ALLIANCE For Women & Children

Third Street Alliance

Courtesy of Honors@Bucks' Instagram page

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What Students Have Been Watching During Quarantine



Courtesy of Wikimedia Commons

EMME OLIVER
Centurion Staff

2020 saw a drastic decline for the entertainment industry like we have never seen before. With the majority of Americans confined to their homes and movie theaters closed, streaming services offered an escape from the dreadful lockdown.

With highly anticipated movies being delayed and some TV series not allowed to film because of COVID restrictions, what movies and shows have students resorted to, that will keep them entertained.

Many students seem to flock towards fantasy or historical series like “The Crown,” or re-watching the classic “Harry Potter” series.

Bucks student Kate Grey has been bingeing “American Horror Story” and Adam Sandler movies; a healthy mix of fantastical horror and unusual comedy.

Student Anfisa Blyumina is watching “Glee” and “Community,” two early 2000s comedies that are seeing another wave of popularity as many others are re-watching their favorite shows

during quarantine. It seems as though TV shows that emphasize group effort and social interaction serve as a type of catharsis for viewers.

Student Nicole Purtell is having a blast bingeing “Bridgerton” and all of its romantic and fantastical elements. “It’s so good, I’m obsessed,” Purtell exclaimed.

Purtell also lamented “To all the Boys: Always and Forever,” the final installment of the “To All the Boys” Netflix trilogy starring popular teen actors Lana Condor

and Noah Centineo. The trilogy is one of the most popular teen movie series on Netflix and has received mostly positive reviews from critics and fans alike.

As someone who lives for television and movies, I’ve been re-watching some of my old favorites like “Superbad” as well as experimenting with shows I thought I’d never watch like “Ink Master.”

Now that a vaccine is being distributed and COVID cases are going down, maybe the day will

come when movie theaters open again. Some series have really lost out on streaming services, and some have flourished.

Maybe theaters will lose their popularity or become a thing of the past now that we have streaming services and more people are streaming than ever. Only time will tell, but either way, hopefully the entertainment industry can rebound.



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History

The Impact of Black History Month

LUCAS DARLING

Centurion Staff

Black History Month is celebrated every year in February, but many of the people who celebrate it do not know its origins.

Kevin Antoine, Chief Diversity Officer at Bucks, said that in 1926 a historian named Carter G. Woodson started a “Negro History Week” to show people the way American schools presented history and left out African Americans’ contributions entirely.

The second week of February was originally chosen because Fredrick Douglass’ birthday is on 14th and Abraham Lincoln’s birthday is on the 12th. In 1976, President Gerald Ford decreed Black History Month a national occurrence because it was celebrated all around the country.

Antoine believes the importance of Black History Month is tied to the erasure of achievements of black men and women by European colonizers.

The aim of Black History Month is to educate the world on the great things that black people have accomplished throughout history. The pattern of colonizers minimizing achievements made by black people can be traced back to the Atlantic Slave Trade in the 1600s. Antoine also noted that humans originated in Africa and the mother of all humans was African.

The impact of Black History Month has expanded throughout the last few years as people are learning about more achievements of black people. Black History Month is not only celebrated in the U.S. in February, but also in Canada, while the U.K., Ireland and the Netherlands celebrate it in October.

According to Antoine, there

is no “set” way to celebrate and recognize Black History Month, but there are a multitude of things a person can do to celebrate. Ways of celebration Antoine suggested are reenactments of achievements, watching a movie or documentary, recognizing individuals who support initiatives to educate the population on achievements of black people, or cooking traditional foods enjoyed by African Americans.

Bucks will be participating in Black History Month celebrations. “Here at Bucks, the President’s Diversity Office along with the Black Student Union and the Advisory Committee on Race Ethnicity Diversity and Inclusion are sponsoring campus wide virtual programs to celebrate Black History,” said Antoine.

Some of the events included in the programs have been a screening of “Difficult Times Ahead,” a documentary that sets Dr. Martin Luther King’s speeches to current events, and a discussion with Author Doug Crawley, and African American CEO of a multimillion-dollar business about his new book “Collaborate as If Your Life Depends on It.”

Later this month, BCCC and the Bucks County Commissioners will be joint hosting a virtual program honoring Dr. Frank Boston who was a doctor and veteran of WWI, founder of North Penn Hospital and the ambulance service for the surrounding area.

Antoine believes that for Black History Month a better job must be done regarding preserving and teaching Black history, making it clearer that many black men and women made significant advances but are often not as highly regarded with their achievements.



Chief Diversity Officer Kevin Antoine

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Sports

The Lack of Black Coaches in the NFL

MICHAEL TARAPCHAK

Centurion Staff

Do you know how many black head coaches are in the NFL today? Hint: you can count them all on one hand.

The league has a total of three black coaches. They are: Pittsburgh Steelers’ Mike Tomlin, Miami Dolphins’ Brian Flores, and Texans’ David Culley.

The NFL has made it clear they would like to see more black coaches in the league. They’re going as far as giving out compensation in the form of a third-round pick for any hire of a black head coach or executive.

This has sparked controversy from many fans and members of the league regarding this decision of compensation, with chatter going both ways on this matter.

To understand further on this topic, I asked a few NFL fans on how they feel about the matter.

Tom Plunkett, 19, Jacksonville Jaguars fan said, “I think it’s great that they’re trying to get more people of color into the league, It’s a step in the right direction and I’m all for it.”

Rishi Patel, 20, Eagles fan said, “I believe we should try and get more black coaches in the league, it’s a step in the right direction and it would be encouraging to see. Although, I don’t agree with compensating teams on hiring black coaches, I think you should hire a coach because they’re right for the job. Not ‘cause it’ll get



Mike Tomlin, courtesy of Wikimedia Commons

you more draft capital.”

“As a young black man, it’s encouraging to see people in the community want to get more black people involved in executive roles in football, I think it’s great we’re helping to compensate these teams for making an effort at change,” said Another Kizer, 17. “When I was younger, I looked up to these sports figures as idols and seeing them succeed and get these jobs is inspirational.”

Starting off the new year, we will see seven new head coaches

in the league with only one of them being black. Even though there was only one black coaching hire this off-season, it shouldn’t invoke worry, as there are many up and coming black coaching candidates that will draw interest for many years to come.

As coaching positions are constantly being changed around the NFL, we hope to see more black coaches in the league get a chance to become head coaches in the near future.

Are the Eagles Hurting with Wentz Gone?

CHRIS WARREN

Centurion Staff

The Eagles have officially ended the Carson Wentz era in Philadelphia after only 5 seasons.

The Eagles front office made their decision to officially trade Wentz to the Indianapolis Colts on Feb. 18.

They will receive a 2021 third-round draft pick and a conditional 2022 second-round pick that could turn into a first-rounder if Wentz plays at least 75 percent of the Colts offensive snaps in 2021, or if Wentz plays at least 70 percent of the snaps in 2021 and the Colts reach the playoffs.

Sure, Wentz ended yet another season injured after a cheap shot from Jadeveon Clowney in the 2020 NFL playoffs, but Wentz had also just come off of a 4-game winning streak that saw him clinch the NFC East in 2019 for the second time in his career.

Not only that, but he had become the first QB to ever throw for over 4,000 yards without having a single receiver reach 500 yards on the season.

Wentz also threw just seven interceptions for the third season in a row. He played the entire regular season as well, something he hadn’t done since his rookie campaign, and was finally getting his confidence back.

After a fantastic statistical year in 2019 for Wentz, the Eagles still went out and drafted another Quarterback in Jalen Hurts out of The University of Oklahoma in the Second round of the 2020 NFL Draft.

This immediately impacted a franchise that needed to establish some stability and consistency at the Quarterback position.

“We want to be a Quarterback factory,” General Manager Howie Roseman said in response to the speculation of drafting Hurts.

Unfortunately, during the 2020 NFL season Wentz fell into a massive slump that he rarely broke



Jalen Hurts, courtesy of Wikimedia Commons

out of throughout the rest of the season.

Wentz threw a league high 15 interceptions before getting benched against the Green Bay Packers in week 13.

While it was the end of a disappointing season for Wentz, it was the beginning of a promising career for Hurts.

Even though the Eagles lost four out of the last five games of the season, Hurts injected some life into a floundering offense,

and quite frankly, a floundering franchise.

Now with Wentz officially gone the Eagles can go into the 2021 NFL offseason with the intention of starting second year player Jalen Hurts at Quarterback, but

they’ll be bringing in competition for him as Hurts is the only Quarterback on the 2021 roster as of right now.