

## Bucks Welcomes Students Back To Campus

MARK RUFFIN

*Centurion Staff*

Students are able to take in-person classes at Bucks this fall – with some precautions.

Since the beginning of the pandemic last year, college students have had to deal with a new reality with COVID-19.

Bucks has taken the necessary steps to ensure the safety of its students and staff this semester.

Lisa Angelo, provost for Bucks County Community College, has detailed what to expect as the school reopens fully for the fall semester.

“For faculty and staff, we’ve implemented a number of steps including physical barriers and social distancing,” said Angelo.

Due to the rising cases in Bucks County, Bucks officials made the decision to mandate masking indoors for all visitors, employees, and students beginning Friday, Aug. 6.

According to CDC guidelines, Bucks County has been deemed an area of substantial spread of the Covid-19 Delta variant. A substantial designation means the county has reached 50-99.99 new cases per 100,000 or positivity between 8-9.99 percent via Bucks County Community College.

Bucks is highly recommending, but not requiring vaccinations, especially since the delta variant

has become the dominant strain of COVID -19.

CDC Director Dr. Rochelle P. Walensky said “Delta represents a threat to the entire country” according to WebMD.

In a press conference Walensky went on to say that “We are starting to see some new and concerning trends. Simply put, in areas of low vaccination coverage, cases and hospitalizations are up.”

According to the Pennsylvania Department of Public Health, Bucks County, with a population of 628, 370, has 36,205 people partially vaccinated and 306, 225 fully vaccinated.

The college also has a variety of options for students this fall and flexible learning options such as Face to Face, E-Learning, hybrid, mixed modality, synchronous (zoom), or hyflex depending on their personal preference.

Angelo said regarding in-person classrooms “The limitations for in-person classrooms are on the number of people in the class to allow for social distancing. Please know that we monitor the situation in our county and are ready to pivot if there is a change in CDC, BCDOH, PDE guidance or the environment in our county. We want everyone to return to campus and do so safely.”

Is that enough with the more contagious delta variant?



*Courtesy of @BucksCCC Instagram*

The New York Times said, “The Delta variant is much more contagious, more likely to break through protections afforded by the vaccines and may cause more severe disease than all other known versions of the virus, according to an internal presentation circulated within the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.”

Besides having a variety of options for class this Fall Bucks is also having Athletics & student activities resume this semester.

The following activities are

resuming this semester:

- Indoor and outdoor student activities such as the Welcome Week events.
- Varsity and Club Sports will be offered at the Newtown Campus on the athletic fields and gymnasium.
- Intramural competitions among students will be offered at each campus.
- Student Organizations will have access to campus. All student groups will be required to use a web meeting tool like Zoom

to increase student access and student engagement.

□ All programs, student groups, and activities will follow institutional health and safety guidelines.

The college will monitor the latest updates from the CDC and mitigate any potential spread of COVID-19 by routinely cleaning high traffic and surface areas to protect students and staff.

Bucks is back!

## Beloved Bucks Professor Christopher Bursk Passes at 78

ECHO ROGERS

*Centurion Staff*

Dr. Christopher Bursk, a professor for nearly 50 years at Bucks County Community College who was also a student, mentor, poet, activist, humanitarian, friend, husband and father, passed away on June 21. He was 78 years old.

Bursk inspired many people. “Think of Robin Williams in Dead Poets’ Society—but for real,” said Professor Ethel Rackin, the director of Bucks County Poet Laureate program and author of three poetry books.

He was a man who seemed to have it done it all.

Bursk was no ordinary professor. He went above and beyond for his students.

Bernadette McBride, an instructor at Bucks, a close friend of Bursk, and author of four full-length poetry collections, remembers her first interaction with him.

McBride met him in the 1990s at a poetry reading. She didn’t know anyone, but Bursk came right up, invited her to read, and drew her in to the poetry community.

“I keep envisioning the rumble and sight of him, hair askew, pushing down the hallway toward his office, bent to a loaded-down cart of books and student hand-outs,” she recalled.

Bursk did a lot for his students in making them feel welcome.

Greg Probst, a former student of Bursk’s, had been struggling with

the death of his mother. He asked to complete an independent study with Bursk, and he agreed.

Bursk convinced Probst to pursue a career in teaching. Probst just finished his first year of teaching, and he loves it. Probst said he would never have discovered his love for teaching if it wasn’t for Bursk and his dedication to his job.

Bursk received his BA from Tufts University in 1965; his PhD from Boston University in 1975; and his MFA from Warren Wilson College in 1988.

But to really experience what his students went through, Bursk became a student again at Bucks to earn an associate degree.

“This unusual choice is an example of the way in which this extraordinary man truly cared about the lives of others. He tried his best to walk in others’ shoes so that he could be of service,” Rackin said.

Bursk earned his AA in English with Honors and Latin Honors with the Class of 2021.

Bursk still found time to publish 18 books of poetry.

His work has been recognized by the AWP Donald Hall Poetry Prize, the Allen Ginsberg Prize, the Green Rose Prize, the Patterson Prize, Bellingham Review’s 49th Parallel Awards, the New Letters Prize in Poetry, and Milt Kessler Book Award.

He also won the 1978 Bucks

County Poet Laureate and was a recipient of the PEW, NEA, and Guggenheim fellowship.

He shared his love of poetry with the community.

He held a spring poetry workshop that had started out as just a handful of poets meeting at Bucks’ Fireside Lounge.

The group quickly grew, and they met weekly for almost 40 years.

McBride said most members of this community still keep in touch to this day and many have become award-winning, published authors.

“He tapped people’s thinking skills, stretched their imaginations, gave himself wholeheartedly to others with no expectation of reciprocity,” McBride explained.

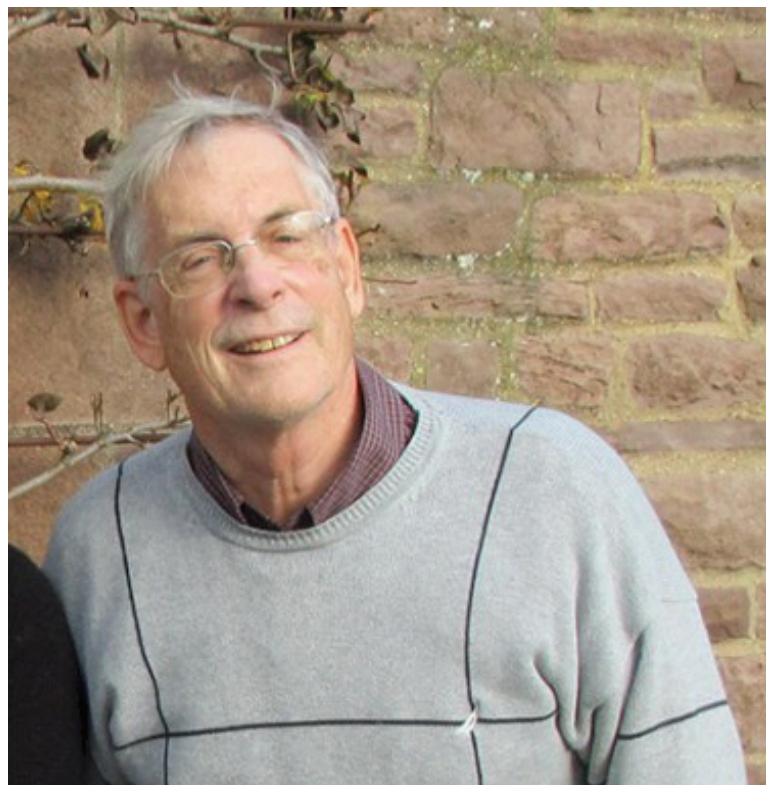
But Bursk was more than a great professor, a great mentor, and a poet. He was an activist and a humanitarian as well.

He spent 30 years teaching at the Bucks County Prison, and he donated a lot of his time to food banks and women’s shelters.

Professor emeritus Steve O’Neill, a longtime friend of Bursk’s, said “He’s always been involved, engaged, and committed to good causes.”

He recalled the days when he and Bursk were picketing for better working conditions for grape workers in California.

“It’s safe to say that some members of our community wouldn’t



*Courtesy of Bucks.edu*

be alive, wouldn’t be sober, wouldn’t be writing, wouldn’t be on their chosen life-path, would have given up long ago, if it weren’t for Dr. Christopher Bursk,” Rackin explained.

Bursk also had an eccentric side. O’Neill fondly remembers Bursk’s office that was so cluttered with papers, stuffed animals, and bats and shoes that the fire department told him it was becoming a fire hazard.

Bursk will be remembered “for his supernatural being,” his ability to seemingly do everything,

Rackin said.

He will be remembered for the lives he made better at the women’s shelter and at the prison.

He will be remembered by his students for the adventures he took them on. McBride remembered one day seeing Bursk climb out of a first story window, his students in tow.

“His most important ‘work,’” McBride said, “is inherent in all [he did]. It’s that which makes all good possible: He evinced authentic love.”

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# COVID-19

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Editor-in-Chief  
Gabriella Pirmann

Managing Editor

Assisting Managing Editor

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Tony Rogers

Letters to the editor:  
Email your letters to :  
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Letters should be limited to 500 words. They will be edited for spelling, space and malicious or libelous statements. Letters must be the original work of the writer and must be signed. For identification purposes, letters must include the writer’s full name and telephone number.

# Vaxx-Blitz Incentive at Bucks



College President Dr. Felicia L. Ganther, Donor Gene Epstein and Bucks staff kick off the Vaxx Blitz at Bristol Campus

**ALYSSA ALLEBACH**  
*Centurion Staff*

Bucks offered the first 200 students to get the COVID vaccine shot at any of their three campuses a \$100 gift card from Aug. 30 to Sept. 10.

According to Bucks, they are offering free vaccinations with the Johnson & Johnson vaccine, as well as the Pfizer BioNTech.

Bucks encouraged both walk-ins and appointments for this event. Additionally, you do not have to be associated with Bucks to go to their vaccine clinics.

Bucks does require everyone to wear masks indoors, regardless of vaccination status. They are still following the recommended social distancing requirements as well.

Bucks wants to ensure people’s safety and recommend that people stay at least 3 feet apart from one another. They also have plastic barriers for when social distancing cannot be obeyed.

They will be offering both vaccines to their students until Oct. 28. However, there will be no reward for students getting vaccinated after Sept. 10.

The \$100 gift card that was meant to be an incentive to students may not have been as effective as hoped. Bucks was offering the incentive to the first 200 students that got vaccinated from Aug. 30 to Sept. 3 but extended it

to Sept. 10.

Some students said they opposed vaccine mandates, even though the college was not mandating that students be vaccinated.

Jake Swieringa, 20, from Doylestown and majoring in Communications stated, “offering the vaccine is okay, but requiring it is not right.”

Another student, Tory Bowling, majoring in Television/Film, had a similar response stating, “They should offer it at colleges, but should not force kids to get it.”

Some believe it is a great idea for colleges to reward students and encourage them to get

vaccinated, while others view it as bribing students to get their COVID shots.

Amber Simon, a psychology major here at Bucks, stated “I would not get the vaccine if there were incentives. I would get the vaccine for my safety, not for some gift card.”

Sweiringa supported the incentives by saying, “I would encourage others to get it because money is money.”

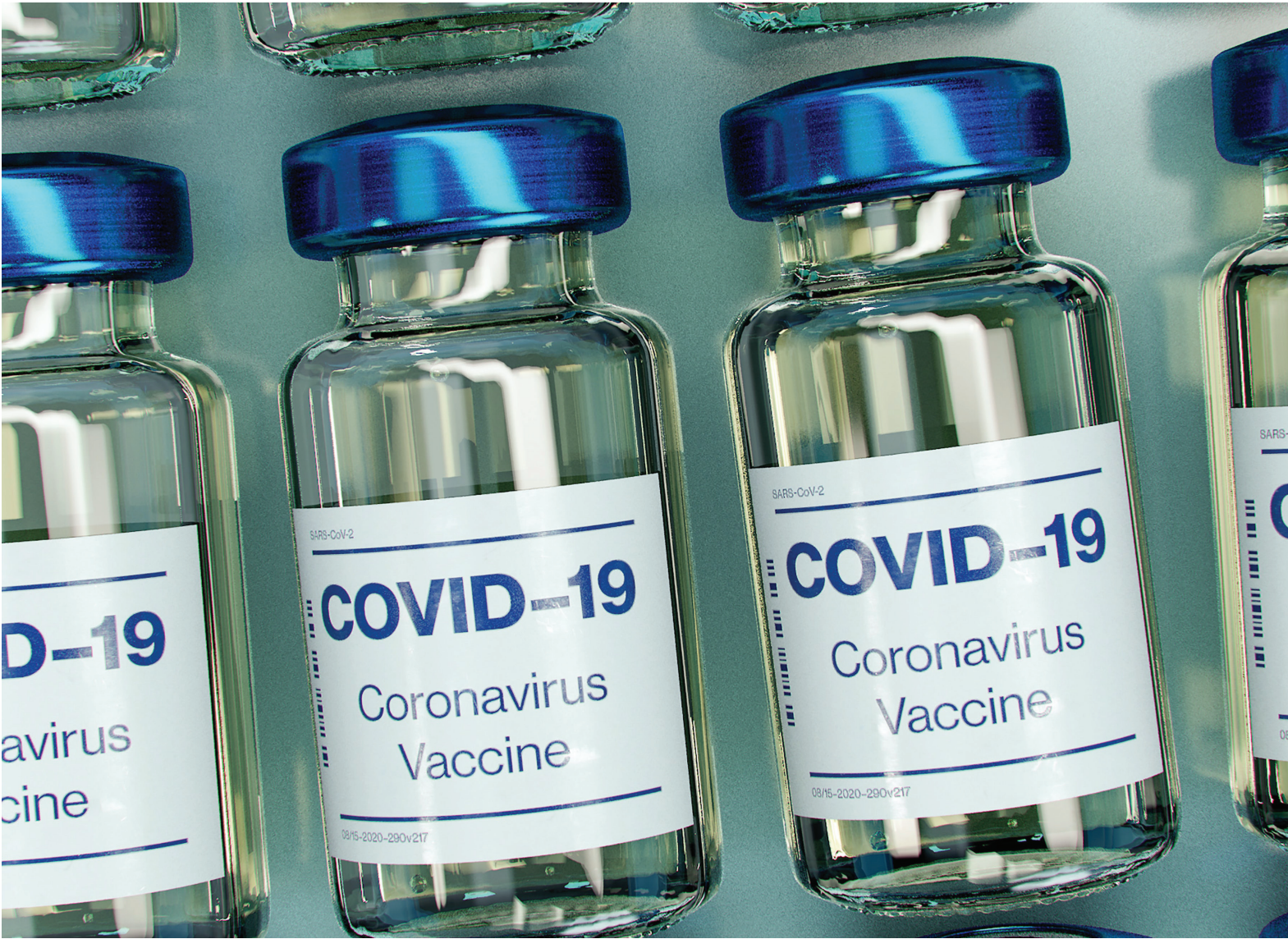
This incentive not only drove this student to get vaccinated, but he is encouraging his friends to get their shots and claim the reward.

Mandi Gallina, a 20 year old community member, spoke of a similar situation.

“My work offered me \$100 to get it, so I got my shot. The incentive encouraged me because I’m broke, but it probably will not encourage or make a difference for kids that have money.”

For students that do want to get vaccinated and receive the incentive, it is important to bring their student ID and vaccination card to either the Newtown, Upper Bucks, or Lower Bucks campuses.

# Students Weigh In On Vaccine Incentives



Courtesy Of Unsplash

**MAX MOWER**  
*Centurion Staff*

Bucks’ upper campus held a pop-up vaccination event, The Vaxx Blitz, awarding \$100 to each of the first 200 newly vaccinated students, sparking an intense debate over vaccine incentives.

In Pennsylvania, the COVID-19 vaccine has been a generally controversial topic of discussion amongst the public. According to Our World in Data, about 55.8 percent of Pennsylvania’s population is fully vaccinated – but

that leaves just under 50 percent of the state’s population who still remain on the fence about getting their shots.

This underwhelming turnout has brought about the start of vaccine incentives, a last-ditch-effort to convince citizens to get their vaccines with promise of a reward for doing so.

The advent of these cash-for-vaccine events have raised many concerns from those all over the county, both pro- and anti-vaccinators, about whether or not these events are fair to both those who already received their vaccines

without compensation, as well as those who have no interest in getting it whatsoever.

On one side of the argument, some are concerned about possible side effects from the vaccine, even though there is overwhelming evidence that vaccines are safe and effective.

“It’s definitely questionable, and seems a bit forced,” said David Wheeler, a local server. “Especially for people like pregnant women, it’s very tricky. If there was more proof of the long-term effects, people would be easier to convince.”

As a matter of fact, The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention recommends that people who are pregnant get the COVID-19 vaccine, based on data underscoring its safety and effectiveness throughout pregnancy.

According to NPR, doctors across the country are reporting an uptick in the number of unvaccinated pregnant women getting hospitalized with severe cases of COVID-19.

Citizens who have already received their shots may have an issue with how common these incentive-based pop-up-events

have become.

Arianna McGinley, a Bucks Engineering student, is “glad that people are at least getting vaccinated, but it’s frustrating that it’s taken so long to convince people. I understand the worries and concerns of those who don’t know the facts, but I had hoped that people would know this is safe, and for the greater good.”

These events and other incentives have become more and more common. Even Gov. Wolf announced, as seen on the PA Governor’s website, that state employees will be eligible for up to an extra 8 hours of paid time off after receiving their vaccinations.

“I don’t agree with (the incentives),” said Bucks County student Alexis Voorhees. “I went and got the shot for me and my family’s safety, and it’s unfair that those who didn’t support it before are now getting paid for it. Some people are just the weaker links. The vaccine should be mandatory.”

Despite the constant back and forth between those with differing opinions on the topic, there are some who are choosing to remain optimistic.

Joseph Dipento, a retired Bucks County resident, says that “Anything you can do to get someone to do it is worth. Money is a big motivator, and it’s good that it’s motivating people to help save lives. People are people, and some are so hard-headed they won’t ever do it – but it’s good we are getting some to without force.”

Despite its proven record of safety and effectiveness, the COVID-19 vaccine has been controversial among some people.

Whether or not the citizens of Bucks County are more willing to get the vaccine when presented with money and prizes as incentives remains to be seen.

Whatever the case, there are still many more people who have yet to get the shot.



## Arts & Entertainment

# Wordsmiths Poetry Series



**Mary Jo LoBello Jerome & Felicia Zamora**  
**Friday, September 24 • 7:30pm**



**MARY JO LOBELLO JEROME**

Mary Jo LoBello Jerome, 2019 Bucks County Poet Laureate, edited *Fire Up the Poems*, an anthology of creative writing prompts for teachers by the Bucks Poets Laureate, published by the college earlier this year. A number of Mary Jo's poems and short stories are forthcoming or have been published in the *Paterson Literary Review*, *Poets Reading the News*, *Literary North*, *Schuykill Valley Journal*, *The Stillwater Review*, *River Heron Review*, *Little Patuxent Review*, *Moonstone*, *Short Story*, among others. She holds an MFA from Vermont College and has written for *The New York Times*, *Scholastic Publications*, and many other publications. She is working on her first full-length poetry collection.

**TOMATO INTUITION**

God made me this way, and I don't dispute it. Amen.  
 —Flannery O'Connor, "A Temple of the Holy Ghost"

The cherry tomatoes sprawl and bury every other plant. God, they're tireless. The peppers, chard, eggplants, beets made into involuntary supports, smothered. New hairy stems daze me each day like Jack's magic stalk. So dizzying, their reach. This garden, planned in neat rows, now a fecund tangle. The way I've been taught to tie-back or prune branches is useless. And I finally surrender the need for control. The vines don't hold back. Flower and fruit overflow. Who could dispute these sweet and acid gifts to the tongue? Such a luscious mess. It is time to give thanks for the persistent, the genuine, amen.

Originally published by *Literary North*, April 2021.



**FELICIA ZAMORA**

Felicia Zamora is the author of six poetry books including, *I Always Carry My Bones*, winner of the 2020 Iowa Poetry Prize (University of Iowa Press, 2021), *Quotient* (forthcoming from Tinderbox Editions, 2021), *Body of Render*, Benjamin Saltman Award winner (Red Hen Press, 2020), and *Of Form & Gather*, Andrés Montoya Poetry Prize winner (University of Notre Dame Press). A *CantoMundo* and *Ragdale Foundation* fellow, she won the 2020 C.P. Cavafy Prize from *Poetry International*, the *Wabash Prize* for Poetry, and the *Tomaž Salamun Prize*. Her poems appear or are forthcoming in *AGNI*, *Alaska Quarterly Review*, *American Poetry Review*, *Boston Review*, *Georgia Review*, *Guernica*, *Missouri Review*, *Poem-of-the-Week*, *Orion*, *POETRY*, *The Nation*, and others. She is an assistant professor of poetry at the University of Cincinnati and associate poetry editor for the *Colorado Review*.

**PRAYER OF THE PALO VERDE BEETLE**

I watch a Palo Verde beetle on its back, flail tibia spurs & tarsi & antenna next to the gas station pump. Heat of crude oil, of carbon atoms in absorption; heat of desert in August suffocates my thighs & sweat runs course of my legs in frozen witness. I am spiracles pin pricking a body trying to breathe. I am elytra to cement. I carry migration in my scutum; a song unraveling over generation after generation & yet a border weighs on mind & mandible, a bulleye on my back, on the backs of those of us who sing across imaginary lines with inherited wings. Goose flesh exists before ticker tape, before the shooter, before brown bodies agape & words consume & images consume & we look to the sky for semblance of song & a wall becomes a scalpel in rip across abdomen of continent which first born an entrance, a womb. I am compound eye meeting brown irises in firmament. I am cloud-cover prayer. Foot in reach to turn over & I collapse in a nation's hesitation. I am pupils in drill, aghast.

**JOIN US IN TYLER 142 or VIA ZOOM**  
<https://us06web.zoom.us/join/zt0vc-yvqjlpE9fhBNzyB3G1HVipO8nb1oin>

*Courtesy of Bucks.edu*

**JEFF TUFFNER**

*Centurion Staff*

A tradition will continue on Friday Sept. 24, when the Wordsmiths Poetry Series event takes place at Bucks County Community College's Newtown campus,

starting at 7:30 p.m. in Tyler Hall, 142.

This event will take place in-person this year for the first time since 2019. In the event of the pandemic, last year's event

was conducted virtually. If those interested in attending are unable to be there in person or are hesitant about jumping back into the in-person world, there is no need to worry; the event will also be

streamed via Zoom (registration link is in poster at left), assuring everyone can take part.

The history of the Wordsmiths Poetry Series and Bucks is longstanding, stemming all the way back to the 1960s. According to Ethel Rackin, a professor at Bucks and the director of the Wordsmiths Reading Series and Poet Laureate Program, the early years of the event have featured an abundance of notable names including Allen Ginsberg, the writer of famous works like "Howl" and "Kaddish," and Nikki Giovanni, the writer of "VOTE."

In the '70s, names like Gary Snyder, who wrote "Regarding Wave," and Adrienne Rich, the creator of the "The Will to Change" poetry collection, had presence at the event.

If these original poets' names don't ring a bell, then some who've been featured most recently might. Those include Mark Doty, who wrote the "My Alexandria" collection of poems, and Jericho Brown, the writer of "The Tradition" poetry collection.

At this year's proceeding, two poets will be on hand; Mary Jo LoBello Jerome, a 2019 Bucks County Poet Laureate, as well as Felicia Zamora, an assistant professor of poetry at the University of Cincinnati.

LoBello Jerome, a writer of many short stories and poems, has had work appear in *Poets Reading the News*, *Literary North*, *Schuykill Valley Journal*, and other publications. She also has written for *The New York Times*.

Educationally, she has a Master of Fine Arts degree from Vermont College. At this moment, LoBello Jerome is "working on her first full-length poetry collection," Rackin mentions.

Zamora, an experienced poet herself, has written six different poetry stories. The various stories written by Zamora have led to many awards and recognitions. Some of those include the 2020 Iowa Poetry Prize for "I Always Carry My Bones" and the 2020 C.P. Cavafy Prize awarded from Poetry International, according to her professional biography on Frontier Poetry.

When asked about what the event itself will entail and how the proceedings will occur, Rackin said "The reading will run for about an hour and will include a question and answer session. It will be followed by a book signing where you can meet and interact with the authors."

To take part, being an expert or avid reader of poetry isn't required. Whether you live and breathe poetry or have never read a poem in your life, the Wordsmiths Poetry Series event is open to all people.

"Students are sometimes wary about attending these events, especially if they haven't been to a poetry reading before, but they are surprised at how relaxing and fun the events actually are. There's no pressure to do anything other than kick-back and enjoy the performance," Rackin said when encouraging those unaware or skeptical to consider attending.

## "Malignant" the "Creepiest, Craziest Movie of 2021"



*Courtesy of Unsplash*

**MARK RUFFIN**

*Centurion Staff*

Director James Wan (*Saw*, *Insidious*, *The Conjuring* films, *Aquaman*) returns to his horror roots with this supernatural thriller starring fellow *Conjuring* Spinoff alumnus (Annabelle), Annabelle Wallis.

James Wan's "Malignant" story centers around with a woman named Madison (Annabelle Wallis) who, after a traumatic event in her personal life, finds herself experiencing brutal visions of murders she soon learns are really happening.

From there, we watch the mystery unfold, and some shocking truths are revealed about Madison's past. Whatever you think is happening, trust me when I say that you won't see the reality of the situation coming.

The film stumbles in the early first half with a clunky and cheesy opening, but perhaps that was Mr. Wan's intent. The film has classic jump scares and relies on the tired tropes within the horror genre. Wan, however, embraces the cliché tropes and has fun with them.

Wan may have been intentionally using horror tropes to hide from his audience what is really

going on in the film. This directorial approach helps with the shocking reveals but does leave the film feeling uneven at times. Whether that is a good thing is up to the viewer.

If you are looking for a horror film that is weird, then this is the film for you. The talented filmmaker throws many things at the audience such as crazy visuals, a haunting score by Joseph Bishara, and cinematographer Michael Burgess's excellent camera work.

The film is an effective thriller because of the way the mystery unfolds organically, and a finale that helps lessen the mishaps of

the first act.

The cast of the film is serviceable, but the standout is Annabelle Wallis as Madison.

With her performance, she effectively manages to portray the fear Madison feels as events continue to spiral out of control. Maddie Hasson is good, as are Susanna Thompson, Jake Abel, George Young, and McKenna Grace in supporting roles.

If you embrace the sillier elements of what unfolds in the film and don't take it too seriously, you'll enjoy this scare fest. As for the lead antagonist, I will say that it's not anything iconic but

entirely effective and downright terrifying at times. Seriously, this movie is going to mess with your mind, and in that respect, it will stick with you after the credits roll.

Overall, this film was weird, interesting and had a fun twist. James Wan fans will eat this up.

Malignant stars Annabelle Wallis, Maddie Hasson, George Young and directed by James Wan.

The film is currently in theaters and available through HBO MAX via subscription for 30 days.



Opinion

Students Feelings on Returning to Campus

PATRICK NALTY  
Centurion Staff

Two weeks into classes, students have begun to settle into the new way of life post-quarantine here at Bucks. While some students have concerns about safety policies, many are far more comfortable than they were a year ago.

“I am so excited that classes are back in person, and I am 100% comfortable returning,” said Maria Morales, 20, a nursing major.

“I prefer in-person classes because I feel like I learn better that way,” said Eamon Gavigan, 20, a Sports Management major.

“I don’t really mind the masks either, because at Bucks there isn’t anyone yelling at us like they do at airports.”

The sentiment at Bucks is consistent with the majority of US college students. Recent research by Survey Monkey suggests students this fall are less concerned about returning to campus relative to last year.

Researchers surveyed more than 1,500 college students and found that, compared to 2020, fewer students are finding the pandemic “very disruptive” to their daily campus experience (39% in 2021 versus 61% in 2020). The research revealed, in fact, that 82% of participants said they are “extremely, very or somewhat comfortable.”



Courtesy of Unsplash

Bucks, like other schools and businesses, is following CDC guidelines regarding social distancing and wearing masks. Students have varying reactions to the impact of these measures.

“I don’t really care that I have to wear a mask because I only have two classes in the mornings,” said Morales. The nursing major works part time at a Doylestown diner, and said she is used to wearing masks over the

past year.

“It’s not that big of a deal to wear one, and it helps reduce the virus spread.”

Still, other students struggle with what they see as contradictions in state and local guidelines.

“I love the in-person classes but one thing I do not like is that we are packed in there like sardines,” said Danya Danekyants, a business major at Bucks. “What is the

point of a mask when I can’t even move my elbows in class?”

“I personally don’t mind being back in person for my academics,” said Chris Mehlmann, 21, a health science major. The Doylestown native does not feel the COVID safety measures affect his ability to focus in class.

Mehlmann, however, was surprised by some of the vaccination incentives, which include a “Vaxx

Blitz” that offers students \$100 if they get vaccinations on campus. Students can also enter a raffle to win free tuition for a year. “I do feel slightly pressured by Bucks to be vaccinated as they have been pushing out incentives to get one,” said Mehlmann.

Still, several students say university safety policies are contributing to student comfort level.

“I feel as though Bucks and

its staff are trying their best to ensure the safety of their students and themselves,” said Morales. Gavigan also believes that Bucks has done a good job of balancing the needs for safety and creating a positive learning environment.

“As we’ve seen in the news, there is always someone to criticize whatever decisions a school or office makes,” said Gavigan. “So you can’t please everyone.”

Why Students Should Major in Journalism



Philadelphia Inquirer reporter Tommy Rowan speaks to students in the Centurion office.  
Courtesy of Bucks News

JOCELYN KOSIBA  
Centurion Staff

Journalism is an exciting and necessary field, and nobody knows that better than Tony Rogers, the head of the journalism department here at Bucks. Professor Rogers has had plenty of experience in journalism, including for papers such as The Philadelphia Daily News and The Associated Press.

“Journalism is one of the most exciting jobs out there,” says Professor Rogers, “Career opportunities include working as a reporter, or editor for news websites or newspapers, or in broadcast journalism in TV or radio.”

According to Professor Rogers, one can also get a job that is not directly coordinated with the major.

Professor Rogers says, “Jour-

nalism is a great degree to get if you want to become a journalist, but there are lots of other jobs out there that you can get with a journalism degree, including jobs in public relations, advertising, website content creation, script writing and many other things.”

When asked if the job can allow one to travel a lot, Professor Rogers replied, “Yes, especially if you become a foreign correspondent

and stationed overseas.

“It is a way of life,” Professor Rogers continued, “Journalism is the opposite of the typical 9-to-5 job. You never know when the next big story is going to break. If you’re someone who craves excitement and a career that’s different from most office jobs, journalism just might be for you.”

Many journalism students tend to share a love of reading and

writing, as well as a passion in English as a subject overall.

“Yes, we get lots of students who do well in English classes who are good writers,” said Professor Rogers when asked about this trend.

There are so many things and reasons why someone should major in journalism, it is up to you if you want to take the chance and to go on this amazing journey.



## Sports

# Flyers Season Promising after Dramatic Offseason



Courtesy of Unsplash

**MITCHEL WILBUR**  
*Centurion Staff*

The Flyers have been one of the most active teams in free agency during the off season, making a handful of trades. One of the biggest moves included shipping out playmaker Jakub Voracek, one of the longest-tenured Flyers, to the Columbus Blue Jackets for forward Cam Atkinson.

Atkinson, 32, spent all of his years in Columbus and has four years left on his contract. Over the last two seasons, Atkinson has put up an impressive 60 points (27 goals, 33 assists) in 100 games.

“Atkinson’s score-first mentality will bring a much-needed scoring presence on the ice next season, and that’s really exciting,”

said Julian Manes, 21, a Bucks County resident and West Chester University student.

The Flyers have also traded away top prospects Philippe Myers and Nolan Patrick in return for seasoned veteran Ryan Ellis. Ellis spent his entire career as a speedy offensive defenseman in Nashville where he racked up 270 points (75 goals, 195 assists) in 562 games.

The veteran defenseman has also helped to bring the Nashville Predators to a Stanley Cup Final in 2017.

“He might be small for a defenseman, but I think he’ll bring the fire power the Flyers were missing on the blue line last season,” said local auto body

shop owner and avid Flyers fan John McShane. “I think he (Ellis) will be huge, especially for the powerplay.”

Flyers GM Chuck Fletcher locked in another trade that sent young defenseman Robert Hagg, a 2021 first round draft pick, and a 2023 third round draft pick to the Buffalo Sabres in exchange for defenseman Rasmus Ristolainen.

The former 8th overall pick in 2013 is known for bringing a heavy hitting, gritty style of play which is something Flyers fans have been demanding from their defense pairs since former captain, Chris Pronger. The six foot five Ristolainen does not shy away from handling the puck as

he had four straight seasons of 40-plus points.

Recent Penn State graduate and Flyers fan, William Lee, 22, weighed in on the acquisition from Buffalo.

“We might have given up a lot for Rasmus, but I agree with Chuck (Fletcher) on the trade,” Lee mentioned. “Gambling away draft picks is worth it when you know what you’re bringing in, which is a solid, established player.”

Just four days after acquiring Ristolainen the Flyers signed another veteran defenseman in Keith Yandle who turns 35 this month.

“I think Keith perfectly complements our existing D core,” Fletcher said in a press conference

following his offseason transactions. “He’s got a lot of experience and a pretty good skill set.”

As the trades began to cool down the Flyers began to lock up some of the young stars for the foreseeable future including goalie Carter Hart who received a three-year extension, forward Joel Farabee with a six-year extension, and the 2020 Selke trophy winner Sean Couturier who inked an eight-year \$62 million deal.

The Flyers head into the 2021-2022 season with captain Claude Giroux at the helm for the tenth straight year making him the longest tenured captain in Philadelphia sports. Alain Vigneault will be behind the bench for his third season as the Flyers head coach.

# Can Eagles Come Back in 2021?

**COLLIN RICCARDI**  
*Centurion Staff*

It has been eight long months since the disaster that we call the Eagles 2020 season has ended and for some, it’s been five months since the start of a new era in Philadelphia. This past year we saw the departure of the Doug Pederson era, which resulted in both Carson Wentz and Doug Pederson being shipped out of Philadelphia.

After the events of the 2020 season that gifted the city of Philadelphia a 4-11-1 record you would think people would have a pessimistic outlook on what the new team could be capable of. After all, it’s not every year your franchise quarterback and head coach are fired within a two-month time span.

However, a new regime has given fans hope and optimism that this new team has the ability to compete. With the addition of Heisman Trophy winner DeVonta Smith and his fellow Alabama alum, quarterback Jalen Hurts, the team has been the talk of the town.

The new coaching staff and head coach Nick Sirianni have been turning heads this summer. The team also made some serious upgrades to the defense including safety Anthony Harris, cornerback Steven Nelson, and linebacker Eric Wilson.

The consensus among fans is that the offense will be the high-light of the team.

“Obviously, everyone wants to see how Jalen plays with a revamped receiving core. I’m more excited for how the whole team plays with a new coaching staff,” says Penn State student Evan Kwak. “Regardless of how fun the team is to watch; I can only give them between six and nine wins.”

When asked what he’s most excited to see in the upcoming



Courtesy of Unsplash

season, Bensalem resident Kolin Tyler said, “I just can’t wait to see Hurts and DeVonta Smith play.” A new offense is sure to bring a lot of excitement to an offense that was stagnant at best last year. “I could see possibly nine wins and maybe a Wildcard exit, but that’s being nice,” says Tyler.

The past offseason has been almost all about retooling the offense. The offense is fully equipped to have an explosive

year when you have the likes of 2020 Heisman trophy winner DeVonta Smith, second year wide out Jalen Reagor, and the training camp phenom Quez Watkins on the field.

A reshaped wide receiver room and a healthy offensive line is all you could ask for if you are third year running back Miles Sanders, who only accumulated 867 yards on the ground last season. Sanders has had his fair share of criticism

for not being every down back he was supposed to be, but we could see that change this year. “A healthy team could be all Miles Sanders needs to be what he was at Penn State,” adds Kolin Tyler.

When asked about how he thought the offense would fair this season, Dillon Clancy, a student at East Stroudsburg University told me, “They are a last place team with or without Jalen Hurts. A 7-10 record would be generous.”

Though it might not be the prediction the people of Philadelphia want to hear, it is clear everyone from everywhere is high on DeVonta Smith

The long wait is over, and football is back. We will get to see just how accurate the predictions will be this Sunday at 1:00 p.m. when the Eagles kick off their season in Atlanta.



Student Spotlight

Bucks Grad Hal Conte Receives Fulbright Scholarship

**JAMES BONNEL**  
*Centurion Staff*

BCCC Journalism graduate Hal Conte is headed to the University of Warwick in the UK to study Global Media and Communication as a graduate student and a recipient of a Fulbright Scholarship. This news comes after half a decade of working towards a career in Journalism. “It obviously does reflect that I put in work towards this,” said Conte.

Even though Journalism was not Hal’s first choice in high school, he was raised in a home that was more than familiar with news writing. “My grandfather and my father were Journalists,” remarks Hal. “I wanted to be a car designer when I was younger, but then I realized I couldn’t draw,” Hal joked.

While Hal’s mother’s first career was a school teacher, she would eventually switch to Journalism as well.

Being dually enrolled at Bucks County Technical High School, and BCCC, he began taking Journalism classes. Not long after starting classes, Hal was becoming recognized for his work with the Centurion paper, winning multiple Keystone awards.

During his time at BCCC, Hal enjoyed writing about politics and free speech, media and cybersecurity, and covering demonstrations. “I wrote a few articles on the media and cybersecurity while I was at Bucks that actually ended up foreshadowing some stuff I’m looking into now,” he said about the future.

After hearing about an opportunity to study abroad from a fellow BCCC student, Conte found himself interested in the

program. “The instant I heard that, I thought, wow that’s really cool I want to do that too!” he expressed. Hal would keep this in mind for when he transferred to Temple University.

Conte would go on to participate in Temple University’s Klein GO London Summer Experience during the summer of 2019. Though no stranger to life in the UK, there is little doubt his experiences at the University of Warwick will be a bit different than London. “It’s more like the rest of the UK,” Conte explained.

Initially a bit skeptical that he had any chance of receiving the Fulbright Scholarship, Hal claims he ultimately forced himself to apply. “I was thinking it was very unlikely,” he mentioned. “Then I found out I was a semi-finalist, and eventually that I had been selected.”

During our interview, he could not contain his excitement at learning more about studying somewhere other than London stating, “If you studied in New York, or D.C., no one would say that you know America,” he responded in reference to seeing more of the UK.

When we talked about life after his master’s degree, Hal mentioned potential PhD programs, being published, and even potentially working for agencies like UNESCO. “I have some friends that work for the Lenfest Institute in Philly. Working there would be pretty cool too.”

In response to the idea of staying in the UK, it is up for debate. “I believe I will [come home], but I am definitely not saying that is guaranteed.”

Conte graduated from Temple



Courtesy of Hal Conte

University in 2020 and has been writing ever since. As a reporter for the Lebanon Daily News in Pennsylvania, Hal has covered a variety of local stories and political issues. Though he enjoys the work he is doing there, he says he just can’t pass up studying abroad again.

Bucks Students Persevere to Win Awards



Alyssa Moore, Centurion Editor 2020-2021

**JUDITH RUSSO**  
*Centurion Staff*

At the student clubs awards ceremony last Spring, clubs and their members were honored for continuing to operate even in the darkest days of the pandemic.

“For an outstanding job during challenging times,” says Director of Student Life and Athletic Programs, Matt Cipriano about the students who received 32 awards at the 2021 Student Involvement Celebration. Through hard work and innovation, they kept a third of Bucks’ 45 to 50 organizations and clubs open. The Centurion, the Future Teachers Organization and Honors at Bucks. all

won Organization of the Year. The Centurion experience is one example of how it was done.

“I think the Centurion won because it never missed a beat and kept right on publishing even during the most difficult year the college has almost certainly ever faced in its history,” said Journalism Professor Tony Rogers. “It did so with a very small staff, given the drops we’ve had in enrollment, and without the ability to use our newsroom, meaning everything had to be done remotely.

“From the writing of the stories to the editing and layout, everything had to be done outside of Rollins 127, which is normally our base of operations.

By far the majority of the credit goes to the editor in chief, Alyssa Moore, who almost single-handedly edited and laid out much of every issue,” says Rogers.

“I had a lot of technological issues in the beginning, partially from me trying to remember how to make the paper, and partially because the Adobe suite was trying to kill my laptop. The journalism room at Bucks has everything there and had a system going, so trying to replicate that system was probably the most difficult part,” says Moore, 20, the 2020/21 Centurion Editor-In-Chief, now a journalism major at Temple.

“I had a few helpers throughout the

past year. Dakota Carlson (editor), Olivia Ruddell & Kristin Reuter (graphic designers), and Gabby Pirmann who is the current editor-in-chief, to name a few. And Tony Rogers, of course,” Moore adds.

“Everyone deserves some credit, including the journalism students who wrote the articles and helped with the editing, the students in the news video class who produce the videos on the Centurion’s website, and the graphic design students who helped with layout. Graphic design Prof. Michael Kabbash has been very helpful in providing some of his students to help in that regard.”

“The fact that last spring the Centu-

rion won a record 17 awards in the statewide Keystone College journalism contest shows that not only were the students getting the paper out, they were doing very high quality work,” Rogers added.

“It was a new thing we were doing with the paper, so we just had to test it out and see what worked and what didn’t. It was nice having the editors and graphic design students help out as well as they took some of the weight off my shoulders, and did a pretty great job themselves,” Moore added.

“We are very gratified to have won the award and also congratulate all the other student clubs who won awards as well,” says Rogers.

Here are the 2020/21 awards:

COMMENCEMENT SPEAKER: SAMANTHA GILLESPIE

PRESIDENT CUP WINNER: BLAKE CHURCHILL

OUTSTANDING CLUB ADVISOR: DEBORAH HOELPER & STEPHEN DOCARMO

OUTSTANDING MEMBER AWARD: BENNETT ANILOFF & KRISTEN SONNIE

OUTSTANDING OFFICER AWARD: ALYSSA MOORE, CHRISTIAN HUBER, JENNA MODICA, MATT YOUNG, SKY HUNTLEY, & SAMANTHA GILLESPIE

PHOENIX AWARD: HONORS@BUCKS & BLACK STUDENT UNION CLUB

OUTSTANDING VIRTUAL PROGRAM: STUDENT GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION, KINESIOLOGY & SPORTS CLUB, & DISABILITY PRIDE CLUB

OUTSTANDING COMMUNITY SERVICE EFFORT: PEYTON HEART PROJECT & HONORS@BUCKS

ORGANIZATION OF THE YEAR: CENTURION NEWSPAPER, FUTURE TEACHERS ORGANIZATION, & HONORS@BUCKS

BUCKS+MOST ENGAGED: AMBER FULLER

BUCKS+RECOGNITION: 10. IRINA KORZOVA, 9. DEANNA HACKENMEISTER, 8. DHARUVIKA PATEL, 7. SAGAR PATEL, 6. MARK MCCUNE, 5. ANNA SCHAFER, 4. KELLY SASSER, 3. BRAN DI SCHMITZ, 2. IVY FAULKNER, 1. AMBER FULLER