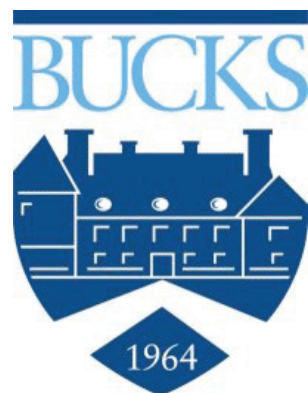


The Centurion



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

Volume 57 Issue 1

November 11, 2021

Bucks-News.com

@Centurion_Bucks

Bucks Students Celebrate “Halloweekend”

Students bring holiday back in full force after a dull quarantine Halloween in 2020.



ALYSSA ALLEBACH

Centurion Staff

After a dull Halloween in 2020 due to lockdown from COVID, Bucks students were excited this past weekend to bring the holiday back in full swing.

Last year, people had to spend the holiday inside, instead of out with friends or family. This year, however, the pandemic has decreased in severity.

Thanks to social distancing and

vaccinations, Halloween attractions were able to be open this year and drew many visitors.

Students shared last week what their plans for the Halloween Weekend were.

“I am going to a friend’s Halloween party on Sunday. They are having a themed party of Disney characters,” said Joe Samperi, a 20-year-old Engineering major from Pipersville. “I plan to dress up as Jack Skellington and I think

my friend will be Sally.”

Max Mower is a 20-year-old communications major from Levittown. She had to work the whole weekend, but she still got into the Halloween spirit by putting “some eyeliner that looked like spiderwebs.”

Erin Jacker, a 23-year-old Warminster native, said “for Halloween this year I have a work party to go to. Costumes are mandatory and there is going to

be free food and drinks.”

She continues, “I am excited to see my coworkers’ costumes and get to hang out with them outside of work. There is also going to be a DJ, so I know I will be dancing with my friends all night.”

Erika Sippel, a 20-year-old communications major, is choosing to spend Halloween with her family.

She explains “On Saturday, I have plans to go out to a party

with friends and I’ll be dressing up as a cowgirl. Though on the day of Halloween I am going to stay home.”

Sippel continues, “My family and I are going to pick pumpkins and carve them, while doing activities like watching the new Halloween Kills movie. We will also be dressing up and handing out candy to trick or treaters.”

Faith Iris, a 19-year-old from Doylestown, had other plans for Halloween.

She went to the Six Flags Fright Fest event that lasted through the month of October.

She elaborated saying, “I plan to go with a few friends to the fright fest. I went two years ago and had so much fun on the rides and mazes.”

Iris continued, “I like seeing people dressed up in costume and people trying to scare me. The Park is so much fun to walk around because of the fog, lights, and other decorations they have to set the mood.”

Overall, students seemed very excited to be able to celebrate Halloween this year with friends and family, instead of being stuck in the house on lockdown like last year.

Photo credit to @Bucksccc instagram

Presidents Join to Mourn Secretary Colin Powell

JUDITH RUSSO

Centurion Staff

Presidents Biden, Obama, Bush, and their wives attended a memorial service where Democrats and Republicans united in mourning a great American, Secretary Colin Powell, at the National Cathedral November 5.

Powell’s close friends, Secretary Madeleine Albright, Richard Armitage, Powell’s Deputy Secretary of State, and his son Michael Powell spoke.

Powell, a pivotal figure in our last ¾ century history who devoted his life to America, died in October from complications of COVID and Multiple Myeloma.

Powell’s son said, “he was a great leader because he was a great follower,” and “his life really was an American journey just like his autobiography, ‘My American Journey.’”

Powell served in the army for 35 years, at the pleasure of 10 presidents and through nine major military campaigns rising to the ranks of four-star general, National Security Advisor, Youngest Chairman of the Joint Staffs and Secretary of State.

“Until Barack Obama no Black man had risen so high his moderate instincts, military bearing, and high public standing recalled Dwight Eisenhower... Powell really did see himself as a problem solver rather than a deep thinker. Eisenhower had similar qualities,” says Bucks

history Professor Martin P Sutton. Born in Harlem to hard working Jamaican immigrant parents, Powell attended the City College of New York. “It was there that he discovered the Reserve Officers’ Training Corps (ROTC) — an organization, he said, where “race, color, background, income meant nothing.” NPR interview

“Always be looking for that which you do well and love doing and with those two together, man -you’ve got it,” Powell wrote.

He was commissioned an officer in the army in 1958 under the administration of Dwight B Eisenhower a decade after it was desegregated.

He summed up his can-do attitude with his thirteen rules of leadership in his book, “It Worked for Me,” emphasizing “perpetual optimism as a force multiplier,” open-mindedness, thoughtful decisions, and actions, “get mad, but get over it,” he wrote.

Michael Powell said there were no 13 rules at home. Home was “warm and loving” and they were taught “right from wrong, to take responsibility and never to blame others” and that “family was the foundation of his beliefs and a source of never-ending comfort.”

Armitage met Powell during two tours in Vietnam, where Powell rescued three fellow soldiers from a helicopter crash and took over leadership from an untrained officer in the field, receiving multiple medals and early promo-

tions. They remained in contact daily for 40 years resolving to improve the military.

Powell loved the troops. He said, “You recruit a soldier, you retain a family.”

Condoleezza Rice writes “that the U.S military was his second family.”

Powell is perhaps most remembered for the major role he played in starting the Iraq war. Powell gave a speech to the U.N. General Assembly in full support of the war, a speech he would later come to regret. “I regret it. I will always regret it,” he said during a talk at Harvard.

Powell learned from each war and leader and developed The Powell Doctrine which states that war should be a last resort, have a clear, obtainable objective and exit strategy, with overwhelming force and strong support at home and abroad.

“My heart aches because we have lost a friend and our nation one of its finest and most loyal soldiers,” Albright said, “.. but he would be “commanding us, to stop feeling sad, to turn our gaze once again from the past to the future and to get on with the nation’s business while making the absolute most of our own days on earth, one step at a time.”

In his final interview with Bob Woodward in July 2021, Powell said, “It’s all one country, one people” and “don’t feel sorry for me, I haven’t lost a day of life

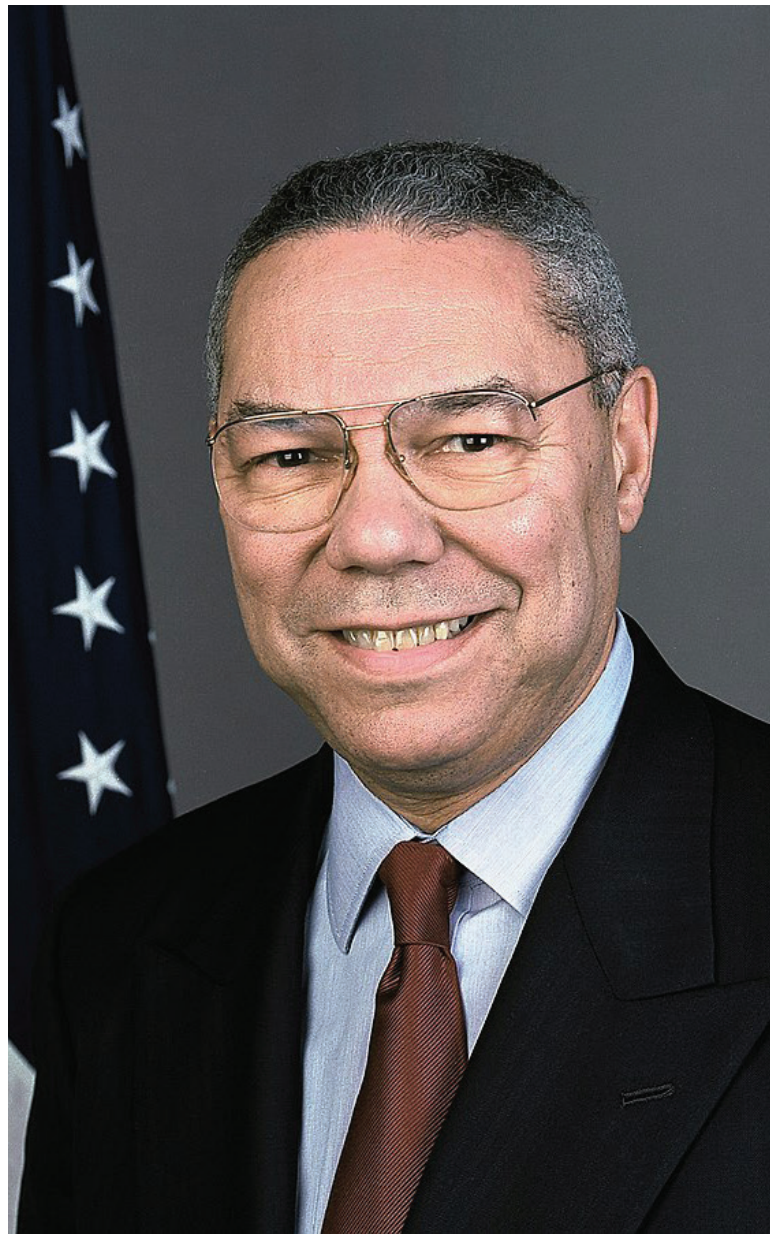


Image Courtesy of Wikimedia Commons

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Mens Basketball Preview

head coach of the Centurions in 2016 and had a record of 35-58 before his leaving after the 2020-21 season.

Having already improved our record over the last two seasons, Ryan is hopeful that, “...we can continue to take steps toward our goal of being a playoff team.”

In Ryan’s first season as an assistant coach in 2018-19, the team’s record was 7-17. The following season saw a climb to a record of 10-12.

One particularly positive aspect of this season deals with, “... the returning of guard Adjewoda Sanoumege.” Sanoumege is a 6-foot-2-inch Sophomore from the High School of Creative and Performing Arts in Philadelphia.

When asked about 2nd Team All-Region XIX Forward during the 2018-19 season Keith Howard not be returning, Ryan pointed out that, “We have talented Freshman guards as well as forwards this season, we are returning an experienced guard, and some transfer student athletes that will chip in for us as well.”

While last season saw the team add 6% to their three-point shooting, this season, “We are emphasizing team rebounding; along with getting the best shot for our team every possession on offense.”

The focus on rebounding with undoubtedly create more scoring opportunities.

Though we’ve had rivals and tough matchups in the past, Coach Ryan wants to make clear that, “We respect all of our opponents that we have scheduled and aim to give everyone our best shot.”

With regards to the level of opponents this year, “We play a few Universities, which will be



new for us.”

From 2016 through 2018, the Centurions played in the EPAC conference. The following two seasons, we have played in the Region XIX conference.

BCCC’s Men’s Basketball season kicked off on Tues. Nov. 2 at 7 p.m. with a home against Montgomery County Community College. We will be challenged early as the following two matchups are against Penn State Wilkes-Barre on Nov. 4 at 7 p.m. and Penn State Lehigh Valley on

Nov. 6 at 5 p.m. Both are away games.

We will face Manor College twice and Williamson three times. They are Conference teams.

Due to Coach Ryan’s effect on BCCC’s Men’s Basketball program, it is important to note that he “...will finish the season as the head coach and would like to continue to be a part of the program in the future.”

After talking with Coach Ryan, it looks like our season is in good hands.

The full schedule of this season can be found on the Bucks Men’s Sports portal on the Bucks official website.

Photo by Matt Cipriano

Ben Simmons’ Summer Saga

MITCHEL WILBUR

Centurion Staff

Ben Simmons and the Philadelphia 76ers remain in a stalemate, with no changes to the situation since the ending of last season where Simmons passed up a game-winning dunk that ultimately eliminated the sixers from the playoffs.

Simmons wants out of Philadelphia, and the 76ers are willing to execute a trade that would ship out the 25-year-old All-Star but only if the return yields a high value player or multiple first-round picks.

Simmons signed a \$170 million max contract in 2019 that has him locked in with Philadelphia through the 2024-2025 campaign. Therefore, the Australian-born point guard has four more seasons left on his contract.

Simmons informed the 76ers heading into training camp for this upcoming season that he will not show up if he is not traded. According to ESPN’s Brian Windhorst the Sixers can fine Simmons significantly for skipping camp.

Once he did make it to practice, he was kicked out by coach Doc Rivers for being a “distraction” to the team.

The minor altercation happened when Rivers asked Simmons to join a defensive drill. Simmons refused. Rivers asked again. Simmons said no again.

Rivers then told Simmons to go home, and Simmons dropped the ball and left according to Shams Charania of The Atlantic.

Getting tossed from practice resulted in a one game suspension which happened to be the opening game, a game which Simmons intended to miss anyway.

The Sixers are not taking Simmons’ lack of dedication to the team lightly. The team has placed 25 percent of Simmons’ salary in an escrow account --

roughly \$8.25 million. For each game missed, the Sixers plan to deduct 1 percent from the account. That’s about \$360,000 per game.

The fans have not been taking this whole fiasco lightly either as a lot headed to social media to express their frustration and disappointment. Some fans even began a sarcastic “Where is Simmons” chant at recent games.

Nicholas Cosenza, 18, a business major at Bucks gave his opinion on the situation. “If he doesn’t want to be here then he should leave,” said the Southampton resident. “He needs to show he has value though if he wants to get traded.”

“He’s too lazy to even work on his jump shot, how does he expect another team to want him?” Nicholas added. “As a coach I wouldn’t want a player on my team that doesn’t want to be there, so it’s time for him to go.”

Another Bucks student and 76ers fan, Shannon Mertz, 18, from Warminster gave her opinion as well. “I really don’t like seeing the lack of motivation from someone with such talent,” she said. “Not many people in this world have the ability to do what Simmons can do and he is wasting it.”

Sixers fans, along with the rest of the league, are waiting to see what the outcome will be and how this drama between Siimmons and the front office will play out.

Unless a team comes to the Sixers with a significant offer or super star player Damian Lillard requests a trade out of Portland, it seems highly likely that Simmons will remain on the roster.

Courtesy Wikimedia Commons



Entertainment

Denis Villeneuve’s “Dune” a “Masterpiece of Cinema”



MARK RUFFIN
Centurion Staff

Epic, immersive, awe-inspiring, and a visual delight to behold. Those are the words that I would choose to describe “Dune,” Denis Villeneuve’s masterpiece of cinema.

As I sat down in the IMAX theater at REGAL Cinema located in King of Prussia, PA, I knew I was in for something special. Not since seeing Christopher Nolan’s “The Dark Knight Trilogy” was I excited to see a film in an IMAX theater, the reason being just like the “The Dark Knight” and “The Dark Knight Rises”, “Dune” was filmed with IMAX cameras to truly give you an immersive cinematic experience. “Dune” was meant to be seen on the biggest

screen, an IMAX screen.

As The Warner Bros. logo appears on the screen, a booming, synthesized voice echoes out in an alien language while the subtitles read: “Dreams are messages from the deep.” This surreal, slightly creepy moment is designed to take you out of your comfort zone and set the tone for what’s to come: a genuinely otherworldly experience.

The film begins with a dream. Freeman warrior Chani (Zendaya) recounts her people’s oppression at the hands of the Arrakis brutal occupiers, the Harkonnens, who mine the desert planet for its valuable natural resource, the spice Melange. The dreamer is Paul Atreides (Timothée Chalamet), the son of Duke Leto

(Oscar Isaac) and his concubine, Lady Jessica (Rebecca Ferguson). Paul’s abilities, passed down from his Bene Gesserit - a powerful order of sorceresses - mother, include prescient visions, and when his father is tasked with taking over from the Harkonnens on Arrakis, the young man must decide which path he wants to follow.

Upon arriving to Arrakis with his father’s army, Paul begins to comprehend the grave danger his family has been placed in, as he experiences increasingly disturbing glimpses into his violent future as both a fabled Fremmen Mahdi (messiah) and the Bene Gesserit’s all-powerful “Kwisatz Haderach.”

I know this all sounds like a lot to digest and boring. However,

what will suck you in is Han’s Zimmer masterful score, the cinematography, the visuals, and the epic sound mix that really makes you feel like you are on the planet of Arrakis. Villeneuve does a great job of steaming the dense material for moviegoers who may not be familiar with the material or Frank Herbert’s classic novels that the film is based on.

The supporting cast surrounding Chalamet is also great. The likes of Jason Momoa, Josh Brolin, Rebecca Ferguson, and Stellan Skarsgard bring weight and gravitas to the supporting roles.

“Dune” is just one half of the story however, and some may not be expecting the abrupt ending. It has been confirmed that Legendary and Warner Bros Pictures

have officially greenlit “Dune: Part 2”.

“Dune is not a normal blockbuster, and it shows in the dense storytelling (some audiences may not be ready for that). Director Denis Villeneuve has made a film that is ambitious, harrowing and demands to be seen on the biggest screen.

Grade: A-

“Dune” is currently playing in theaters and steaming on HBO Max(30 days of release).

Photo sourced from official Dune website

NATIVE AMERICAN HERITAGE MONTH

“The effects of international borders on indigenous people”

Thursday, November 18

12:30-1:30 p.m.

The Gallagher Room, Newtown Campus



GLORIA LOPEZ

Former Fulbright Chair in Human Rights and Social Justice at the University of Ottawa in Canada will present on the topic

Also broadcast via Zoom
Please preregister for the Zoom broadcast at:
<https://tinyurl.com/a3sfxam5>

Please join us for this free event.

For more information: Kevin.Antoine@bucks.edu

Mental Health

Lane Johnson and Mental Health

NICK COSENZA
Centurion Staff

According to the National Institute of Mental Health, one in five adults in the United States is living with mental illness. 42.5 million people reported struggling with some form of an anxiety disorder, ranking them among the most common mental illnesses.

There is a widely perceived stigma concerning mental health. Many people view mental illness as shameful or embarrassing to their family, friends, society, or even just to themselves.

A lack of education and awareness weaken our chances, as a society, to destigmatize mental illness. For fear of being labelled crazy or being subject to stereotypes, many people go without treatment and continue to struggle every day.

According to the Mental Health Foundation, 9 out of 10 people with mental illness feel that the stigma makes their struggle harder. People often hide their battle from those closest to them.

Sara Vankirk, 18-year-old business major from Richboro, has endured an ongoing fight with anxiety for years. “On the surface, it affects me how everybody thinks it does – I worry too much about things I can’t control and stress over irrelevant stuff.”

“Some days are worse than others, but what people don’t realize is that it consumes my life.” Vankirk continues, “Sometimes I’ll lose my appetite and skip meals because of my anxiety. It’s not just a matter of overthinking dumb stuff, it controls my every thought and eats away at me.

I used to hate telling people

about my anxiety because it made me feel crazy. I outgrew my fear and started to open up more. In doing so, I realized anxiety is very common and I have close friends that struggle too.”

Most people struggling with mental illness struggle alone and to nobody else’s knowledge. The Philadelphia Eagles offensive tackle, Lane Johnson, was diagnosed with an anxiety disorder in college, and recently shared his battle with mental illness.

Johnson took a brief leave in early October to address his anxiety and depression. He was experiencing symptoms of withdrawal from an antidepressant medication that he uses to treat his disorders. He missed three games waiting for the symptoms to subside.

Johnson shares his experiences with Eagles right guard Brandon Brooks, who has also missed games due to anxiety and constantly supported Johnson. He urges people to not “bottle up” their anxiety and get help so it does not escalate.

19-year-old Cinema Video Production major Nathaniel Clee is optimistic following the revelation of Lane Johnson’s mental illness. “I have a lot of respect for Lane Johnson. Telling the whole world about your mental illness can’t be an easy feat.

I hope this goes to show that professional athletes and celebrities are not invincible, they’re vulnerable to the same struggles as the rest of us.” Clee continues, “Hopefully this can help get rid of the negative connotation associated with the word mental illness.”

When mental health is left untreated, it often escalates

and could lead to catastrophe. 18-year-old Sarah Cummins from Southampton hopes mental health can become destigmatized in the near future.

“I actually lost a friend to mental illness in 2019. It sounds so cliché, but nobody would

have ever expected him to be struggling with mental illness.” Cummins continues, “I really hope stories like Lane Johnson’s can shine light on mental illness and possibly save a life. Nobody should have to fight alone.”

The best ways to end the stigma

would be to educate yourself and others. Talk openly about mental health and seek treatment when needed. It is normal to struggle, everybody does. Reach out to a friend, a counselor, or anybody close to you. Somebody cares.



Courtesy of Wikimedia Commons

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Education

Documentary Based History Course Comes to Bucks



Photo Courtesy of Unsplash

JEFF TUFFNER
Centurion Staff

With the ever-changing world of technology, some professors at Bucks County Community College are alternating their class approach in a way that appeals to many modern students.

John Petito, a history professor at Bucks, has long wanted to change his approach to class from the traditional wordy and sometimes outdated textbook to a more interactive format of documentaries.

Citing his own disinterest in them, along with many students feeling similarly and some even not reading them, Petito says he feels “seeing history would be much more engaging than reading a dull textbook.”

After receiving approval from

the Dean of Social and Behavioral Science Dr. Lynn DellaPietra and later the Provost Lisa G. Angelo, Petito will be going forth with the new format.

“Two of the sections are hybrid classes, meeting one day a week and rather than a second class, students will be given an array of documentaries to watch as opposed to the traditional textbook readings.”

The documentaries themselves won’t come at any extra cost for students. Petito notes they’ll be found on various platforms like YouTube, Vimeo, and Films on Demand, which is on the library database found on Bucks’ website.

The documentaries will focus on the United States history since the Civil War. They will display

different angles of history, like social, political, and cultural, as well as in-depth first-person stories retelling some the country’s most prestigious and noteworthy moments post-Civil War.

“If you watch a documentary on Franklin D. Roosevelt, or the Great Depression, or the New Deal, you’re going to walk away with a much better understanding of the history than if you had read a bunch of pages in a textbook.”

The documentaries will also be different formats. One of those include cinema verité, a film-making format. As described by the Merriam-Webster dictionary, cinema verité provides “the art or technique of filming a motion picture so as to convey candid realism.”

Petito mentions this differs from

the traditional narration style of documentary.

While the conventional and sometimes superficial textbook is getting is getting pushed aside, it doesn’t mean the important skill reading will be following suit.

The classes will have lecture notes that will coexist with the documentary being viewed and will be found on students’ Canvas course space. Petito says students should observe the notes prior to viewing the associated film to familiarize themselves with the topic the films will discuss.

Aside from being a different format for learning history, the documentaries viewed as a part of the class will also teach or improve certain critical skills. One of those being able to evaluate the films and videos. By doing this,

students will be able determine if what they’re viewing is reliable or bias.

Petito’s newly formatted history class will be available to students starting next semester here at Bucks. However, due to various complications, the course will still be listed amongst the other history courses within the course catalog.

“I’m trying to get the word out the advisors that this class will be different than other history courses.”

While the name remains the same now, Petito stresses that by the 2022 fall semester, the course will be titled “Modern U.S. history: a Documentary Approach,” ultimately making it easier for students to locate when deciding upon their classes.

Student Preference: eLearning or In Person?



Students weigh in on different styles of learning

JOCELYN KOSIBA
Centurion Staff

A common topic for debate amongst students is whether e-learning classes, zoom classes, or in-person classes are preferable. Depending on the individual and their needs, opinions vary.

James Bonnell, a Journalism student from Bensalem, shared his view.

Taking e-learning classes can be helpful if you don’t have time to

drive to campus or don’t like the face-to-face interaction on zoom. James says, “I would prefer zoom because it’s personal and it’s actually happening.”

Some students still prefer the appeal of in-person learning. Patrick Nalty, a 21-year-old guided studies major, agrees with this saying, “It’s more convenient, but is more limited because there is less social connection.”

One benefit of zoom is the aspect of social connection, over

video and voice audio. Students can also go into break out rooms, to talk to each other.

While Zoom can be better in many ways, but it still does limit social connection vs in person.

James says, “In group work, one person has to talk at a time.”

This does limit open discussion in the classroom, whereas with in-person classes multiple people can be talking at a time.

There are some ups and downs with zoom, but Patrick feels

they’re improving.

He says, “It has been getting better with technical difficulties. Professors are getting more familiar with the technical difficulties.”

Kids are certainly getting exhausted with Zoom. By being forced to sit in front of their computers for classes, many people have unwillingly increased their screen time.

James defends it regardless, arguing that “It’s more convenient as long as you have internet.”

Photo Courtesy of Unsplash

One benefit that Patrick enjoys is that “It fits in your schedule.”

It’s true- with zoom, there’s no need to plan time for a commute. Joining class is as easy as opening canvas.

There’s a wide mix of students who like e-learning, zoom or in-person. There are different ways to teach- some ways working better than others.

Opinion

Why You Should Major in Art History



JEFF TUFFNER
Centurion Staff

Students interested in the arts at Bucks Country Community College can take part in the various academic majors, including fine arts and art history, offered at the school.

The Bucks’ Art and Art History major teaches students the different processes within the making of various objects in art along with the studying of many historical pieces of art.

Lisa Swan, a professor at Bucks who works within the arts and communication department, puts an emphasis on the some of the skills emphasized within the art history program.

“I teach art history and one skill that we hone over the course of a semester is critical thinking and connections between artworks and the time periods and cultures they

are a part of.”

She continues saying, “the interweaving of visual works with context really creates a bigger picture that has the potential to foster a greater understanding of the world in general.”

The fine arts program, on the other hand, is ideal for art students who want to formulate a strong understanding of the arts and the craft that goes into it.

When discussing the discipline, a student should look to have in the fine arts area of study, Professor Swan said, “I think fine arts requires a lot of perseverance and focus. If one is an artist, they need to concentrate on projects and be goal driven.”

The fine arts program teaches students the skills necessary for one to pursue a career in the field of arts.

“If one is an artist, they need to concentrate on projects and be

goal driven. If one is an art historical scholar, one needs to be able to study things carefully, noticing details and making connections to the larger picture,” said Swan, pointing out how the skills taught will prove to be important for particular careers.

Historical scholar is just one of the career opportunities a fine arts major can pursue. According to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, common careers for a fine arts major include graphic designer, art director, set and exhibit designer, and other teaching opportunities.

On the other hand, the Art and Art History degree offers students pretty similar career options. The Bucks’ course catalog mentions some these careers which include work within museums, archaeological investigation, and of course teaching.

Within each of the degrees,

there are numerous classes students will be required and offered at Bucks. Within the arts and art history major there is VAFA 192, this course, according to Swan, “covers Early Renaissance art to Impressionism, including Baroque, Rococo, Neoclassicism, Romanticism, and Realism.

There is also the VAFA 193 course which focuses primarily on modern art history which includes “19th century styles of art like Fauvism, Cubism, Futurism, Dada, Surrealism, Abstract Expressionism, Neo-Dada, and conceptual art.”

Contrariwise, for fine arts majors, some of the Bucks’ courses offered include VAFA 101, a course focusing on two-dimensional design. The concepts, as the course catalog mentions, focus on “creativity, conceptualization, problem-solving, skill-building, expression, execution, teamwork,

research techniques, and presentation.”

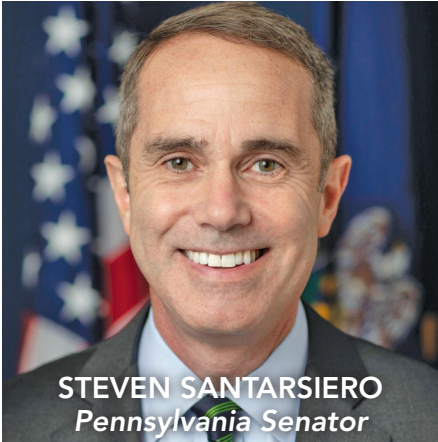
Also offered is VAFA 102, which concentrates on three-dimensional elements and how two and three-dimensional concepts differentiate.

Nonetheless, whether its art history or the fine arts, Bucks provides students with various opportunities to get their start in the area of the arts.

“The Bucks art department has fantastic facilities and fantastic instructors. I think we are also in a great geographic location to be connected to Philadelphia and New York City and Washington DC as well. It puts Bucks at the heart of a very cultural area.”

Photo Courtesy of Unsplash

Protecting LGBTQ+ Rights in Pennsylvania



STEVEN SANTARSIERO
Pennsylvania Senator



NIKIL SAVAL
Pennsylvania Senator



PRESTON HELDIBRIDLE
Executive Director of
PA Youth Congress

Tuesday, November 30

12:30 - 1:30 p.m.

*The Zlock Performing Arts Center
Newtown Campus*

Also broadcast via Zoom
Please preregister for the Zoom broadcast at:
<https://tinyurl.com/v3a58xh8>

Please join us for this free event.

*For more information:
Kevin.Antoine@bucks.edu*