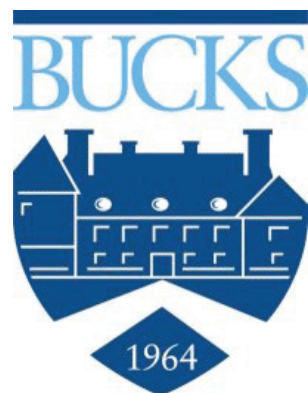


# The Centurion



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

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## Voting Rights Discussion Held at Bucks

NICHOLAS CIPRIANO

*Centurion Staff*

Martin Luther King Jr. fought for voting rights during his lifetime, and that fight continues to this day.

On January 27, as a celebration of Martin Luther King Jr. Day, Pennsylvania state senator Steve Santarsiero and other experts in government and history attended a one-hour zoom panel discussion about voting rights hosted by Bucks Kevin Antoine, J.D., the college's Associate Vice President of Community and Government Affairs and Chief Diversity Officer.

After viewing the short documentary "Voting Rights: Here We Go Again," the panel members shared their insights and expertise related to voter rights.

William Pezza, a History and Government professor at Bucks, discussed a hypothetical pie chart. He cut the pie chart in half repeatedly to demonstrate the small percentage of people who could vote back in 1788.

Steve Santarsiero, a member of the Pennsylvania state senate, talked about how voter suppression does not happen in a vacuum. It spreads out and is not contained to a finite space.

Santarsiero brought up Reconstruction after the Civil War and

how during this time African Americans could vote. This led to more African Americans being elected to government positions, then Jim Crow laws occurred and restricted their rights again.

Omar Sabir, City Commissioner for the County of Philadelphia pointed out that Martin Luther King Jr. said we need to take advantage of the freedoms that we have. Sabir added that voter suppression now is different from voter suppression back in the 1960s, the laws are restrictive, but no one is being killed or having fire hoses turned on them.

Antoine reminisced about the first time his father took him to vote. It was during a mayoral election. He said that two of the five members of the city council wanted his dad to be on the school board while two did not. The fifth member never showed up, so the mayor made the deciding vote, voting no. Antoine says that one of his old neighbors told him that when the voting rights act was passed, he thought that would be the remedy.

This back-and-forth discussion of voter rights has helped us to progress and give more people in our country a voice.



*Courtesy of Unsplash*

## Zlock Performing Arts Center Has a Full Slate



*Courtesy of Wikimedida Commons*

TYLER PAGANO

*Centurion Staff*

The Zlock performing arts center at Bucks will be hosting several events and shows in the upcoming months. With all these different events being scheduled there is something for everyone to enjoy.

On February 24, the Cultural Streaming Series celebrates Martha Argerich's 70th birthday by playing unreleased BBC recordings of her performance with the 1977 Royal Liverpool Philharmonic Orchestra.

On March 4 from 2:00 p.m., until 3:00 p.m. Ophira Eisen-

berg will be hosting "Talk of the Town," a women's empowerment event based around Women's History month.

Also, on March 4 Ophira Eisenberg will be hosting the "Big Laughs" comedy special at 7:30 p.m. When asked which event he thinks students will like the best, the Director of Community Programming and College Events, Pete Chiovarou said, "Big Laughs I think that it is something for everyone to enjoy."

On March 11 Demetria Joyce Bailey's "Ladies Swingin' with the Band" will be performed at 7:30 p.m. This show features a

high-energy story in song about Ella Fitzgerald, Sarah Vaughn, Rosemary Clooney, Doris Day, Nancy Wilson, and more female vocalists from the '20s, '30, '40, and '50s.

On March 20 "ARTRA-GEOUS" will be shown at 3:30 p.m. This show will combine live art, rock concert, imaginative movement, vocal performance, comedy, blacklight Bunraku, Artpunk wear, and inclusion creating one outstanding experience. Chiovarou said he was looking forward to "Artrageous" the most, "Artrageous, it is a family show that blends live music and art in a

fun and interactive way.

The last event being shown in the next two months is the New Feathers Reading Series "BEYOND." This story focuses on the relationship between a mother and her daughter with elements of how we perceive reality. The story is about an elderly woman named Marie who befriends a creature that arrives at her house. The creature slowly brings Marie lost memories of her and her daughter that will eventually reveal a bigger truth.

Chiovarou had the public on his mind when this slate of programs was being planned, "We were go-

ing for a diverse program where seniors, parents, and students can all find something to enjoy. The goal was to make it an environment where people can bring their friends and family and just forget about the outside world for a little bit."

If this sounds like something you or your family might like, then feel free to come down to the Zlock theater as tickets are free for students and the seats are socially distanced.

Visit <https://www.bucks.edu/culture/pac/> for more information.

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# Poetry

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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.

## Bucks High School Poetry Competition



**AILEEN LEONG**  
*Centurion Staff*

Bucks County Community College, which has been nurturing writers in the region for many years, is calling upon all local high school students to enter its 35th annual Bucks County High School Poet of the Year competition for a chance of winning \$300.

The competition is open to freshmen, sophomores, juniors, and seniors who live in Bucks County or attend a Bucks County high school. Home-schooled students are also eligible to apply.

Previous winners of the competition are not eligible, but students who have entered before, including finalists, are welcome “to try again,” says Dr. Ethel Rackin, Di-

rector of the Bucks County Poet Laureate Program, which also runs the high school competition. “We always encourage students to submit again if they’re still in high school,” said Rackin.

The competition has been doing “particularly well in the past several years,” said Rackin, where they have been “averaging around 150 submissions,” and they are looking forward to this year’s entries, which should be submitted by Friday, March 11, 2022. Students submit three original poems and are judged on the merit of the three poems combined. “We are looking at all three,” said Rackin.

Last year, due to the pandemic, the competition switched to an online entry system, which may have been “quite a bit easier,

especially for young people,” Rackin admitted, but could not have been the sole reason for the quality and quantity of submissions. “Not only did we get more applicants than ever, but it was the strongest batch that I’ve seen.”

Rackin said that young people seeing and hearing the National Youth Poet Laureate, Amanda Gorman, during President Biden’s inauguration last year, “had a tremendous effect and we saw the results.”

Those who submitted entries last year did not shy away from the big stories of the day and were writing about serious issues. “Many of the poems that we received last year did touch on the pandemic; on climate change; on the divisions: the political divi-

sions in our country,” said Rackin.

The Poet Laureate Program published a book “Fire Up the Poems” last year and distributed it for free to all Bucks County schools to help teachers engage students in poetry and to introduce poetry into the school curriculum.

“We purposely sent this out to all the teachers in advance of the deadline last year hoping that they would be able to use some of these prompts right away in their classrooms,” says Rackin. “We saw that some of the students did use the prompts from this text, and to great effect. So, we were very pleased to see an immediate result of this book publication.”

This year’s competition is now open. In addition to the \$300

winning prize money, the winner also receives a Proclamation from County Commissioners, and the winner and runners-up all have a public performance. The two judges are the current Bucks County Poet Laureate, Nicole Steinberg, and the previous year’s Poet Laureate, Jane Edna Mohler.

The deadline for entries is Friday, March 11 , and students should submit their information and three original poems online at [bucks.edu/hspoetry](https://bucks.edu/hspoetry)

Further questions can be emailed to Dr Ethel Rackin: [ethel.rackin@bucks.edu](mailto:ethel.rackin@bucks.edu)

Photo Courtesy of Unsplash

1964

# Wordsmiths

## – Spring 2022 –



**FRI., MARCH 11 • 7:30PM**  
**The Orangery and on ZOOM**  
**CHRISTOPHER SALERNO and JANE EDNA MOHLER**

**CHRISTOPHER SALERNO** is the author of five books of poetry. His most recent book, *The Man Grave*, won the Lexi Rudnitsky Award from Persea Books. Previous books include *Sun & Urn* (UGA Poetry Prize), *ATM* (Georgetown Poetry Prize), *Minimum Heroic* (Mississippi Review Poetry Prize), and *Whirligig*. His trade book, *How to Write Poetry: A Guided Journal*, is available from Calisto Media. His work has received the Glenna Luschei Award from Prairie Schooner, The Founders Prize from *RHINO Magazine*, the Two Sylvias Press Chapbook Award, the Laurel Review Chapbook Prize, and a New Jersey State Council on the Arts fellowship. His poems have appeared in *New York Times Magazine*, *New Republic*, *American Poetry Review*, *New England Review*, and elsewhere. He teaches in the B.A. and M.F.A programs in Creative Writing at William Paterson University in New Jersey where he serves as Director of Writing Across the Curriculum.

**JANE EDNA MOHLER** was the 2020 Bucks County Pennsylvania Poet Laureate. She won the 2016 Main Street Voices Poetry Prize and is a two-time Pushcart nominee. Kelsay Books published her collection *Broken Umbrellas* in 2019. Recent publications include *Gargoyle*, the *American Journal of Poetry*, and the *Bay to Ocean Anthology*. Jane is Poetry Co-Editor for the *Schuylkill Valley Journal*.



**FRI., APRIL 29 • 7:30PM**  
**Zlock Auditorium and on ZOOM**  
**JANE HIRSHFIELD and LURAY GROSS**

**JANE HIRSHFIELD’S** poetry books include *Ledger* (2020), *The Beauty*, long-listed for the 2015 National Book Award; *Given Sugar, Given Salt*, a finalist for the 2001 National Book Critics Circle Award; and *After*, short-listed for England’s T.S. Eliot Award and named a “best book of 2006” by *The Washington Post*, *The San Francisco Chronicle*, and *England’s Financial Times*. Her two collections of essays, *Nine Gates: Entering the Mind of Poetry* (1997) and *Ten Windows: How Great Poems Transform the World* (2015), have become classics in their field, as have her four books collecting and co-translating the work of world poets from the past: *The Ink Dark Moon: Love Poems by Komachi & Shikibu*, *Women of the Ancient Japanese Court*; *Women in Praise of the Sacred: 43 Centuries of Spiritual Poetry by Women*; *Mirabai: Ecstatic Poems*; and *The Heart of Haiku*, on Matsuo Basho, named an Amazon Best Book of 2011.

**LURAY GROSS** grew up on a Pennsylvania dairy farm in a household full of music and books. She is the author of four collections of poetry, most recently *Lift*, published by Ragged Sky Press. A Dodge poet and faculty member of Murphy Writing of Stockton University, she was awarded a Fellowship in Poetry by the New Jersey State Council on the Arts and named one of their Distinguished Teaching Artists. She was the 2002 Poet Laureate of Bucks County (PA) and resident faculty at the Frost Place Festival and Conference on Poetry. A storyteller as well as a poet, she has worked with thousands of students of all ages over several decades.

All events are free and open to the public and will be held live and broadcast on **Zoom**



## Entertainment

# “No Way Home” Finds Box Office Success



**MARK RUFFIN**

*Managing Editor*

The hype is Real!

Sony Pictures and Marvel Studios “Spider-Man: No Way Home” opened to an astounding \$260.0 million dollars over the weekend of Dec. 17, 2022.

Internationally the film has made a whopping \$1.06 billion and worldwide, Spidey has webbed up \$1.8 billion in ticket sales. This achievement is nothing short of amazing as we are still in the middle of a pandemic and as Omicron continues to surge throughout the world. “No Way Home” is prove that the theater

experience is not dead.

According to CNN Business, “Spider-Man: No Way Home” earned \$121 million on its first day, the second-highest opening day in box office history behind only Marvel’s “Avengers: Endgame” which earned \$260.1 million.

“Spider-Man: No Way Home” currently sits at a 93 percent with critics and a very rare 98 percent audience score.

“Man, seeing people out like this at the movies is great. It has been a long time. I have a lot more messes to clean up, but this is nice to see, and the movie was

amazing. Very happy Spidey fan. I work here, I’ve seen it for free 3 times already” said James Thomas, 26, a Crew Leader at AMC Neshaminy 24.

Movie theaters have been struggling since the pandemic took hold of both the U.S and international box office. Only a handful of films have successfully made a dent at the box office this fall such as “No Time to Die”, “Venom: Let There Be Carnage”, “Shang-Chi and the Legend of The Ten Rings”, “Halloween Kills”.

“Spider-Man: No Way Home” is the only film to gross over a billion dollars this holiday sea-

son. Hollywood Reporter says, “Spider-Man No Way Home” has secured its new home as number four on the all-time box office.

With many more big films slated for releasing in 2022 like Warner Bros. Pictures’ “The Batman” starring Robert Pattinson as The Dark Knight, the box office looks alive and well.

“Spider-Man: No Way Home” was directed by Jon Watts and written by Chris McKenna and Erik Sommers. The film stars Tom Holland, Zendaya, Benedict Cumberbatch, Jacob Batalon, Jon Favreau, Jamie Foxx, Willem Dafoe, Alfred Molina, Benedict

Wong, Tony Revolori, and Marisa Tomei.

“Spider-Man: No Way Home” is now currently playing in theaters everywhere.

# “The Matrix: Resurrections” Review



**MARK RUFFIN**

*Managing Editor*

Blue Pill? Or The Red Pill? How about not Resurrecting a franchise 20 years too late?

“The Matrix” broke new ground when it debuted in March 1999. It changed movies and its legacy in pop culture will always be cherished. There was nothing like it when it came out in the early Spring of 1999.

The sequels, while divisive among some but those two films still delivered a conclusion to the trilogy. We thought we had

seen the last of Neo, Trinity, and Morpheus. But 20 years later here is “The Matrix Resurrections”.

I am conflicted. I really do like some of the ideas presented in the film by Lana Wachowski. The execution is not as good. The film becomes too meta sometimes for its own good and does not come off as clever but cynical and bitter.

“The first half of the movie was getting annoying with all the visual callbacks to the original trilogy. It picked up a little but just felt meh overall” said Alycia Brown, a Behavioral Therapist.

The plot revolves around Neo once again needs to escape into the real world, rescuing the woman he’s been pining after inside the Matrix for decades: Carrie-Anne Moss’s Trinity. The love story at the center of the film works well, as do a few exposition dumps that do a relatively good job of trying to justify this movie’s existence while building on the franchise’s mythology.

Again, the main issue of the film is that nothing here really needs to happen, and the film feels like a tacked-on epilogue

after “The Matrix Revolutions”. The action scenes are nowhere near as good as the original trilogy and feels choppy, the original composer Don Davis is sorely missing, and this film just feels off. There is something missing.

Dragging Neo, Trinity, Morpheus, and Agent Smith back into the Matrix for one more adventure result in a blockbuster that has little of any substance to say, action scenes that won’t register, and a retreading of old ground that literally sees clips from the previous movies play out on screen on

multiple occasions.

The Matrix Resurrections is playing in theaters everywhere.

Grade C-



Clubs At Bucks

Disability Pride Club At Bucks



**EVEN LECHOWICZ**  
*Centurion Staff*

All universities and colleges are diverse in so many ways. But this especially includes those who are ‘unique,’ who may not feel safe in the surroundings at the college.

The Disability Pride Club is a safe place where those who feel unconnected or different at the college can join to talk with the other members.

Christian Huber, a music and social work major, is the president of the club. “This club is a safe place where those with disabilities and allies and meet new

people. And talk about how their disability is both a blessing and a challenge.” said Huber.

The club hosts speakers, and events like virtual game nights, movie nights, and sometimes they even meet up in person. Some speakers include Pamela Schuller and Micah Fowler.

With Danielle Holdsworth founded the disability pride club two years ago, then Matt Young took over before Huber stepped up to the plate.

Erin Baeder is a former member of the club and currently works for the Bucks County Intermedi-

ate Unity. “I would say two years and that was just being a part of it which was great!” said Baeder. The Disability Pride Club has opened her eyes every day she attended the club. And according to Baeder, the college has already taken on the concerns brought up by the club.

Unlike Baeder, this is the very first time for Sitay Buder. “I was laughing and smiling the whole time and talking about my experience while having fun all at once.”

Some of the returning members also enjoy being part of the club.

Just like being part of a friend group on campus. Always smiling and having fun with one another.

“It’s a place where I can relate to others. I have made so many friends!” says Melanie McDaniel.

“It brings open-mindedness with having others that understand it from your perspective.” Says Alina Sierra-Diaz.

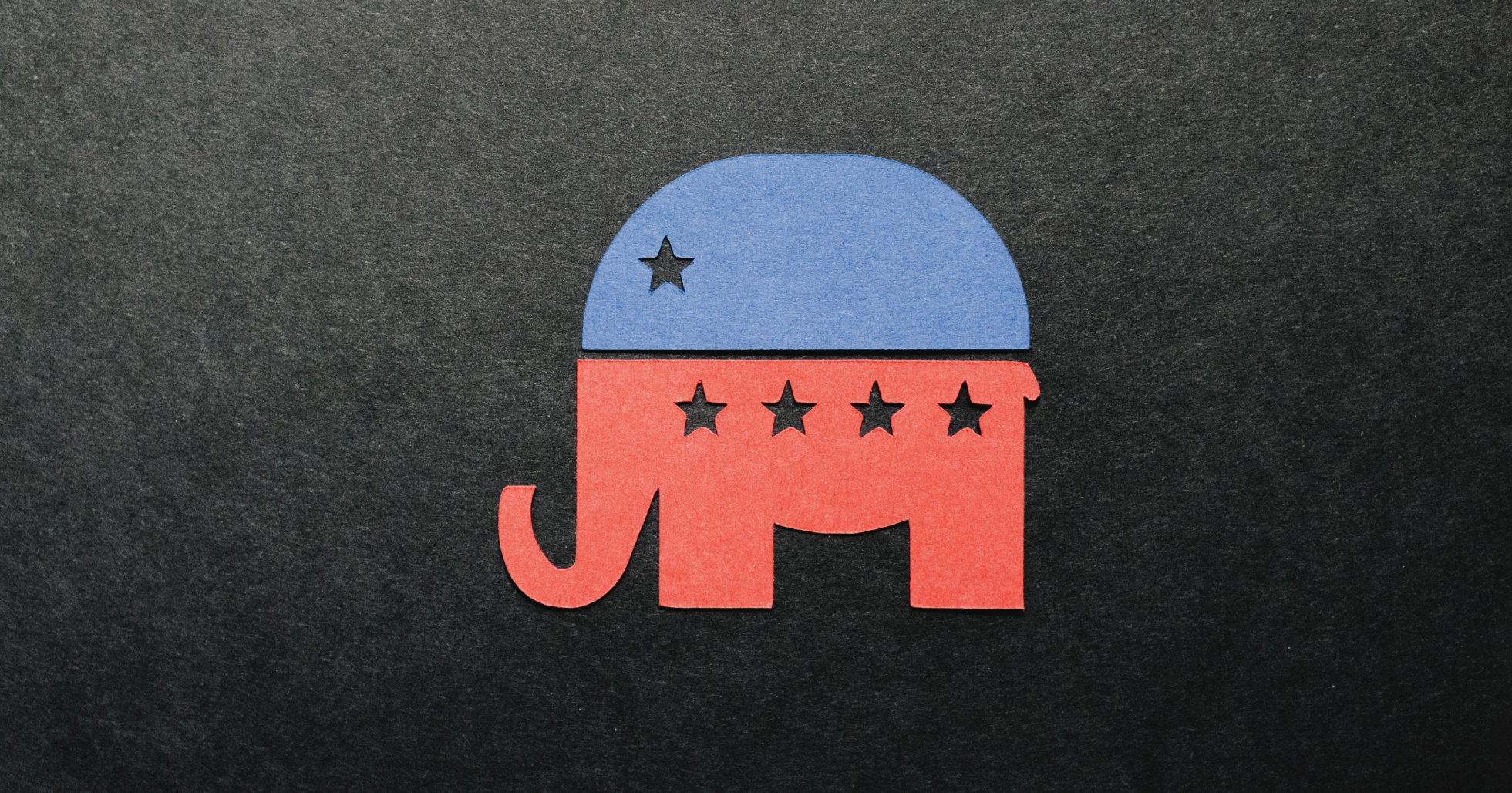
Bennett Aniloff says, “It’s a place where people can meet new people and help build long-term friendships. It helps people understand people of all different types of disabilities and different majors in the college and abroad.”

Huber and Baeder both help run the Stephen Sanchez Memorial Scholarship, which students with disabilities can apply for to help fund their education. Regardless of status, the minimum GPA required is a 2.0.

The Disability Pride Club has a lot to offer for those who want to meet new people and understand one another, a great club to join if you want to be in a safe place.

Christian Huber can be reached at [huberc78886@live.bucks.edu](mailto:huberc78886@live.bucks.edu).

College Republicans Club



**TARA BIRNBAUM**  
*Centurion Staff*

If you are passionate about politics, consider joining a club specific to your registered party here at Bucks. The College Republican Club meets one Thursday a month from 1:30 pm to 2:30 pm.

The club gets involved with Bucks County Republican Club held in Doylestown. The club meets on Thursday nights once a month at 7 p.m. Head of the club, Chase Zemitis who is majoring in journalism, says, “We cover the topics in areas that are 50/50. It can go either way.”

The club discusses topics on a local and national level, embracing and welcoming the different

opinions of each member. Along with discussing political topics, they attempt to promote conservative ideas.

The club encourages each member to get involved in their local school board as well as township meetings. Each township’s meetings are open to the public to attend and encourages local people to participate by voicing their opinions.

“A college in 2022 promoting both parties and giving students the opportunity to experience the political system and what these parties bring to the community should be applauded. It’s great to hear that students at the community college encourage each

other to get involved in their local township meetings and I hope to see young people getting more involved soon.” said Bucks County government official, Sheriff Fred Harran.

The College Republican Club opens doors of quality experience for political majors and any student interested in politics. It provides practice for the communication skills and knowledge that is necessary for the real world of government. Any conversation about politics on a national level in 2022 will most likely include the topic of free community college promised by President Biden in his Build Back Better Plan.

The club was created four

years ago by former student, Zach Shoester, who continued his involvement in the republican party. He is currently a committee member of The Bucks County Republican Club.

The College Republican Club started with 10 members but school clubs have taken a devastating hit due to covid. The numbers are down but the trend of recent mandates lifting and students returning to campuses across the country show hope for the spring 2022 semester.

Now that more students are coming back to campus, many faculty members and fellow students are encouraging others to get involved.

The abundant amount of clubs running on campus provide resume opportunities for students who plan to transfer or pursue a job after earning their associates degree. Not only is it an excellent achievement, but a chance to make friends who have similar interests and beliefs.

The club leader, Chase Zemitis, wants to bring the attendance up and recruit new members. He encourages students who are interested to contact his school email directly at [zemitisc@live.bucks.edu](mailto:zemitisc@live.bucks.edu).

Photo Courtesy Of Unsplash



## Sports

# Sixers Finally Get Their Trade

**EVAN BOYLE**

*Centurion Staff*

On the afternoon of February 10, the Philadelphia Seventy Sixers announced that they had made a trade with the New York Nets for James Harden and role player, Paul Millsap.

The Sixers gave the Nets former number one overall pick Ben Simmons, Seth Curry, Andre Drummond, and two first round picks – 2022 unprotected and 2027 protected.

Harden has been linked to the Sixers for the last two years and finally, the Sixers got their deal. Harden, an all-star this year, should be able to bring ball handling and off the dribble scoring which the Sixers really need.

Paul Millsap, a former all-star, who has seen a decline in his play and playing time, will join the Sixers as a backup big man.

This is a great move with Joel Embiid having an MVP year and leading the league in scoring. The Nets got three-time all-star Ben Simmons, who has not played yet this year due to mental health.

With Simmons, the Nets get knock down shooter Seth Curry and rebounding specialist Andre Drummond.

The Nets needed a defensive stopper and they got that in Simmons. Drummond had been the best backup Joel had his entire career. Drummond is a great rebounder and is good in the pick and roll game. Does this seem like a good trade?

Tyler Jones from Hulmeville says “I think they gave up a little too much in this deal, but getting

Harden makes you a championship contender even if it’s just for now. Harden’s scoring alone brings so much to the table, it will be interesting to see Harden and Embiid work together. If their personalities blend there should be no problem. The talent is obviously already there.”

Can the duo of Joel Embiid and James Harden bring a championship to this city? Kyle Mazzanti, from Levittown, said “The NBA is superstar driven and now the Sixers have two top ten players locked up for the rest of this year and possibly next. There is a lot of skill on this new Sixers team, MVP awards and championship wins are coming to the Philadelphia Seventy Sixers.”

Jared Getchell from Langhorne said “I am leery about Harden’s recent injuries combined with his age. I think he should sit out until the hamstring is better. He hasn’t missed much time in his career and that shouldn’t change once he’s well.” Most fans seem to think that this can be a great trade.

Christian Carr from Hulmeville said “It reminds me of Kobe and Shaq, but Embiid is more skilled than Shaq and Harden is a better passer and ball handler than Kobe.”

Christian’s point brings up some interesting thoughts. Shaq and Kobe won four championships, can Embiid and Harden do the same?

*Courtesy Of All-Pro Reels and Wikimedia Commons*



# Tom Brady Retires After A Storied Career



**TYLER PAGANO**

*Centurion Staff*

After 22 years in the NFL, Tom Brady has officially decided that it is time for him to hang up his cleats and retire. Brady announces his retirement following the Tampa Bay Buccaneers being eliminated from the playoffs, after a devastating loss to the Los Angeles Rams in the NFC divisional round.

After an all-time great career where he spent 20 years with the New England Patriots, and two years with the Tampa Bay Buccaneers

Brady has finally decided to

retire. Brady won seven Super Bowls throughout his career, the most of any player in NFL history, six with the New England Patriots, and one with the Tampa Bay Buccaneers.

Brady also racked up three regular season MVP awards, five Super Bowl MVP awards and is the leader in most quarterback statistics.

This brings up a crucial question, where does Brady rank in the all-time great standings? Many people consider Brady the Greatest Of All Time, or the GOAT.

When asked where Brady ranks all time, Alex Freibrun, a sports

management major at bucks said, “I’d rank Tom Brady number one all time due to his accomplishments, and all of his achievements throughout his career.”

Haseeb Sial, a business major at Temple said, “Tom Brady is the GOAT, because he won multiple rings with the Patriots, and then switched teams and another ring with the Buccaneers. Also, because he has been able to play at a high level throughout his whole career.”

Matt Hirsh, a sports marketing major at Temple commented on Brady’s retirement, “I’m not surprised based on his age, but I

am surprised because of how the season ended.”

Health Science major Sebastian Podlesny figured Brady would wait until he won another championship “I was really surprised by his retirement. I thought he would play for a couple more seasons, or at least until he got another Super Bowl ring.”

Even in his last season Brady has shown that he still has more gas left in the tank. He also hinted that he is not against potentially coming back in the future.

Brady also had a significant impact on the NFL as a whole, as Freibrun says “He had a major

impact on the game on the field and off the field. He was a great leader to his teammates and was a great example of how someone should act in the spotlight. There wasn’t a lot of controversy around him and his career, even with all the achievements that came his way.”

It is such a rare thing for one player to have such an impact on a league for over two decades, it is likely we will never see another player like him again.

*Photo Courtesy of All Pro-Reels and Wikimedia Commons*