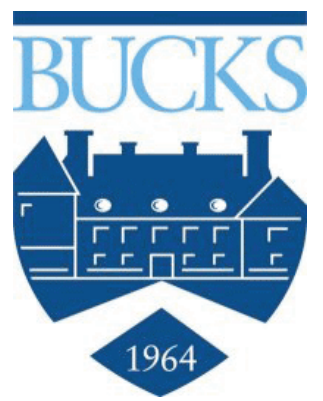


# The Centurion



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

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## Biden Announces Student Loan Forgiveness

CHRISTIAN GROSSO

Centurion Staff

On Wednesday, August 24th, President Biden announced his long-awaited campaign promise to forgive student debt for borrowers who make under \$125,000 dollars annually, and that he would be extending the pause on student loan payments till the end of the year.

According to the Associated Press, the amount of debt forgiven will range from as high as \$20,000 for students who received federal Pell Grants, to \$10,000 for those who took out federal loans.

Biden said that “Both of these targeted actions are for families who need it the most: working and middle class people hit especially hard during the pandemic.”

This announcement comes after speculation of whether President Biden would respond to pressure from some Democrats’ who say that more broad student debt forgiveness of up to \$50,000 is needed. Biden had said in the past that he is “not considering 50,000 in debt reduction” but has also said that more forgiveness is possible in the future.

Some were also worried that he was going to give in to Republican demands, who say that he should not forgive any debt because it would worsen already high inflation. Senate Minority leader Mitch McConnell criticized

Biden’s plan, saying that “President Biden’s inflation is crushing working families, and his answer is to give away even more government money to elites with higher salaries.”

According to the National Center for Education Statistics, 82 percent of 2-year college students in the 2019-2020 school year were receiving some sort of financial aid to help them pay for their tuition. That number increases to 87 percent among those at 4-year universities.

Much of this has been contributed to the fact that the cost of college has become unaffordable to many. Research from Georgetown University showed that the average price of tuition, fees, and room and board for an undergraduate degree increased 169 percent between 1980 and 2020.

Business major Alex Ithier says that student loan forgiveness would help her a lot. “I am in \$13,000 in student debt right now, and that is not including my student loans coming up. I moved universities due to mental health, and I did not receive all of the credits I should have, so it would really help if I did get some of that money back.”

And it is not just current students that will feel the impact of Biden’s plan. According to the AARP, in 2016, 9.6 percent of families headed by someone age

50-plus carried student loan debt, with the average amount owed more than tripling to \$33,053.

Diane Rice, an adjunct professor of social and behavioral science, says that although she does not owe any loans back, she thinks that “It will give the people who are saddled with those loans opportunities to do things like buy more things, or rent a property that they couldn’t do before. I think it frees them up from the burden of debt. \$10,000 may not seem like a lot of money to someone who has \$100,000 in student loans, but if it helps you pay it off faster, I think it will help you and give you more cash in hand”.

Evan Anderson, a journalism major, says that “If it comes out of our taxes then it would do more help than harm, but if the money is taken from elsewhere there could be a problem. Personally, I don’t even think this plan is going to actually follow through, it will most likely just be another idea that goes to waste.”

According to The Washington Post, Republican lawmakers are considering taking Biden’s plan to court, saying that it violates spending power given to congress. The president’s legal team has argued that his plan has legal standing through a 2003 law giving the executive branch broad authority to overhaul student loan programs during a national emer-



gency, as President Biden has said that the COVID-19 pandemic classifies as a national emergency.

But many students, like Ryan Press, a radiography major, say that the pros of student debt forgiveness outweigh the cons. “There’s already over a trillion dollars in instituted loans, and President Biden is doing middle

class citizens a favor by receiving debt from setbacks during the pandemic that we might not recover from. I understand that it will probably raise taxes, but from my point of view that is taking \$20,000 off my chest. No matter what I do, it won’t go away.”

Photo Courtesy of Wikimedia Commons

## Poll Workers Needed This November

CHRISTIAN GROSSO

Centurion Staff

The 2022 Midterm Elections are just seven weeks away, and Bucks County needs people to work at the polls.

On Nov. 8th, voters will be headed to the polls in what is expected to be a very contentious midterm election, especially in Pennsylvania, where voters will be picking a new governor and U.S. Senator, in addition to congressional, state, school and other local representatives. Even though mail-in voting is now an option in Pennsylvania for all voters, many still choose to vote in person at their local polling place.

According to Help America Vote, “Poll workers are critical to the success of an election.” But many of our veteran poll workers are starting to age away. Pew Research says that “58 percent of poll workers in the U.S were ages 61 and older”, so younger people are in need to replace a rapidly outgoing generation of poll workers.

Kelly Gale has been the Assistant Director on the Board of Elections in Bucks County for the past four years.

According to Gale, “The Judge of Elections is the overseer of the polling place. They make sure everything is up and running for a smooth flow of voters. They are responsible for maintaining the election supplies and returning

them to the county at the end of the day.” Gale says that the “The Majority/Minority Inspectors and Clerks are typically stationed at the table helping the voters check in with the poll book and distributing the paper ballots.”

“The Machine Inspectors help to facilitate the flow of voters through the polling place, guiding voters from the check in station to the voting area, and then to the scanner to cast their ballot”.

When it comes to salaries, she tells us that “Judge of Elections are paid \$200.00. All other full day positions are paid \$195.00, and half days are paid \$97.50”.

A typical election day starts with setting up polling machines and books. Gale says that there are three shifts offered. “Full days are from 6:30 A.M to roughly 9:30 P.M, half day mornings are from 6:30AM-2:00PM, and half day afternoons are from 2:00 P.M to 9:30 P.M.” The polls will open at 7:00 A.M and close at 8:00 P.M, and workers are expected to remain at the polling place for their shift and are given a two-hour break.

Throughout the day, it is important for all poll workers to keep the flow of voters going, be as helpful to voters as legally possible, and to report any abnormalities to the Judge of Elections. Also, poll workers remain nonpartisan, not discussing or promoting any political stance while work-

ing. Once the polls close, full time and afternoon workers must close the machines, take down the tables, and tally up the votes on official documents. Typically, this will take about an hour and a half, but may take longer depending on how busy the polling place is.

Before you can be a poll worker though, you need to attend an election training cycle for every election day, even if you are a returning poll worker. This election, Bucks County will be switching to an electronic sign in system on iPads in place of the current registration books, so it will be especially important to pay attention to the training session.

According to a letter sent by the county, in person training will be held at Richard E. Strayer Middle School in Quakertown on Oct. 1st, Harry S. Truman High School in Levittown on Oct. 15th, Maple Point Middle School in Langhorne on Oct. 22nd, and Central Bucks High School West in Doylestown on Oct. 29th. Virtual training is also available. To be a poll worker, you must be 17 years of age or older and be a resident of Bucks County.

There is not an estimate yet of how many positions are left to fill for the midterms, but in an earlier interview with Gale by the Bucks County Courier Times in April, she said that there was a shortage of about 60 poll workers for the primaries this past May, primarily



at polling places in Bristol, Falls, Middletown and Warminster Townships. Gale says that “There is no deadline to register. Of course, the sooner the better.”

Becoming a poll worker is not just about getting paid, it has other benefits, such as getting to know your fellow poll workers, and giving your time back to the community. When you register to

be a poll worker, you become a key aspect of keeping democracy afloat in America.

To become a poll worker in Bucks County, please visit [www.buckscounty.gov/1257/Poll-Workers](http://www.buckscounty.gov/1257/Poll-Workers), or call the Bucks County Board of Elections at (215) 348-6154.

Photo Courtesy of Unsplash

INSIDE

Queen Of  
England  
Dies

Textbook  
Fees At  
Bucks

Roe v Wade  
Overturned  
5-4

Constitution  
Day  
Panel



# Queen Elizabeth

## A Nation’s Reaction To Loss

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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.

HAL CONTE  
Former Centurion Editor

It began around noon with a blizzard of tweets announcing that notes were being passed around Parliament to frontbench MPs with apparently distressing news. Scrolling through my phone while shopping at the grocery store, I had a sense of what might be coming – a long-planned protocol for the event had been in the public domain for years – but the precise timing of the news was nonetheless jarring.

Completing my degree at the University of Warwick in Coventry as a Bucks County Community College and Centurion alumni, I’ve had a close view of what’s happened since the death of Queen Elizabeth II, head of state

of the United Kingdom and the Commonwealth for 70 years.

Among other things, she was the first head of state to use email, the most photographed person in history, and at her death, constitutional monarch for 15 prime ministers, the last of which (Truss) was born more than a century after her first (Winston Churchill).

There had been a sense since the Platinum Jubilee celebrations in June that the Queen had been in ill health. Only days before her death, it was reported that she was too weak to leave Balmoral, the Scottish castle where she spent her last days, and so new Prime Minister Liz Truss had to be flown there in order to be sworn in.

After news of what was going on in Parliament broke, I immediately put on BBC iPlayer to watch the news on my laptop whilst rushing to finish the final paper for my course. At 6:32 in the evening, BBC News present Huw Edwards appeared in a black suit and tie to announce the death of the Queen.

The effect on the country’s media was sweeping. Opening the BBC Sounds app on my phone, I saw that every single radio channel, from contemporary music to audio drama, were broadcasting the news. All government websites and the sites of organizations ranging from the grocery store Marks and Spencer to the Institute for Economic Affairs think-tank carried remarks marking the announcement.

On the day after the Queen’s death, all the country’s papers – even colorful tabloids such as the Sun and the Star – ran with somber covers bearing an image of her likeness, with the Times, the country’s main paper of record,

placing a black banner around the front-page text. These papers sold out quickly – I bought three of them around 10 a.m. and by noon, they had sold out.

Although the Queen’s death has created moving scenes – people have lined up for miles to see her lying in state and have stopped in the middle of a highway and exited their cars to watch her casket transported to London – it has not weighed on every conversation. Most people aren’t in a state of perpetual mourning; even a day after the announcement, talk at the local coffee shop which I regularly visit did not dwell on the news.

Indeed, one week later, there is a clear divide between those that think life should be put off in commemoration of the queen and those frustrated with the canceling of parties, performances, sporting events, and gatherings. I personally think that carrying on as normal and proceeding with the transition would be the best way to honor the Queen’s dutiful attitude towards life.

There have been several high-profile arrests of anti-monarchist protestors; these have been condemned across the political spectrum, from the right-wing pro-free speech tabloids to London republican (small-r) groups.

As for Charles himself, the most impactful scene I have witnessed thus far is his arrival at Buckingham Palace to deliver an address the day following his mother’s death. Walking past the crowd, he exchanged words directly with individual Britons; there isn’t the same degree of risk to celebrities in the U.K. compared to the U.S. due to the absence of firearms, but his willingness to level with



ordinary citizens is probably one reason his popularity has surged as he has taken over.

It will be interesting to see how the new Prime Minister, Liz Truss, and Charles get on together. Charles has been more outspoken than his mother in giving his opinion on government policy, and although Truss is a Conservative, her zeal in reforming the country and skepticism towards historic institutions is an attitude anathema to the more rooted trappings of traditionalist monarchism.

But the degree to which the death of the Queen appears to have resonated with all Britons is something I can’t imagine in America. There is no individual, or perhaps no cause at all, that would drive our politicians to seek less divisive rhetoric, as both Truss and the opposition leader Kier Starmer were apparently advised to do ahead of the upcoming party conferences, as a sign of respect.

Americans may wish sometimes we had a royal family (and certainly pay attention to the British one as though 1776 had never occurred), but it is perhaps for the better that we get to the root of our problems directly, and don’t kotow to imperatives higher than that of the public good as a whole. It is, alas, easier to do so when we can clearly decide – after vigorous debate – on what that good is.

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## Students

# Textbooks At Bucks, A Hidden Fee Or Free?

**GRACE LEVY**  
*Centurion Staff*

Bucks’ fall 2022 semester began with many students reading their course syllabuses and seeing if they had to pay for textbooks. Textbooks continue to be a source of controversy in academics, as some cite textbooks as a financial strain for students, others do not see the necessity of buying a textbook for a single semester, and some see textbooks as a lifelong investment in their education.

Michelle Palella, age 18, a Health Sciences major, enjoys the additional resources of paid textbooks. Michelle dislikes that free textbooks “don’t have the quizzes or practice pages that paid textbooks include.”

“I would love it if all of my classes had free textbooks, because the quality of the free books is on par or superior to paid ones,” says Jeff Guimaraes, age 20, a first year Communications Studies major. “They’re also much easier to consult and access.”

Bucks currently offers free textbooks through its Open Education Resources (OER) program, which provides students with online textbooks that are free. The Zero Textbook Cost initiative at Bucks allows students to select courses that use OER textbooks, including 23 courses that purposefully have redesigned their content to include OER textbooks.

OpenStax, one of the OERs that Bucks uses, is a website that contains over 40 different textbooks that are free for students, faculty, and colleges to use. OpenStax continues to work on its accessibility to fit the needs of all



students, no matter their location in the world.

The CollegeBoard reported that in the 2021-2022 academic school year “first-time full-time students at public two-year college(s)” needed approximately “\$5,700 in allowances for books and supplies, transportation, and other personal expenses.”

Additionally, national data collected by the Collegeboard reveals that the average tuition and fees of two-year colleges have

increased by almost \$1,500 in the last 20 years, making college the most expensive it’s ever been.

Introduced to Congress in 2019, the Affordable College Textbook Act was a bill that would grant more funding to higher education institutions and allow expansion on free textbooks, providing more accessibility to students. The bill was sent to the House of Representatives, and it was referred to the Committee on Health, Educations, Labor, and Pensions,

where little action has resulted since then.

Paid textbooks at Bucks range in a variety of costs from as little as \$30 to as much as \$200. Students can choose from new and used textbooks, or they can rent their textbooks. According to the Education Data Initiative, the average cost of textbooks is “an estimated \$105.37” per book. Additionally, with every new edition that is released, the average cost increases by 12 percent.

“It is really hard when you find out you have to spend an extra \$240 on science fees just to do homework,” says Luisa Correa, age 21, a Biology major. “Especially when you have already paid so much for tuition. I have to consider each semester how many classes I can take because I know at some point, I just won’t be able to afford all the textbooks.”

*Photo Courtesy of Unsplash*

# Bucks Students Happy To Be Back In Person



**SKYLAR WOODFORD**  
*Centurion Staff*

As fall classes begin this year at Bucks, many students here felt relieved that most of their classes are offered to be in-person rather than online, while other students noted that they preferred to take virtual classes since doing so allowed them to have flexibility over their schedule.

Sarai Rodriguez, an undergraduate here at Bucks, said “Virtual classes slowly became a normal thing for me ever since COVID-19, as time passed, I

learned to get used to it, but it definitely increased a lot of bad habits like procrastination.”

Rodriguez also felt as if her teachers “weren’t actually present,” and it was just a program demanding her what to do. This made distractions more intense for her causing her to slip from giving her full attention from class.

In-person classes also made Rodriguez feel like she was able to “socialize and make new friends.” The online classes made her feel as though she lost her sense of

socialization.

Undergraduate Student Francesca Simmers said, “Virtual classes were a lot harder for me, I wasn’t able to retain as much as the information that I should have been learning.”

Simmers also expressed how in-person benefitted her by allowing her to “...get the extra help from teacher and other students.” since she already had familiarity with them, and it was easier to ask for help.

Undergraduate Student at Bucks County Community College, Nate

Farrel said “virtual classes gave me more time to goof off and made it hard to pay attention.”

Farrel felt that everything changed for the better when school began in person since, “it forced me to actually learn and has benefited me greatly.”

“2D images cannot replicate the human experience.”

Nicolas “Woody” Woodward felt that since virtual online classes were meant to move at your own pace, he found a little bit of favoritism in online education.

“Online classes best fit my

schedule,” Woody stated. “I received the same grades anyway. What difference does it make?”

Here at the Newtown Campus of Bucks County Community College students seem ecstatic to be taking classes this fall and cannot wait to see what these classes this year have in store for them.

*Photo Courtesy of The Bucks Website*



Roe v Wade

The Supreme Court Overturns Roe v Wade

KAROLINA MATYKA

Centurion Staff

On June 24, 2022, in a 5-4 decision, the Supreme Court overturned Roe v. Wade, the 50-year-old landmark ruling that guaranteed the constitutional right to an abortion. The decision comes from a review of the Dobbs v. Jackson Women’s Health Organization case which focused on Mississippi’s Gestational Age Act and prohibiting abortion after 15 weeks “except in a medical emergency or in the case of a severe fetal abnormality.”

Thirteen states had “trigger laws” in place which are unenforceable laws that may achieve enforceability if a key change in circumstances occurs. In the case of abortion rights, this key change was the overturning of Roe v. Wade. According to The Washington Post, nearly one-third of the country “will prohibit abortion within 30 days of the ruling.”

While many have expected the Supreme Court’s decision, especially following the leak of the opinion draft in May as well as having three conservative justices consecutively appointed during former President Donald Trump’s term, news of the ruling has left many constituents flabbergasted and betrayed.

For Sydney Kline, a paralegal at a personal injury law firm in Philadelphia, abortion rights have always been an open topic in her family household. “My grandma had always told me you don’t have to worry, we fought for this, it’s always going to be there, and then to have heard this all my life and then, suddenly, it’s gone, like it stunned me,” says Kline. “And then I called my grandma, and she cried on the phone.”

“I was really shocked because it didn’t seem like something that would happen in America in this day and age,” adds Hannah Boscola, a 23-year-old Bucks journalism student from Perkasio. “How could that have happened with a Democratic President and Congress in place?”

According to The New York Times, “roughly eight Americans in 10 support abortion rights and opposed the reversal of Roe v. Wade” before the ruling was made official.

The ruling sparked protests nationwide with hundreds of thousands of people flooding the streets voicing their disbelief and sadness over the Supreme Court decision.

“Take it to the streets because that way the news companies will go out of their way to show all these protests happening,” reasoned Nalani McDonald, a 24-year-old Bucks senior and cinema/filmmaking major from Newtown. McDonald said she believes the increased news coverage of the protests and the issue at hand will reach a wider audience and possibly influence the way the constituents are going to vote.

Allison Howe, the Executive Director and CEO of Nonprofit Connect and former VP of Medical Administration at Planned Parenthood from Yardley, thinks differently. While she attended many rallies and events in the past, Howe indicates that “the best thing is to get candidates, probably women, to run for office and then get them in office to make decisions that reflect what women want.”

For those who want to continue public protests, however, Howe recommends reaching out to the public officials and representatives to make their voices heard. “Contact your local congressman and make a lot of noise that way. If you write letters, call them, meet them in person, or go with a group of people, it’s way more impactful than a protest,” encourages Howe.

“Protesting is necessary but

action gets done through legislation, so I think elections are one of the most important things to do. I don’t think you can have one without the other,” says Madison Russell, a rising freshman and Music Theatre major at Ohio State University from Yardley.

With midterm elections coming up, abortion rights have been thrust into the forefront. “It’s important that this issue stay front and center for the elections. It’s competing with a lot - inflation, gas prices, kitchen table issues that affect individuals and families,” says Stacey Mulholland.

Mulholland, a township manager in Bucks County with significant experience in the legislative field, moves the focus further towards the importance of voting and electing the right officials. “For years, our legislature has been trying to outlaw abortion and we’ve had mostly progressive governors [in Pennsylvania]. There was always the stop gap in the Governor’s Office,” she added.

Mulholland also noted the significance of setting term limits for members of Congress noting that generations are being robbed of representation, as well as the the crucial role of future generations stepping into leadership roles at elected offices, whether it be serving on a township or borough committee like Parks & Recreation. “Just getting your foot in the door so that these greater opportunities are in front of you to represent your generation,” she advised.

The overturning of Roe v. Wade will have significant implications on women’s health and the healthcare system. According to Kaiser Family Foundation, a nonpartisan and nonprofit organization focusing on national health issues, the Supreme Court decision “disproportionately impacts women of color.”

The KFF research indicates that women of color are not only more likely to obtain abortions, but already have more limited access to health care. In addition, they face underlying inequities that would make it difficult to travel out of state for an abortion.

“There was a reason why Roe v. Wade was made,” said Shyan Robinson, a recently graduated nursing student from La Salle University in Philadelphia. “We had women in the streets dying. They were doing back alley abortions that were either killing the women or scarring them forever.”

Howe added, “When you live in a country that makes abortion illegal, it doesn’t mean there’s less abortions. It just means there’s more death. This will impact maternal mortality.”

According to Robinson, social services will also be significantly impacted by the Supreme Court ruling. “There will be a lot more kids who are put up for foster care or adoption and how is the government going to support them when we can barely support people who are alive today?” asks Robinson.

A lot of attention has also been placed on Justice Clarence Thomas’ concurring opinion. Thomas wrote that the justices “should reconsider all of this Court’s substantive due process precedents, including Griswold, Lawrence, and Obergefell.”

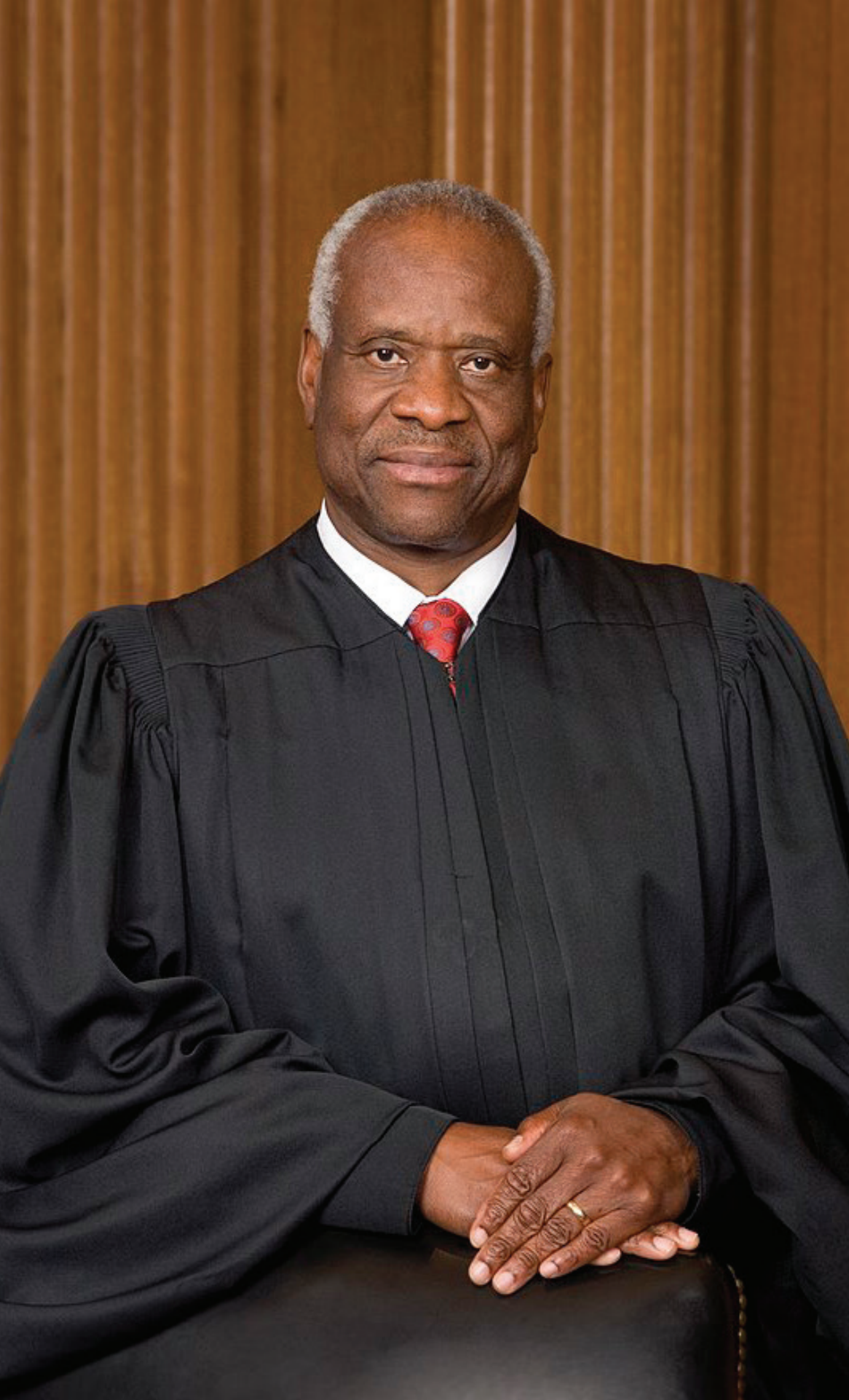
The three cases deal with access to contraceptives, decriminalizing same-sex relationships, and legalizing same-sex marriage. Obergefell v. Hodges was ruled quite recently in June 2015.

“Now they’re just adding fuel to the fire. Why would you involve it when it doesn’t really have anything to do with the current case right now?” added McDonald.

“Everything is up for grabs and to be taken away which is sad,” said Kline.



Justice Samuel Alito, who wrote the leaked draft Photo Courtesy of Wikimedia Commons



Justice Clarence Thomas, Photo Courtesy of Wikimedia Commons



# Bucks

## Constitution Day Guest Panel Examines Dobbs Decision

GRACE LEVY  
*Centurion Staff*

In celebration of Constitution Day, the Epstein Campus at Lower Bucks hosted a panel discussion with five community leaders on Thursday, Sept. 15, about the constitutional implications and legislation of the Dobbs decision on *Roe v. Wade*.

*Roe v. Wade* was a 1973 Supreme Court decision that gave women the constitutional right to an abortion, however this year the Supreme Court overturned that ruling in the Dobbs decision.

Professor Bill Pezza, a Social and Behavioral Sciences department member at Bucks, lead the forum and organized the discussion into three segments: the constitutional foundations of both *Roe v. Wade* and Dobbs, the current laws, and the legislative goals of pro-life and pro-choice advocates.

John Petito, a professor at Bucks, gave a summarization of the legislation behind *Roe* and Dobbs. Looking out at the audience, he commented, “Did anyone understand what I just said? No? Of course not, you’d need to be a lawyer!”, further articulating his point that these were complex topics that he was trying to explain.

David Steil, a former eight-term State Representative, offered more insight into the 14th amendment by explaining how it had “vague language defining what a person” is. This amendment is often cited by pro-life advocates because it suggests that no person shall be denied life and this vague language allows for a varied interpretation about what “life” is.

Patrick Christmas, a policy director for the nonprofit orga-



Photo Courtesy of the Bucks Website

nization Committee of Seventy, explained voting and legislature, stressing the importance of voting this election cycle to see legislation that reflects what Pennsylvanian citizens want.

He further commented, “For folks concerned about the security of mail in voting, I would say that it’s just new to us.” Christmas explained that although the concept of mail in voting is not new- absentee voting has been around for many years- polling facilities

were not ready for the volume of votes that occurred in the 2020 election, and many facilities did not have the staff necessary to count all the ballots in a single day, thus causing delays in knowing which candidates won.

The panel was opened to student questions near the end of the discussion, and both Marlene Downing, a Susan B. Anthony List member, and Melissa Reed, a Planned Parenthood Keystone member, were asked about their

views on the recent Dobbs decision.

Downing called the Dobbs decision a win for pro-life and said this decision paves the way for more legislation.

“We’ve been preparing for years,” Reed responded. She continued by saying that Pennsylvania has prepared by hiring additional medical providers, creating a way for abortion seekers to receive abortion pills through the mail, and locally Planned Par-

enthood has opened a new health center in Lancaster, creating more accessibility to Bucks County community members.

“These rules are unjust, and cruel, and that’s the point. And it is going to create huge economic disparities, greater than we are already seeing, and it is already creating a public health crisis. It’s incumbent for all of us to fight against these types of cruel policies,” said Reed.

## Is The Coronavirus Generation Z’s 9/11?

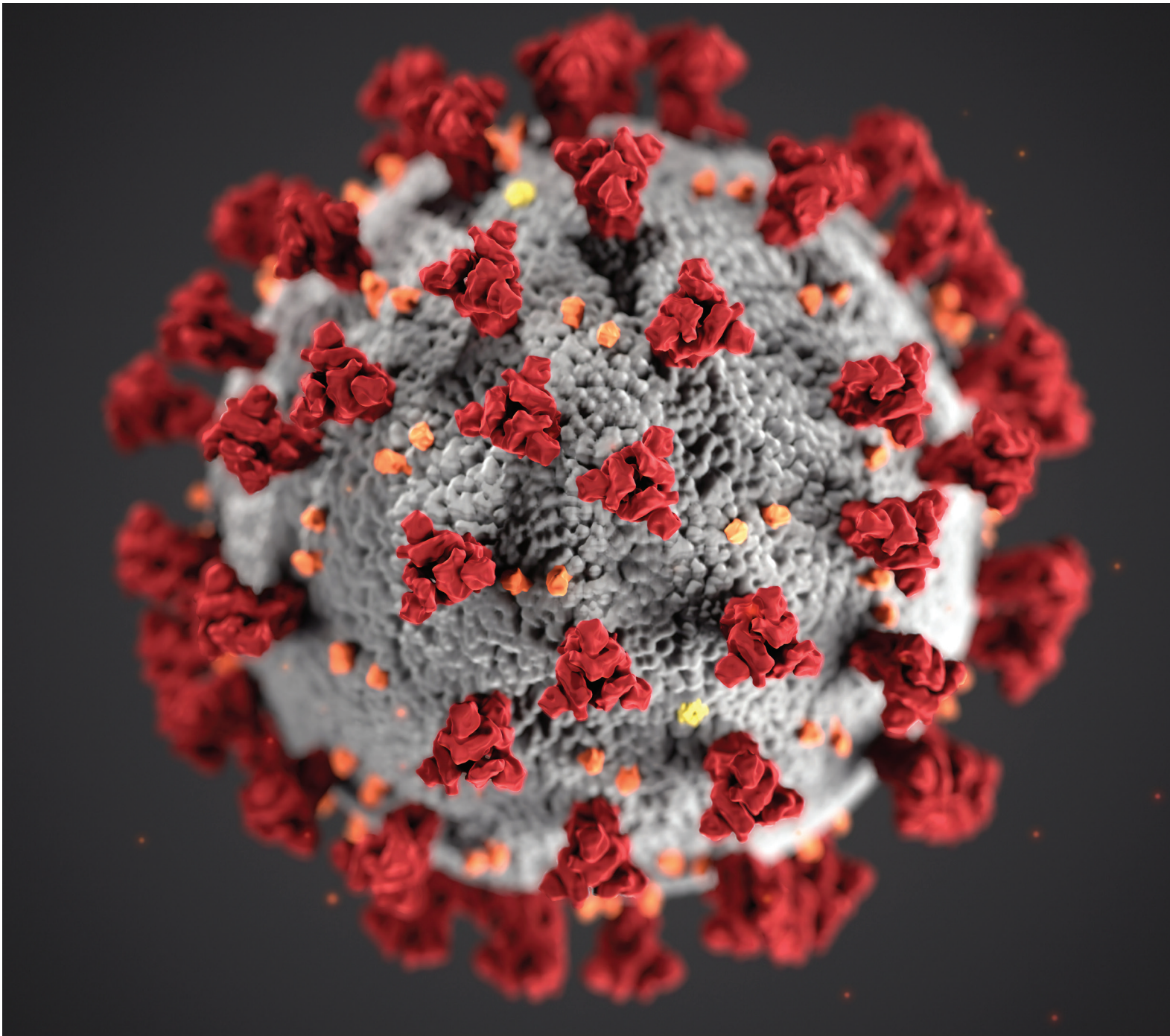
PARKER DeSTEFANO  
*Centurion Staff*

Over the past two years, the entire world has struggled with covid-19, or the coronavirus. It’s been difficult for everyone, no matter where you live. Whether you’re from the US, China, Australia, Russia, anywhere, the pandemic affected you in some way, shape, or form. So how has it changed us? How has it affected the world? And how is it similar to one of the biggest tragedies in American history, 9/11.

Covid and 9/11 feel like vastly different events on the surface but if you dig deep enough, they can be quite similar. Nik Tokarski, 18, a Computer Science major from Bensalem said, “I would say that Covid is pretty similar to 9/11, it negatively affected so many people around the world and changed a bunch of things like travel laws, vaccination and medical standards, and the economy.”

Each generation has “an event.” For Baby Boomers, this was the assassination of President John F Kennedy in 1963, for Generation X it was 9/11, and now for Millennials and Gen Z it’s Covid. So, each generation has a defining moment, something that will stick with them for the rest of their lives and define who they are as a person. Gen Z especially will be defined by Covid and all of the misfortunes that it brought about.

With most current college age students being born around 2003, it’s not a surprise that 9/11 in Professor Shawn Queeney’s, an Arts and Communication Studies professor at Bucks, words, “lands like a lead balloon.” Most students have no emotional connection to 9/11 and the changes that it brought to American society because they were not alive to see how things were before. 9/11 changed how airport security was handled, how information in the US’s government was handled, it even created a branch of the US government, the Department of



Homeland Security.

After the 9/11 terrorist attacks, Muslims were ostracized and some people even thought of all Muslims as terrorists. The same goes for Covid, because the disease was traced back to China, some Americans have a stigma towards Asian-Americans, especially those of Chinese heritage. Obviously, not every Muslim is a terrorist and not every Asian-American is to blame

for Covid.

Covid has also brought about many changes that affect us right now. Many colleges require proof of vaccination to attend, masks may be worn by those still wary of the disease, and social situations can be tense for those that may have developed fears of crowds or social gatherings. It’s not surprising to say that Covid has drastically changed some people’s perspective on in-person

work and college.

Working from home has become more socially accepted and it has given people time to rethink their lives and careers, to make changes based on what they’ve found, and perhaps even change their entire lifestyle. Covid gave people time to rethink, restructure, and relive their lives.

It seems like the public will be feeling the effects of Covid for a long time. President Biden may

have said recently that Covid is over, but it most surely is not, and the lasting ramifications of this disease will be felt for years to come. As Professor Queeney said, “however people adapt to this, you need to give them space to do it.”

Photo Courtesy of Unsplash



## Sports

# Centurions Shock in USCAA Tournament

MASON GROSS

Centurion Staff

This season the Bucks County Community Colleges Baseball team joined the United States Collegiate Athletic Association. Shocking most of the conference, the 7th-seed team finished the tournament with two wins followed by two losses.

The Centurions baseball team went pretty deep into the tournament. However, when it came time to play the top seeded Penn State DuBois, the Centurions fought hard but came up short by one run in an 8-7 loss.

Their first loss of this double elimination tournament came from a rough 3-0 shutout against 10th seed Bryant & Stratton in a game in Albany.

After this the Centurions bounced back in a big way, taking a rebound victory the 6th seeded D’Youville. This was followed by the team’s second win against 8th seeded Southern Maine Community College.

This was the first time that the Centurions have been invited to the tournament, and they are the first baseball team to be invited from the Eastern States Athletic Conference (ESAC).

This invitation came after the team won their respective conference championship by defeating Central Penn 14-5 on May 5 in Newtown.



This regular season was a big one for the team as winning the conference championship is no easy task. For the season the team finished 26-21-1 led by coach C.J. Brancato and assistant coach Andrew Lihotz.

Matt Cipriano, the director of

student life and athletics programs at Bucks County Community College, stated “the USCAA small college world series was a wonderful experience for our student athletes, and we are very excited about the future.”

Cipriano hinted that the

Centurions plan to make a lot of noise in the conference and in the tournament going forward.

The tournament ended May 19 when the 5th seed Apprentice School won their third title in school history, beating 4th seed Miami Hamilton 23-17.

Bucks County Community College sports are Division II in the non-athletic scholarship and compete in the USCAA conference.

With better play over the past seasons there is a lot of buzz about just how good the Centu-

rions could be. Only time will tell but hopes remain high after winning two games and taking the fight to top seeded Penn State. The Centurions aren’t done, and it truly is only the beginning.

*Photo courtesy of Bucks Athletics*

# Eagles Look Promising This Season

EVAN ANDERSON

Centurion Staff

Despite a disappointing first round playoff loss just a season ago, the Philadelphia Eagles are gearing up for the 2022-23 season, but will the key additions from General Manager Howie Roseman be enough for a playoff run this year?

Some fans around campus are extremely confident in the Eagles this upcoming season. Freshman Tommy Greenage goes as far as to say “...they will perform better than they did last year and will win the division.”

Despite the negativity surrounding Philadelphia Eagles GM Howie Roseman, based off his previous draft and trade decisions, this year could be different.

This offseason GM Howie Roseman has been busy in the office this year picking up star players like Wide Receivers AJ Brown, Zach Pascal, Cornerback James Bradberry, and Linebacker Kyzir White in trades alone.

Brown finished the 2021-22 season in Tennessee with 869 receiving yards on 63 receptions, putting his average yards per reception at 13.8. Brown is ranked 10th on CBS Sports top 10 wide receivers through the 2021-22 season and will be a great addition for quarterback Jalen Hurts deep downfield.

From the 2022 draft the Eagles took 2 big players off the board with defensive tackle Jordan Davis (Georgia), and linebacker Nakobe Dean (Georgia). Davis finished his senior year at Georgia with a total 32 tackles, 2 sacks, and a national championship win with the Bulldogs.

His teammate Nakobe Dean, finished his junior season with a total of 72 tackles, 6 sacks, 2 interceptions, 2 forced fumbles, and a defensive touchdown. The two defensive monsters are expected to make a major impact for the Eagles this season.



Not only has Howie Roseman had an exceptional draft and off-season, but he is also continuing to make big deals in the pre-season.

Recent additions include RB Trey Sermon from waivers and Safety Chauncey Gardner-Johnson from the Saints.

Roseman also made the execu-

tive decision to trade former first round draft pick, WR Jalen Reagor to the Vikings for a 2023 7th round pick and a 2024 conditional 4th round draft pick. Philly native, Cassidy Zimmerman thinks, “... Reagor could have been great with the Eagles... but I think this trade has more pros than cons”

Eagles fan Cameron Temple

agrees with the Reagor trade stating, “I think trading Reagor was a good move, it was a long time coming”. Cameron goes on to say, “(Howie) is making a lot of the same moves that were made in 2017” hinting at another possible Superbowl title.

There is jubilation in the air for these Philly fans and their upcoming

season, and the expectation to follow through has never been higher.

With these new additions will the Eagles have too much on their plate or could they make a break for a second Superbowl in 2023?

*Photo Courtesy of Wikimedia Commons*