



THE CENTURION

“The Voice of the Students”



@Centurion_Bucks

Volume 59 Issue 8

March 7, 2024

Bucks-News.com

The Centurion Newspaper Staff Prove Their Talents Once Again in the State Keystone Awards

Centurion Staff

Bucks County Community College’s student newspaper, The Centurion, won a record 22 awards in the statewide 2024 Keystone journalism competition showcasing the myriad skills of students.

The Student Keystone Media Awards are administered by the Pennsylvania NewsMedia Association. The contest acknowledges high school and college journalism’s relevance and virtue in serving their readers. The Centurion competes in Division III for two-year colleges.

Since 2010 The Centurion has won over 180 awards, making it one of the most-honored student student newspapers in Pennsylvania. This year was no different with the hardworking staff racking up 22 awards, including first place in various categories like general news, public service/enterprise reporting, sportswriting and video



Photo Courtesy of Tony Rogers. Keystone award winners in back row from left to right Chris Lopez, Parker DeStefano, Daulton Parry and Jesse Fischer. Front row left to right Madison Kifolo, Raeanne Raccagno, Raymundo “Ralph” Varela-Urizar and Christian Grosso

news. The awards were for work done in the spring and fall 2023 semesters.

Tony Rogers, Bucks journalism professor and the newspaper’s faculty advisor said, “Between environmental contaminants being found in several campus

buildings and the sudden resignation of the college’s president, this has been a tumultuous year at Bucks. Our students have covered all these events and many others with real professionalism, and I’m extremely proud of the work they’ve

done.” Raeanne Raccagno, a 20-year-old journalism major and the editor-in-chief of The Centurion, said, “my biggest goal for the paper has been for us to cover a diverse range of topics. “I

Read more on page 6 ...

Upcoming Events



3/7
Human Trafficking Awareness
12:30 p.m. & 1:30 p.m.
Gallagher Room & Zoom

3/8
Wellness & Life Hacks - How to Overcome Stress in Everyday Life
12:15 p.m. - 1 p.m.
Zoom

3/8
Joscho Stephan
7:30 p.m. - 10 p.m.
Zlock Performing Arts Center

3/12
Voter Registration Drive
8 a.m. - 2 p.m.
Upper Bucks Campus

3/12
Comfort Dogs on Campus
11 a.m. - 1 p.m.
Newtown Campus, Rollins Center

Three Candidates Named as Finalists to Replace Ganther as President of Bucks

Christian Grosso Centurion Staff

During the Board of Trustees meeting on Feb. 21, the Presidential Search Committee announced that they had picked their finalists to be the next president of Bucks, and the board wants students and staff to have a say in the decision.

The committee is holding forums in the auditorium at the Newtown campus to allow students and staff to ask the candidates questions and get to know them better. The first two of the forums already occurred on Feb. 26 and March 4, and the last forum will be held on Thursday, March 7.

The forums have been beginning at 9 a.m. for faculty leaders, 10 a.m. for staff members and 11 a.m. for students. The meetings have and will continue to be streamed live on Zoom.

The Board of Trustees hired RH Perry, a national search firm specializing in higher education, to conduct the presidential search. The firm said that over 75 applications were received, but the committee narrowed it down to just three candidates with various backgrounds in education.

On Feb. 26, students and faculty met Evon Washington Walters. Currently, he is a professor at Stony Brook University, where he teaches the school’s Community College Leadership course. Mr. Walters has a Doctorate degree in Education from the University of Massachusetts, where he ran on the school’s track team.

Since then, he has been credited for revitalizing Student Success Centers at three different community colleges, including Suffolk County Community College on Long Island, NY, where



Evon Washington Walters, ED.D.
Photos Courtesy of the Bucks County Community College Website

he and faculty leaders secured \$40 million in federal funding for a new Learning Resource Center and Wellness Center. And while at the Community College of Allegheny County in Pittsburgh, he helped reverse a three-year 22 percent decline in enrollment at the school.

For the forum on Monday, March 4, attendees heard from Patrick M. Jones, a Pennsylvania native who has worked in various areas



Patrick M. Jones, PH.D.
Photos Courtesy of the Bucks County Community College Website

of education. Right now, he is the Chancellor of the Music department at Penn State Schuylkill, with a long history in the world of music, including being the director of the Setnor School of Music, a music professor at Boston University and directing the Air National Guard Bands for 12 years.

He has also been a judge for multiple Band competitions, locally at Neshaminy High School and Pennsbury High School.



John C. Boyd, PH.D.

His educational career included leadership positions at Drexel University, Utah Valley University, The University of the Arts and Boston University. He has a Doctor of Philosophy from Penn State and a Bachelor of Science from West Chester University. Jones also spent over 30 years in the military, at one point monitoring the deployment of over 400 personnel and providing input to the Presi-

Read more on page 6 ...

News

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Editor-In-Chief
Raeanne Raccagno

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Arianna Keith

Writers
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Holly Arendt
Ava Grimm
Jenna Lowenthal
Daulton Parry
Jesse Fischer
Cristopher Ramirez

Weather
Christian Grosso

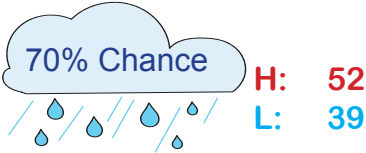
Advisor
Tony Rogers

Letters to the Editor:

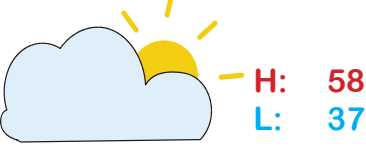
Email your letters to:
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Letters should be limited to 500 words. They will be edited for spelling, space and malicious or libelous statements. Letters must be the original work of the writer and must be signed. For identification purposes, letters must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

Weather

Thursday 3/7



Friday 3/8



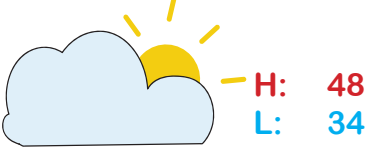
Saturday 3/9



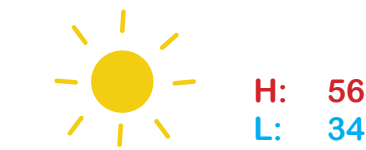
Sunday 3/10



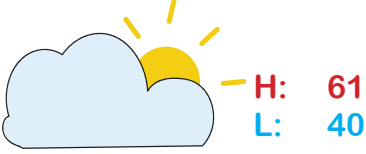
Monday 3/11



Tuesday 3/12



Wednesday 3/13



8-14 Day Outlook

Temperatures: Above Normal
Precipitation: Above Normal

Forecast for Newtown, PA
courtesy of weather.com, valid
3/5/2024 at 2:02 AM EST.
8-14 Day Outlook courtesy of
NOAA National Weather Service,
issued 3/4/2024.

Black History Month Voting Rights Panel Presented at Bucks

Holly Arendt
Centurion Staff

On Feb. 15, the Newtown Bucks campus hosted a voting rights panel in honor of Black History Month to educate voters on the current climate of voting rights and how voting rights can be addressed in both Bucks County and the United States.

The panel was composed of Diane Ellis-Marseglia, Chair of the Bucks County Board of Commissioners; Robert Harvie, Vice Chair of the Bucks County Board of Commissioners; John Jordan, First Vice President of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, Bucks County and Kevin Antoine Associate Vice President of External Affairs and Chief Diversity Officer at Bucks, who also served as the panel's moderator.

The panelists first discussed the need for continuous adoption of new voting laws and why this legislation is still needed even though the 15th Amendment gave people, specifically African Americans, the right to vote.

"We need new laws constantly because there's an attack on voting rights constantly," Jordan led with. The panel discussed the history of voter suppression and how there has been slow progress toward voting rights throughout the history of our country.

Commissioner Harvie examined a turning point for voting rights that happened during the Vietnam War due to the fact that the average age of U.S. citizens going to fight was below the legal

age to vote. "Most of those young men who lost their lives couldn't even vote for the leaders that sent them there," Harvie said.

While the need for voting rights legislation was already present, the controversy surrounding the war introduced the need for consistent new legislation to stay in tune with current political climates instead of honoring past political agendas.

Voter suppression legislation continues to be a relevant issue and is largely propounded by a demographic of people saying we need stronger laws to control who's voting, thus ignoring the sentiment of democracy.

This yielded the example of voter identification laws, laws that require physical IDs when voting and aim to suppress some of the biggest demographics of voters; Senior citizens, college students and women. Voter ID laws became increasingly relevant after the 2008 election of Barack Obama and have historically stood as a barrier for voters largely due to the lack of access to obtaining a physical ID.

There was a voter ID law passed in Pennsylvania before the 2012 elections between Barack Obama and Mitt Romney. The reason for this law being passed was accredited to the prevention of voter fraud in Pennsylvania; a concern that is almost nonexistent in our democracy.

This poses the question of was this law actually passed to prevent fraud, or was it passed to disallow large demographics of people from voting?



Photo Courtesy of Holly Arendt. From left to right Robert Harvie, Diane Ellis-Marseglia, John Jordan and Kevin Antoine

An idea was introduced; whether or not voter ID laws should be replaced with technology such as fingerprints or facial recognition in order to simplify the process and also would not require a physical ID. The Panelists almost unanimously disagreed with this sentiment.

"I would be in favor of finding easier ways to vote, but not checking peoples' IDs in any way," said Ellis-Marseglia and Harvie finished by saying, "This would only disenfranchise people."

The mythology about rampant voter fraud and elections being stolen has been debunked through various research studies, the panel discussed. This is a testament to the juxtaposition the voter suppression agenda poses.

"In 2013 the United States Supreme Court gutted the Voting Rights Act and since that time there have been 20 states that have passed or

tried to initiate voter suppression laws," said Jordan.

One way to get more people the right to vote is to go to the root and change the legislation. A solution, introduced by Jordan, is the Freedom to Vote Act which has not yet been passed. This would create a federal standard for all states by ensuring everyone the right to vote on a federal level.

Young voters realizing the impact elected officials have on their lives is the surest way to increase voter turnout and elect officials that will best represent them and their rights. It's of utmost importance for voters to understand the control they have over their lives and future through democracy.

Voting rights are the cornerstone of our democracy. For resources on registering to vote, visit vote.gov/register/pa/ in order to continue to ensure your voting rights and a candidate who will protect them.



Ava Grimm
Centurion Staff

RadioBUX, the radio show created on campus by students and staff, is a student-advised program that brings the Bucks community together by creating an entertaining way to get informed, learn and enjoy music.

Rhiannon Oser, a 22-year-old Behavioral Science major and current advisor of RadioBUX, joined the club last semester as a member.

Photo Courtesy of Ava Grimm

She enjoyed the show and eventually took over as the advisor this Spring semester starting in January 2024.

Oser hopes to make RadioBUX more alive by bringing students together and creating connections with each other through shared passions of music and radio. RadioBUX allows students to be in the know, saying "RadioBUX is for everyone."

To start these connections

Tune Into RadioBUX

Oser presently has a "Bring Your Own Vinyl" event in the works. Students would bring their own vinyls to Bucks, listen to a diverse range of music from other students and staff, share some food and drinks and create relationships across campus. This event is not officially scheduled yet, but Oser hopes for it to take place some time this May.

The showtimes on air are still sporadic, but Oser and other DJs on the show such as Liam Sullivan and Dr.Daniel Hoff, part-time faculty in Fire Science, do have specific on-air times. On Tuesdays you can tune into Sullivan's Sports Show from 5 - 6 p.m., the Dr.Hoff Show, airing on Wednesdays from 1- 3 p.m. and Oser's Show on Thursdays from 1 - 3 p.m.

Oser hopes RadioBUX can become more involved with students and staff's day-to-day life on campus in the future and gain more recognition this semester. Students can find the Ra-

dioBUX studio on the Newtown Campus right by the Cafeteria. During lunch-times you can find the glass room open with blaring lively tunes. If you are walking by and interested in learning more or joining RadioBUX they have a QR Code posted on the door to scan.

RadioBUX is always looking for new DJs, interviewers and shows. Anyone at Bucks, student or staff, is welcome to apply to RadioBUX. Students can apply on the RadioBUX website or email Oser at oserr@live.bucks.edu.

Stay tuned into RadioBUX to hear new upcoming events, a variety of on-air shows, and of course good music. Students and Staff can listen to RadioBUX and find their official schedule and events at www.radiobux.com. Another way to listen in to RadioBUX is the app TuneIn Radio. Students can also view @buxradio on Instagram run by Oser.

News

The Power of an Advisor’s Encouragement: Climbing the Academic Mountain

Jenna Lowenthal
Centurion Staff

Are you afraid to start? Bucks County Community College awakens this 2024 spring semester, encouraging new and returning students to embark on new journeys and opportunities by offering support through advising.

Don’t let the advising scares get to you, it’s simple and welcoming here at Bucks. Advisors understand anxious feelings about returning, especially after any changes or uncertainties, but good advice will guide you in the right direction.

“It’s because of you that I’ll be walking down that stage,” said one of Professional Advisor Patti Hemko Alloway’s past students.

Social and Behavioral Sciences Studies Professor of 24 years and adviser for 11 years Professor Alloway pushes students to their highest potential and truly believes in them even if they don’t believe in themselves.

“This guy came in with his family, his three kids and his wife, I’ll never forget” stated Alloway. He was also working in contracting and physical labor, yet he always wanted to be a teacher. “Am I crazy? A father of three, a working man and a

husband” he asked her.

“You’re not crazy. Anybody can come back, and do it as well as they want to, for as long as they want to” Alloway said reassuring him.

Alloway implied she just recently got an email from that same student, that is now going to be graduating from Holy Family with a degree in Pre-K through 4. She was his advisor the entire time he remained at Bucks and still remains in contact with him. By the uplifting support and the empowerment, he got from the advising, he was able to gain the momentum and the strength to proceed.

Alloway preaches on why encouragement is so important for students. “It can seem like a mountain to them, so if you don’t make it seem like such an insurmountable mountain by giving constant encouragement, it is more doable and promotes the feeling of self-achievement.”

She strives for students to believe they can achieve their goals, under any circumstances by encouragement and genuinely caring about their growth. “I’ve seen some pretty neat success stories” she states.

In her advising, she gives students exactly what they



need to know and all the steps they have to take.

After transferring schools, students have still reached out to her for guidance. The same student emailed Alloway saying, “Every time I drive by Bucks, I think about you and the amount of people that you helped and without your encouragement, I never would have come back and now I’m graduating, doing an internship in an elementary school in third grade, under a great

teacher. I’m so happy that you pushed me to do this because I would have had regret for the rest of my life, I feel like if I didn’t meet you as my advisor, someone else might have not pushed me and shown me that I can honestly do this as a working, married with kids individual.”

“I was so happy when I got that email, he’ll make a great teacher,” Alloway said. The student even invited her to his graduation because of the value and the impact she had made in his life.

Photo Courtesy of Wikimedia Commons

requirements customized to their personal plans to continue their growth.

Alloway said “We want advising to be a place where people come and feel welcome and feel like we can give them the best answer that we can or point them in the correct direction.”

Taking the step to move forward can seem overwhelming but Bucks Advising Services offers help and embraces positive change. Bucks is an amazing start to career advancement and personal growth. “We offer flexibility for non-traditional and traditional students, when you at least have your associate degree, you have a better chance of obtaining higher paying employment and it could also be a stepping stone,” Alloway said.



On-campus Transfer Friday (11:30 a.m.-3 p.m.):
MARCH 22 *Learn about the transfer admission process, programs of study, credit evaluation, financial aid, campus housing, dining, student life, and more. Includes a campus tour.*

Virtual Transfer Information Session (4:30 p.m.):
MARCH 27 *Provides an overview of the process and timeline for transfer students.*

KUTZTOWN
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www.kutztown.edu/transfer

Upcoming Advising Events

Part of the Spring 2024 Seven Steps to Student Success

6. Resume Workshop Wednesday, April 3
12:30 p.m. - 1 p.m. Newtown campus Solarium
Advisors will go over a brief overview of the importance of resumes, new trends in resume writing and resources to help students with creating a resume that presents your best self and helps you land your dream job.
7. Preparing for Finals Wednesday, May 1
12:30 p.m. - 1 p.m. Newtown campus Solarium
Preparing for finals can be a stressful time, advisors are here to help. The workshop will review a variety of test-taking strategies, study skills and stress management techniques.

Sports

Philadelphia Phillies Start the New Season with a Familiar Roster

Daulton Parry
Centurion Staff

The Philadelphia Phillies are just starting spring training in Florida and are looking to return to the World Series with a very similar roster to last year which may infuriate fans but should be no concern.

Last year, the Phillies were back in the National League World Series and with hopes to get back to the World Series. The bats, however, went ice cold from all the stars, and Aaron Nola’s bad game six led to the Arizona Diamondbacks moving on to the World Series.

This year the Phillies extended Nola this offseason and let Rhys Hoskins and Craig Kimbrel walk. They added two possible starters one being Kolby Allard, a former Atlanta Braves starter an outside shot of that happening, and Spencer Turnbull, a former Detroit Tiger who got hurt last year while returning from a UCL injury (Tommy John surgery) from 2021 when he was dealing, he even threw a no-hitter that year.

They also added Whit Merrifield, a great utility man who has played the whole right side of the infield, and he has led the league in hits twice in his career and three times led the league in stolen bases. He is the ultimate utility man who has always hit over .270 average besides 2022.

Fans have concerns about adding what might only be one guy in Merrifield to the 26-man roster but should be relieve their worries because the Phillies now have a fully healthy Bryce Harper who will play first base moving Kyle Schwarber back to designated hitter. Freeing up his inability to play the outfield for a good fielder in Christian Pache, Johan Rojas, Brandon Marsh and Merrifield while also having Nick Castellanos a capable fielder playing right field. Pache surprisingly became a better hitter with the Phillies boosting his average up to over .300, Rojas as a rookie also hit over .300 in his short stint in the majors. Marsh’s average has gone up considerably since being traded to the Phillies as well as his ability to get on base by taking pitches working the count and getting the walk.

Castellanos after a down year in 2022 bounced back in 2023 raising his average, home runs, doubles, runs batted in (RBI) and stopped chasing as much at outside sliders. Maybe fans could worry about the outfield for hoping Rojas can hit come playoff time this year and Marsh not being the greatest but very capable starter, there are no concerns on the

infield.

Enough has been said about Harper. He is an MVP candidate every year and will now become a first baseman, Bryson Stott, the second baseman, is becoming a star drastically increasing his average, doubles and RBI, and can only really improve again. The left side of the infield is also good with Alec Bohm the third baseman improving from the previous season, getting more doubles, HR and RBI.

The shortstop Trea Turner, just like Castellanos had a bad first season with the Phillies but will most likely bounce back because he, unlike Castellanos did improve after the all-star break in the first season. Some people have had him as a dark horse MVP for about like three years now because he can fill his stats in every category previously mentioned.

The Phillies’ pitching has fans worried it is not the best which might be true. One fan Harlod Landman a Bucks County Community College student said “I think they needed a closer and maybe another bullpen arm.”

Where it would be nice to add a closer, they should wait for the trade deadline and see if needed. The Phillies need to see what they have in Orion Kerker-ing if he can be the closer. They still have strong leftie relievers in Matt Strahm, Gregory Soto and Jose Al-varado.

The righties are not stars but are becoming special. Harper personally called for Jeff Hoffman to join the roster when he was rehabbing with him. Harper could not hit off Hoffman. They also have Seranthony Dominguez, a late-game reliever to hold leads, Connor Brogdon reliable when called upon and Kerker-ing as well.

The starters are still the same as last year with maybe Turnbull taking the spot of Christopher Sanchez who was in and out last year of the rotation. Either option for the fifth man would be just fine, Sanchez is young and proved late in the season last year by posting an earned run average (ERA) below 3.50. Where if the Phillies went with Turnbull, he would be a high reward no risk due to getting a “prove it” contract due to injuries.

They also have Zack Wheeler Cy Young candidate, Nola who has all-star talent but will have games where he gets blown up. The next two are Ranger Suarez who is an amazing postseason pitcher and Tajaun Walker who starts every game at 20-plus pitches in the first inning but settles in and allows three to five runs a game which is solid for the fourth starter.



Photo Courtesy of Eddie Parry. Matt Strahm and his family at spring training

The Phillies have the best catcher in the business, JT Realmuto. He has the best pop time recorded, which is the moment the pitch hits the catcher’s mitt to when he delivers it to the second baseman’s glove which means he has the best chance at getting anyone stealing out. He also delivers a reliable bat for a catcher hitting above .250 average and consistently 20 home runs every year.

The Phillies Bench will have Merrifield, Edmundo Sosa who can play everywhere in the infield besides first base, Garret Stubbs as backup catcher and Jake Cave who is a corner outfielder and first baseman. The roster is developed for a postseason run and fans believe in the team to go far. Landman said “I think the lineups pretty set and I think they will be a wild card team again with hopes of going on a run.”

Some fans believe that the time has passed for the Phillies to win a World Series. Joey Ireland a Bucks resident said “No I don’t think so. I feel Like we had a shot the last two years.”

This roster is experienced from the last two years and has seen everything from winning against a better team in the playoffs to losing to the young Diamondbacks and losing the biggest in a World Series against a team everyone had sweeping them. Still, the Phillies stole two, one being game one away and one at Citizen Bank Park.

It would look nice to add to another division Champ for the Phillies but will probably not happen due to the Braves being a juggernaut offense and just always having pitching. However, it

might be advantageous for the Phillies to keep rolling into the playoffs and not take a week off. The previous two seasons have shown that to be the case with the Phillies beating the Braves twice in two different series come playoffs.

The time to win a championship is now or never for the ‘Fightin Phils.’ The stars Harper, Turner, Schwarber, Wheeler, Nola and Castellanos, are all in their 30s or just entering. Landman said, “The window is closing.”

Upcoming Sport Events

3/9

Baseball VS Williamson College of the Trades

12 p.m. & 2 p.m.

(A) Williamson College

3/10

Softball VS Monroe College

12 p.m. & 2 p.m.

(A) Monroe College Express

3/12

Baseball VS Manor College USCAA/ESAC 9 Inning Single

3 p.m.

(H) Bucks Newtown Campus

3/13

Softball VS Penn State Schuylkill

3 p.m. & 5 p.m.

(A) Penn State Schuylkill

3/15

Softball VS Leigh Carbon Community College

3 p.m. & 5 p.m.

(H) Bucks Newtown Campus

3/15

Baseball VS Middlesex College

12 p.m.

(A) Middlesex College

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News

Three Candidates Named as Finalists to Replace Ganther as President of Bucks

Continued from page 1...

dential budget. He retired as a colonel in 2011.

The last forum on Thursday, March 7 will feature Mr. John C. Boyd, a man who has spent much of his professional career in the mountains. He has been the president of Mayland Community College, a school in the rural Appalachians of North Carolina.

During his tenure, he has overseen the opening of the Anspach Advanced Manufacturing School, and the Mayland Earth-To-Sky Park, which includes the world’s only International Dark Sky observatory owned by an institution of higher education.

Prior to Mayland, Boyd was the president of Colorado Northwestern Community College, a college serving an area larger than the state

of New Jersey. He is notable for helping the struggling college perform a massive turnaround, by reorganizing a nearly nonexistent school leadership team, raising over \$37 million through the school’s first-ever gift campaign, building a new campus and renovating the existing infrastructure that all led to financial stability and reversed a drop in enrollment.

Boyd has a Ph.D. in Educational Leadership from Clemson University, and a master’s in criminal justice administration from Oklahoma City University. He was also in the Army in 1992.

Once chosen, the new president will fill the position vacated by Dr. Felicia Ganther, who abruptly resigned at the end of the last fall semester, after being in the position for only two years. Ganther states that

she resigned due to personal reasons, the passing of three colleagues in her life and the cancer diagnoses of two siblings, but the resignation came after the faculty union held a vote of no confidence. This was due to the union expecting “a strong collaborative relationship that had not materialized,” Bucks Federation of Teachers President John Sheridan said at the time.

After attending the forums, students and staff are encouraged to fill out a form on Buck’s website, that asks a multitude of questions on what you want to see in a new president and your impressions of candidates you saw. Although the Board of Trustees hasn’t said when they will elect a new president, it rarely takes more than a full academic year to find one, according to George Birnbaum Law.



Former Bucks President Dr.Felicia Ganther, Courtesy of Bucks County Community College’s website

Women’s History Month

The Library of Congress, National Archives and Records Administration, National Endowment for the Humanities, National Gallery of Art, National Park Service, Smithsonian Institution and United States Holocaust Memorial Museum join in commemorating and encouraging the study, observance and celebration of the vital role of women in American history during March. National Women’s History Month has its celebration origins in 1981 when Congress passed Pub L. 97-28 which authorized and requests the president to proclaim the week beginning March 7, 1982 as “Women’s History Week.” For the next five years Congress passed resolutions declaring a week in March for Women’s History Week. In 1987 the National Women’s History Project petitioned for the whole month to be dedicated to women’s history. Congress passed Pub L. 100-9 to declare March 1987 as the celebration we know today.

Information taken from <https://www.womenshistorymonth.gov/index.html>

Sister Rosetta Tharpe

March 20, 1915
- Oct. 9, 1973



Sister Rosetta Tharpe, also known as the godmother of Rock n’ Roll, was an American singer and songwriter. She picked up her guitar at the age of four and began her career as a gospel singer. By her mid-twenties she was traveling nationwide singing with her family. Tharpe began to step outside the spiritual world of music and created a new sound - a mix of Delta Blues, Jazz and Gospel. At the time her style was considered risky and even “dangerous.” She decided to fully quit Gospel and take a gig at The Cotton in New York, this infuriated the church. She began singing about love and sex while rocking out on a Gibson guitar. She became so famous that 20,000 people paid to attend her wedding at a baseball stadium in Washington D.C. She inspired musicians like Elvis Presley, Johnny Cash and Chubby Checker.

Information taken from <https://x1075lasvegas.com/2024/03/04/womens-history-month-spotlight-sister-rosetta-tharpe/> Photo Courtesy of Wikimedia Commons

The Centurion Newspaper Staff Prove Their Talents Once Again in the State Keystone Awards

Continued from page 1...

communicated that with the staff and they answered with no problem. We added some new content to the paper as well this academic year like comics, more column writing and word games.”

Although their success speaks for itself, the paper is still trying to make a name for itself on campus. “I’m not sure if it’s cause students don’t expect there to be a paper newspaper, but most students will have no idea about us,” Raccagno said. “I always hear I want to hear about what’s going on at campuses and we’re the place to do that.”

“You don’t have to be a journalism major to be a part of the paper,” Raccagno added. “One of the most important aspects of news, in general, is highlighting all the perspectives involved. There are so many impressive departments with experienced professors on campus and they all deserve to have a story. So I would love to have more non-journalism majors.”

The Centurion website is

located at www.bucks-news.com and the Instagram @centurion_bucks. Physical copies of the newspaper are located in blue newsboxes throughout campus. The Centurion is financially independent.

For more information or to join the club contact Raccagno through raccagnor@live.bucks.edu or Tony. Rogers@bucks.edu.

The awards will be presented during an awards luncheon on April 11 in Harrisburg at WTIF’s Public Media Center.

A complete list of the award winners:

General News First Place: The Centurion Environmental Findings in Campus Buildings Spark Concerns and Class Changes, Raeanne Raccagno

General News Second Place: The Centurion Bucks County DA Sues Social Media Firms, Raeanne Raccagno

Ongoing News Coverage First Place: The Centurion Environmental Concerns On- and Off-Campus Christian Grosso, Leila Kelley & Raeanne Raccagno

Public Service/Enterprise Package First Place: The Centurion Environmental Findings in Campus Buildings Spark Concerns and Class Changes, Raeanne Raccagno

Public Service/Enterprise Package Second Place: The Centurion Forever Tainted - How PFAS Pollutes Some of Bucks County’s Drinking Water, Christian Grosso

Feature Story First Place: The Centurion SEPTA Looks To Modernize Its Aging Public Transit System, Christian Grosso

Feature Story Honorable Mention: The Centurion ‘Never Forget,’ A Trip To The 9/11 Memorial And Museum, Christian Grosso

Personality Profile First Place: The Centurion Founder of Bucks’ Nursing Program Promotes Never-Ending Compassion, Raeanne Raccagno

Personality Profile Second Place: The Centurion In the Wake of Ganther’s Resignation, New Bucks Provost Faces a Host of Problems, Madison Kifolo

Sports Story First Place: The Centurion Bucks Women’s Basketball is Ready to Bounce Back After An Unsuccessful Last Season, Chris Lopez

Sports Story Second Place: The Centurion Men’s Basketball Struggling; Looks to Make a Comeback, Chris Lopez

Sports Story Honorable Mention: The Centurion Bucks Men’s Basketball Team Brings Home ESAC Championship Title, Raeanne Raccagno

Column First Place: The Centurion Philadelphia 76ers Trade James Harden to LA Clippers; Take Me Out to The Ball Game; Bucks’ Softball Team Comes Back Swinging, Daulton Parry

Column Second Place: The Centurion Attention Ghostface Fans... New “Scream” Video Game in Development; Zoo Wee Mama!; Hold on to Your Golden Ticket?! Raymundo “Ralph” Varela-Urizar

Review First Place: The Centurion ZTSD Punk Bash Lights Up Fishtown, Colt Gunn

Cartoon/Graphic Illustration First Place: The Centurion

tion Dog Life parts 1, 2 and 3, Connor Sturza

Feature Photo First Place: The Centurion Therapy Dogs Visit Bucks, Jesse Fischer

Photo Story First Place: The Centurion ‘Never Forget,’ A Trip To The 9/11 Memorial And Museum, Christian Grosso

Website First Place: The Centurion Raeanne Raccagno, Raymundo “Ralph” Varela-Urizar, Colin Riccardi, Megan Pizarro, Parker DeStefano & Christian Grosso

Video Story First Place: The Centurion Septa Bus Route Changes, Christian Grosso

Video Story Second Place: The Centurion Andy’s Brick Shop is Building Success, Parker DeStefano

Video Story Honorable Mention: The Centurion Sixers Fans Excited About Playoffs, Evan Boyle

News

Professor Rackin Keeps Busy with Writing, Readings & Teaching

Jesse Fischer
Centurion Staff

Ethel Rackin’s current office situation has her sharing a space with two other professors. The room is a very warm and cozy space in cottage one, complete with a fireplace. The situation is a far cry from Rackin’s normal office space in Grupp which is her own. However, because of Grupp Hall’s environmental concerns, Rackin has been moved out of her usual situation. Despite the change, Rackin, a language and literature professor at Bucks and director of the Wordsmiths Reading Series and Poet Laureate Program, has still been hard at work. Her new book, “In Time” is on its way towards being published next year, marking the fifth book of Rackin’s to be published. Poems of Rackin’s have been featured in places such as the Volt Literary Magazine, Allium, American Poetry Review, Colorado Review and more.

One of Rackin’s published books is a textbook, which marked a new venture in Rackin’s career. Rackin’s textbook “Crafting Poems and Stories: A Guide to Creative Writing,” came about when a book representative asked if Rackin’s creative writing courses had textbooks. While at first, she wasn’t totally on board, Rackin eventually pursued the venture. The beginning of Rackin’s textbook writing began with writing teaching notes. The writing process started very slowly but when the Covid-19 pandemic came around, Rackin was able to focus on finishing the textbook. It was during this time that writing started to become easier. Writing a textbook was very different for Rackin. “A textbook is very laid out with other hands-on,” she said. “Poem books are however you want it to be written. Suggestions can be made with a poem, but not so much a textbook.”

Even the process of getting the book out was different. Pitching the scholarly book needed to go through a long approval process to even be written. On the contrary, a poetry book is written and released in only a year. The textbook came out in 2022, over five years from the time of the proposal to the book’s publishing. Rackin has also begun to teach the textbook she’s written. When her students buy her textbook, the funds she receives from the book go to the Kerry Barber Scholarship Fund. “I don’t want my students to feel like I’m making money off of them,” Rackin says. She’s also open to suggestions from students about her textbook as a way of adding engagement to her class. Rackin’s poetry books have garnered an entirely different experience. In efforts to connect with others and get word of her new book out, Rackin has done poetry readings along the

East Coast. With invites from her connections made in writing, Rackin has read at bookstores and colleges. She has also notably read at the Boston Poetry Marathon and at a yearly festival in Brooklyn. With her new book on its way next year, Rackin has been setting up for her upcoming reading tours. Rackin said, “The audience makes up the vibe of a reading,” referring to the atmosphere of her readings. “You make yourself vulnerable reading your own poetry. It’s intimate and feels very revealing,” she added. Rackin praised Bucks County for its audiences in places such as the Newtown Bookstore, Doylestown Bookstore and at Bucks itself for the Wordsmith series. “Bucks has a very receptive audience, very emotional and heart on their sleeves,” Rackin said. Even writers unfamiliar with Bucks County have remarked on the hospitality

they’ve received. The Wordsmiths Reading Series is also a big part of Rackin’s influence on campus. Since the 1960’s the Wordsmiths series has become nationally renowned. The series draws writers with its warm and welcoming atmosphere. As director of the Wordsmiths Series, Rackin has done her part in setting up readings for those who want to be involved and get their material out in the open. Students who wouldn’t ever even think of going to the Wordsmiths series have become hooked on it. “Students may think of it as going to class at first, but they really end up enjoying it,” Rackin says. With a new book on its way, a textbook under her belt and a plethora of readings that she’s done and will do more of, Rackin has seemingly done it all in her time at Bucks.



Wordsmiths

– Spring 2024 –

JARED HARÉL
Thursday, March 7 • 12:30 p.m.
Tyler Hall 142, Newtown Campus



JARED HARÉL is the author of *Let Our Bodies Change the Subject*, which won the 2022 Raz/Shumaker Prairie Schooner Book Prize in Poetry (University of Nebraska Press, 2023) and *Go Because I Love You* (Diode Editions, 2018.) He’s been awarded the Stanley Kunitz Memorial Prize from *American Poetry Review*, as well as the William Matthews Poetry Prize from *Asheville Poetry Review*. Harél’s poems have recently appeared in such journals as *32 Poems*, *Beloit Poetry Journal*, *Electric Literature*, *Ploughshares*, *Poem-a-Day*, *The Southern Review* and *The Sun*. He teaches writing, plays drums, and lives in Westchester, NY with his wife and two kids.

THE SWEET SPOT

On better days, I can tell this is it: we are well inside it; that *misfortune* implies a fortune to lose. I can see, despite it all, we have hit our sweet spot, the best it’s gonna get, and yet someone out there dreams she’s a hummingbird, and is fighting like hell not to wake up.

Please join us in Tyler 142,
Newtown Campus.

Contact: Ethel Rackin,
ethel.rackin@bucks.edu

All events are free and open to the public.
The readings are funded by the Cultural Programming Committee.

News

Netflix’s “Avatar: The Last Airbender” Struggles to Capture the Magic of the Original

Cristopher Ramirez
Centurion Staff

Netflix’s “Avatar: The Last Airbender” is a mediocre live-action retelling of season one of Nickelodeon’s 2005 animated hit series by the same name.

The story is centered around a world where people can control one out of four elements: water, air, earth and fire. The main character, Aang (Gordon Cormier), has the title of the Avatar, one person who can control all four elements, but Aang is also still just a kid.

Aang was frozen for over 100 years as a war raged between the Fire Nation and the rest of the world. During those 100 years, his people, the Airbenders, were slaughtered, making him the last Airbender.

Two siblings from the South Water Tribe, Katara (Kiawentiio Tarbell) and Sokka (Ian Ousley), found Aang, and the three of them went on a quest to try to save the world from the Fire



Nation’s reign of terror.

Meanwhile, Prince Zuko (Dallas Liu), the son of Fire Nation leader Firelord Ozai (Daniel Dae Kim), was indefinitely banished from the Fire Nation until he could find and capture the Avatar. Prince Zuko and his Uncle Iroh (Paul Sun-Hyung Lee) try to catch Aang any chance they get.

Aang, Katara and Sokka’s relationship is the most tedious part of the show. They don’t act like they are friends or show that they

care about each other. There aren’t any real bonding moments between the three of them.

Showrunner Albert Kim (“Sleepy Hollow”) said in an interview with IGN that he wanted to appeal to the “Game of Thrones” audience. Kim’s trying to appeal to the “Game of Thrones” makes the show feel overly serious as opposed to the fun and adventurous nature of the original.

Aang is 112, but he is still supposed to have the mind

of a 12-year-old, and this adaptation almost completely removes that aspect. Aang said he likes to “goof off” with his friend, but the audience does not see Aang act like a kid except for one scene in episode two.

The acting can be choppy at times, especially in the first episode. However, the performances get better as the show continues, particularly Cormier and Kiawentiio’s line deliveries. Ousley did well with what he was given, but it would

Photo Courtesy of WikiCommons

have been better if Sokka wasn’t stripped of the comic relief aspect of the character because he has become just an overprotective brother without it.

For a show that’s supposed to be for a more mature audience than the original, it completely misses the mature storytelling of the original. A significant portion of the dialogue is exposition, and even when the audience sees what is happening, the dialogue holds the hand of the audience. The characters say exactly what they feel instead of showing the audience.

Daniel Dae Kim was the perfect casting for Firelord Ozai. His sternness and delivery add a menace to the character, making the scene where Ozai burns a man alive feel even more eerie than it already is.

Prince Zuko is by far the most fleshed-out character in the show. Zuko yearns for his father’s approval by trying to capture Aang even if it means fighting the people who should be on his side, and his humanity is explored, showing how much more he cares about people and his future than a century-long war.

Overall, Netflix’s “Avatar: The Last Airbender” is an unremarkable remake of a classic that fails its dialogue, leaving static main characters that not even the exciting antagonists could save.

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