



Welcome back to The Centurion

“The Voice of the Students”



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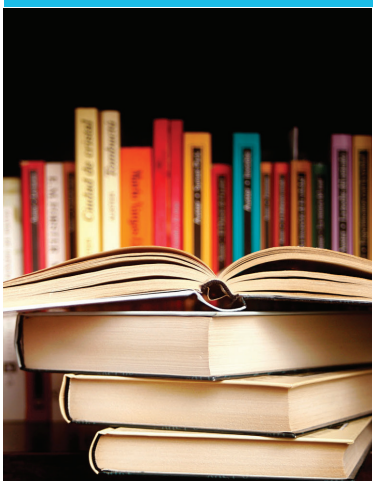
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Dr. Jones Forced to Cancel “Bucks County, USA” Screening due to Last-Minute Security Assessments



BUCKS COUNTY, USA

PBS/ Sundance Film Festival

Brianna Glassey
Editor in Chief

Less than 48 hours before the PBS documentary “Bucks County, USA” was set to screen at Bucks, Patrick M. Jones, the college’s president and CEO, says he was forced to scrap the viewing due to last minute security and threat assessments.

Terry Sasser, head of a self-identified private security detail, emailed the Newtown Township Police Department the evening of Sept. 11 requesting a K-9 bomb sweep of the Orangery and Zlock Auditorium at Bucks’ Newtown Campus prior to use for the event on Sept. 15.

In addition to the bomb-sweeps of both locations, Sasser called Mark Goldberg, executive director of Bucks’ safety and security, the following evening, to discuss bringing six armed security officers instead of the typical four due to “the perceived risk at this event.”

Sasser claimed the sweeps and additional officers to be necessary to ensure the safety of the CEOs of the Freedom Foundation and Teachers’ Freedom Alliance, two conservative political groups, who were planning to attend the screening and a private event in the Orangery.

The Freedom Foundation’s website states that the nonprofit is “a battle

tank that’s battering the entrenched power of left-wing government union bosses who represent a permanent lobby for bigger government, higher taxes, and radical social agendas.” The Teacher’s Freedom Alliance’s website states their mission is “to assist educators in their mission to develop free, moral, and upright American citizens.”

The websites list Aaron Withe as CEO of Freedom Foundation, and founder and president of the Teacher’s Freedom Alliance, with Ryan Walters listed as CEO for the latter.

The contract for renting the Orangery for events states that the addition of extra security personnel must be communicated at least two months in advance—not four days prior.

When the threat assessment made by Sasser was communicated to Jones 72 hours before the event, Jones was left with no time to have his own assessment done for the event or look into additional security personnel.

“I had never heard of those guys (Withe, Walters, Sasser)... [and] I didn’t have time to hire experts,” Jones explained.

Jones says originally, there was excitement to hold the “Bucks County, USA” event on campus. “We knew it would be a big crowd, so there may be a bit of tension. But it was a PBS

crowd, so I thought, ‘we’re good!’” said Jones.

Things quickly changed as the event came closer, and security issues arose within a short time frame prior to the screening.

“Sasser was asking for bomb-sniffing dogs. Their threat assessment was higher than ours. For all I know, this guy is a hack, but what if he’s right? I decided it wasn’t worth the risk,” said Jones.

Jones’ decision ultimately was based on the threat assessment Sasser had provided, and the safety of the students. “We didn’t cancel because of who anyone is or what they believe,” Jones said, “I would rather people be upset with me than have people get harmed.”

Philadelphia PBS station WHYY and the show’s director, Robert May, were called and emailed directly about the newly communicated security assessment and reasoning for cancellation.

With misinformation circulating on the internet, Jones reiterated, “I didn’t shut this down because of what some people are claiming on social media. This

had nothing to do with politics. I want the community to stop tearing itself apart.”

Jones said the college should remain apolitical and encourage free speech: “I don’t think this (discourse online) damages the college’s reputation as being a haven of freedom of speech,” Jones stated.

The five-part docuseries chronicles the left-right political divide that emerged in Bucks County following the pandemic. The pre-release screening at Bucks was to be moderated by PBS NewsHour senior correspondent Judy Woodruff.

The screening was rescheduled for the evening of Tuesday, Sept. 15 at the Hi-Way Theatre in Jenkintown

The event held around 300 people, and the first two episodes, “The Outbreak” and “Petri Dish,” were played as scheduled. Later, during the panel discussion, due to lax ground rules set by the producers and organizers, a few audience members led a heated critique of Paul Martino’s involvement within the docuseries.

According to WHYY, May stated that “When we judge people, when we first see them, ... we have no idea what it’s like to walk in their shoes” and urged people to watch all five episodes to “completely understand the arc.”

Around Bucks

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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.

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Staff Meeting - Thursdays
12:30 p.m - 1:15 p.m.

“Tears for Freedom:” A Memorial of Sept. 11, 2001

Simon Kovalcheck

Centurion Staff

A memorial was held at Bucks’ Newtown campus around the “Tears for Freedom” fountain to honor the 25 th anniversary of the tragedies that occurred Sept. 11, 2001, that reshaped lives, futures, and politics.

The Tears for Freedom fountain was completed on July 16, 2002, designed by Mark P. Grisi, the former director of Physical Plant and is “Dedicated To All Who Have Suffered in the Name of Freedom...”: A tangible reminder of the great wound dealt to our nation.

It was recently the center of a beautiful event of remembrance for the 2,977 people lost on that terrible day and the people we continue to lose because of illnesses related to those awful events.

There at the fountain, President and CEO of Bucks, Dr. Patrick M. Jones, spoke about the tremendous loss of that day, and faculty members took turns reading each of the names of the 18 people from Bucks County who were killed on Sept. 11:

Michael A. Bane of Yardley, Lorraine Bay of Langhorne, James P. Berger

of Lower Makefield, Jeffrey M. Chairnoff of Lower Makefield, Peter Chirchirillo of Langhorne, William R. Godshalk of Yardley, Donald G. Havlish, Jr. of Yardley, Donald W. Jones of Fairless Hills, William H. Kelly, Jr. of Lower Makefield, Joseph Lostrangio of Langhorne, Louis Nacke of New Hope, Joshua Reiss of Lower Makefield, John Michael Rodak of Southampton, Victor Saracini of Yardley, Larry Senko of Lower Makefield, William Steiner of Solebury, Sandra Wright of Langhorne, and Barbara A. Shaw of Bensalem.

The reading of the names was followed by a moment of silence. 18 white roses were also placed on the wall of the fountain and after each name was read, the card with their respective name was carefully tucked under the roses.

While the people we lost and the pain inflicted will stay with the families, friends and this country forever, we can make sure to, as Dr. Jones told me, “Never forget them,” and we can remember the as Assistant Director of Communications, Jean Dolan, described as a very solemn day.

May we all, regardless of our differences, unite and



Photo Courtesy of Simon Kovalcheck

remember all those lives lost on Sept. 11 in New York City, at the Pentagon and in Shanksville, PA, and may we honor the courage of all those who gave their lives trying to rescue others from the aftermath of the attacks.

For all those interested in finding out more about the 18 Bucks County residents lost, please follow the link to the Garden of Reflection 9/11 Memorial in Yardley: www.9-11memorialgarden.org.

Backlash Amidst new DUO Security Switch



Photo Courtesy of Gavin Galante

Brianna Glassey

Editor in Chief

The start of the fall semester is sure to bring challenges to students and faculty alike, but the transition to Duo Security has brought new frustrations across campus.

The first day of classes, Aug. 26, brought an unanticipated issue to Bucks’ Newtown Campus in the form of a new log in system across all college resources.

New and returning students were unable to access their courses on Canvas

or their school emails, and faculty struggled to access course materials for introductory classes.

Some students faced disruption on personal set up and in class. Zac Crain, film and photography major, says “it f---ng sucks.”

“They had to call tech because my professor was unable to login. The first hour of class was delayed,” Crain continued.

The new tech requires everyone to have a secondary source of authentication, via phone, biometric identification, or USB key provid-

ed only through Bucks.

“It’s time consuming in class since no one is logging in the same way,” said Ava Fife, a journalism major.

“Having to pull out your phone to login every time is so disruptive,” said Gus Clancy, a journalism major.

The additional safety precaution of having to authenticate using a phone is a cause of concern amongst the students.

Some have noted worry about their phones dying and without a charger, they’d be locked out of all core systems.

Many students note its inconvenience being exaggerated by the fact it was rolled out with poor timing. Though Bucks started the migration to DUO in July, some had already been unable to access their emails.

There were some students, however, who had no notable issue with DUO and its new measures besides setting it up initially.

With the rising threat of cybercrime, Bucks is hoping DUO protects over 6,650 students, faculty, and staff who’ve registered in the new program.

“We recognize the issues that the shift to DUO Security has caused. Anytime we implement a system change for the entire college community, there are inevitably inconveniences, and we appreciate everyone’s patience and understanding,” a press release from Bucks stated.

With time, students and faculty will adapt to the new changes. Bucks encourages anyone who cannot use the DUO application on their phones to submit a ticket to help.desk@bucks.edu for aid in troubles or to receive a personal USB key.

Around Bucks

The Cost of Conflict: How the Iran War and Gas Prices are Affecting Students Here at Bucks



Photo Courtesy of Wikimedia Commons

Gus Clancy
Centurion Staff

As the war with Iran continues to dominate national news coverage, Bucks’ students are concerned about rising gas prices amidst the international conflict.

In March, the Strait of Hormuz, a key shipping route on the border of Iran, closed and caused oil and gas prices to rise. According to CNN on Sept.1., 2026, the price of crude oil is \$94.85 per barrel. The lowest in the last 52 weeks was \$59 a barrel.

A select number of students were interviewed, and

many had a negative opinion on the war.

Alice Borrero, a theatre major from Morrisville, does not drive her car to campus, but says “I think the war is stupid.”

Kyle Camino, a dual enrolled nursing major from Fallsington, believes the extensivity of the war has been going on “way too long.”

Jennifer Tran, a student guest from Warrington agreed the war was protracted. “I just want this s—t o be over,” Tran said.

Jackson Gottlie, an art major who resides in Newtown expressed a similar view as Tran.

The negative view of the war the students hold is not limited to Bucks: A Reuters/Ipsos found that 78 percent of Americans wanted the war over in early June, while another Reuters/Ipsos poll on Aug. 24. found that only 31 percent of Americans supported the war.

Students also spoke on the moral aspect of the war: “Lives are at stake,” Tran said, “the U.S. has poured so much into it, it’s excessive,” Gottlie stated.

Most students interviewed didn’t follow the developments of the war closely, like Terunt Wojcik, a dual enrolled student from

Levittown, when asked if he stayed up to date with the war he replied, “Hell nah.”

The most concerning impact of the war to students was the raising gas prices which directly affected their daily routines and commutes.

Joyce Pero who is a general studies major from Pipersville says, “It’s affected my commuting because even though my truck takes so many miles, still having to pay that extra money effects my budget.”

Since the closure of the strait, students have felt the economic effects closer to home.

Midterms are around the corner, and voting is an important duty where citizens can voice their concerns on national conflicts.

When students were asked if they participate in voting, five out of the six said they would vote with the current war being a factor.

Some students, like Borrero, don’t vote but are against the current war.

Although most students interviewed admitted they do not closely follow the news, most still feel the impact in their wallets and their concerns with the human cost.

Comics by Connor:

Sports

A New Era Begins for Bucks Women’s Soccer



Photo Courtesy of Regan Kelso

Regan Kelso
Centurion Staff

This year marks the first varsity season in two years for Bucks’ women’s soccer team and newly appointed Head Women’s Soccer Coach, Jose Torres, has big aspirations for the Centurions this year and years to come.

After some new additions, there are high hopes coming into the 2026 season. “We’ve added some key transfer students with Division II and Division III experience, and that will make a major difference in both leadership and the level of play on the field,” Torres said.

Along with these key components, the bar set for this year to compete every

game.

Establishing a strong identity and culture is at the top of Torres’s priority list. “Our overall goal this season is to establish Bucks Women’s Soccer as a program that student-athletes genuinely want to be part of,” Torres stated.

With this being their first year back, laying the groundwork is crucial for success in the future. Team culture off the field is very important to the success the team has on the field. “We want to create a culture built on accountability, hard work, support, and pride in representing Bucks,” Torres said.

After early observations, Torres expresses that what has stood out the most is the growing sense of account-

ability within the group.

Preseason for all athletes, collegiate and high school, is always a stressful time filled with lots of hard work and packed schedules, but for Torres, preseason has provided a sense of satisfaction.

“You can see the chemistry beginning to develop, and the overall pace and intensity of our training sessions has continued to improve,” Torres said.

With 2026 being a rebuilding year, seeing this progress is quite encouraging for both Torres and the team.

While most teams consider their biggest strengths finishing or defending, Buck’s women’s soccer team have something far more valuable.; sheer heart

and commitment.

According to Torres, “everyone has come in focused, motivated, and wanting to see this team succeed.”

At the core, this group has three pillars built to maximize their success: Passion, pride, and purpose.

“We want to play with passion, take pride in representing Bucks, and have a purpose behind everything we do,” Torres stated.

Torres isn’t new to coaching and he isn’t new to Bucks. Bucks has been a critical part of his career as he spent the last four years working alongside Head Coach Justin Burroughs of the Men’s Soccer team. Torres attributes Burroughs to being a role model in his journey to becoming the head coach on the women’s

side.

Although this is his inaugural year with the women’s team, Torres is extremely excited.

“What excites me most is the opportunity to build something that has a lasting impact. I want our players to look back on their time here and feel proud that they helped establish the foundation of Bucks Women’s Soccer,” Torres stated.

This is an exciting year for the Bucks’ women’s soccer team who seems to have a strategy for success prepared to tackle this season head on.

Between the pride, heart, and commitment that has gone into preseason, the Centurions are becoming a strong competitor.

A Loss for the Centurion Women’s Soccer Team



Photo Courtesy of Regan Kelso

Regan Kelso
Centurion Staff

It was a disappointing day for the Centurions Women’s Soccer team after a devastating 12-1 defeat to Kean Jersey City.

The women’s team traveled to Jersey City to face off against Kean for the first

official game for Bucks in two years. After a two-year hiatus and only having 12 players, the Centurions knew this game was going to be a tough battle.

The Kean Jersey City Cougars quickly went up by six goals in the first half. With two minutes left in the first 45 minutes, Alyssa

Smith was able to put the Centurions on the scoreboard.

A brilliant through ball from Lauren Overbeck assisted Smith. Overbeck was able to beat Kean’s backline allowing Smith to have a clean breakaway. After sprinting past Kean’s defense,

Smith was one on one with the goalkeeper. She was able to swiftly move past her and slot it into the net.

The Centurions fought hard for the full 90 minutes on the clock. Kean was able to capitalize on 12 goals, but the Bucks team finished out the game strong.

Following the game, Coach Torres commented on who his offensive MVP and defensive MVP was for the game.

Torres said, “Our offensive MVP would have to be Alyssa Smith.

Continued on page 5...

Around Bucks

A Loss for the Centurion Women's Soccer Team

Continued from page 4...

She scored the lone goal and she was the first to score for Bucks Women's Soccer after not having a team for the past two years."

Alyssa Smith, despite the loss, was full of pride. Not just in herself for getting her name on the scorecard, but for the team as a whole. Smith says, "Everyone pushed to their personal limits, but not for themselves, for the team. Everyone was

selfless and played until the last whistle."

Smith left off with an inspirational quote by saying, "Play tired. Fall seven times, get up eight." Smith demonstrated that resilience throughout the whole game.

Following the game Torres also stated, "Our defensive MVP would absolutely be Overbeck. She was rock solid in the back and she consistently had excellent defensive plays."

Overbeck was consistent-

ly being put under pressure by Kean's offensive line, and she stayed calm and collected every time.

After the game, Overbeck said "We set a standard today but next time we are going above that standard."

This group of women have just come together and this was their first game together. They set the bar for the rest of the season. Overbeck left some parting words for the team by saying "just believe and don't

give up even when you're down."

Coach Torres and the Centurions will use this game as an opportunity to improve. Despite an unfortunate loss, the Bucks Women's Soccer team showed admirable perseverance.

They weren't just playing for themselves; they were playing for all 12 girls wearing a Centurions jersey and a sense of pride for being able to represent Bucks for the first time in two years.

The Centurions next match is against Manor College on Thursday. After finishing their first game, they know now what they need to do to execute for the next match.

As Overbeck said, they will be going above and beyond to make Bucks Women's Soccer a tough match for any team they face this season.

Staying Safe around Solicitors on Campus

Gus Clancy

Centurion Staff

As midterms near and solicitors visit Bucks, Executive Director of Security & Safety, Mark Goldberg, and Director of Student Engagement and Leadership, Chris Seifert, explain how students should handle solicitation and remain safe with unaffiliated visitors on campus.

On Sept. 28, there will be an official voter registration week, "this is a big election and we want our students to be informed and eligible to vote," Seifert said, "there's a lot of issues and people care about a lot of things, (so they should vote)."

Seifert notes how "percentages can be very low" for voting, especially among students from 18 years old into their 20s.

However, Seifert is focused on involving students; making sure students are safe with their personal information when groups come onto campus is a priority.

With voter registration, "there's no need to fill out

physical forms to register to vote" states Seifert, and to not "fill out paper forms provided by solicitors."

Pennsylvania's 1st district, which encompasses all of Bucks County, is defined as a "swing district," according to the CBS News.

This means Bucks County is used as a thermometer of how an election can side, and incurs significant political affiliated solicitation.

When an outside organization comes, it must bring its own materials. According to Policy 1.31, these groups are allowed on the "Quad grassy areas, area outside the Linkz Pavilion, area surrounding the Creation Pole."

If a student "is not sure of something or feels like someone shouldn't be here," Seifert says they should inform a staff member.

The Security & Safety department emphasized that Bucks' campus is considered "open," and allows visitors to enter common areas with no need to request access.

In the same policy, Bucks emphasizes their support for free speech and peaceful



Photo Courtesy of Zac Crain

assembly.

"There are no permit requirements for visitors," stated Goldberg, but Seifert explained that if visitors would like to coordinate with him, to "have a cordial relationship with them [and] do what's best for the students."

Goldberg stated that if a disturbance is reported to Security & Safety, they will make sure to investigate as their goal is to keep the college community and our

campuses safe and secure at all times.

Seifert specifically deals with planning before an event happens and handles logistics for those events. When someone comes to the campus and notifies him, Seifert tries to make sure there aren't too many groups on campus at once.

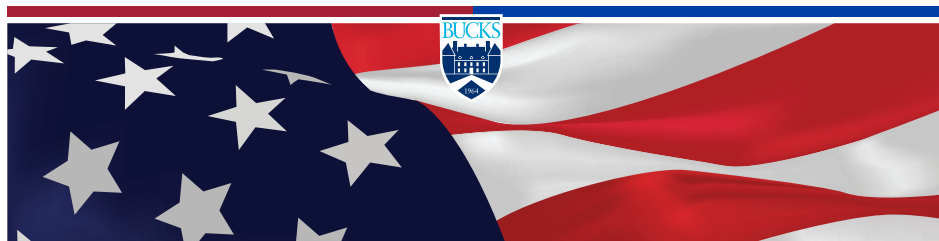
"Any group can show up," said Seifert, but they should have a designated location for their event.

Bucks does not provide

outside groups with items like tables and chairs, so groups must bring their own materials.

Seifert and Goldberg encourage students to inform them if there seems to be a potential disturbance or an unsafe and uncomfortable situation.

Security & Safety will investigate and take appropriate action, as Student Affairs can only deal with the logistics aspect.



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www.usa.gov/confirm-voter-registration

*How to confirm your voter registration status
*Do you need to re-register or change your registration?



How to register to vote online:

<https://www.pavoterservices.pa.gov/pages/VoterRegistrationApplication.aspx>

DEADLINE ALERT: If you plan to vote by mail-in ballot in the 2026 GENERAL ELECTION, your completed application must be received in the county office by 5:00 p.m. on 10/19/2026.



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THURS., SEPT. 17



The 1926 Centennial Titans of Jazz: Chasing Trane
12:15 p.m.
Zlock Performing Arts Center

THURS., OCT. 1



The 1926 Centennial Titans of Jazz: Miles Davis Quintet in Juan-les-Pins
12:15 p.m.
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THURS., NOV. 5



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Cash Prizes at Bucks’ Ninth Annual Short Fiction Contest

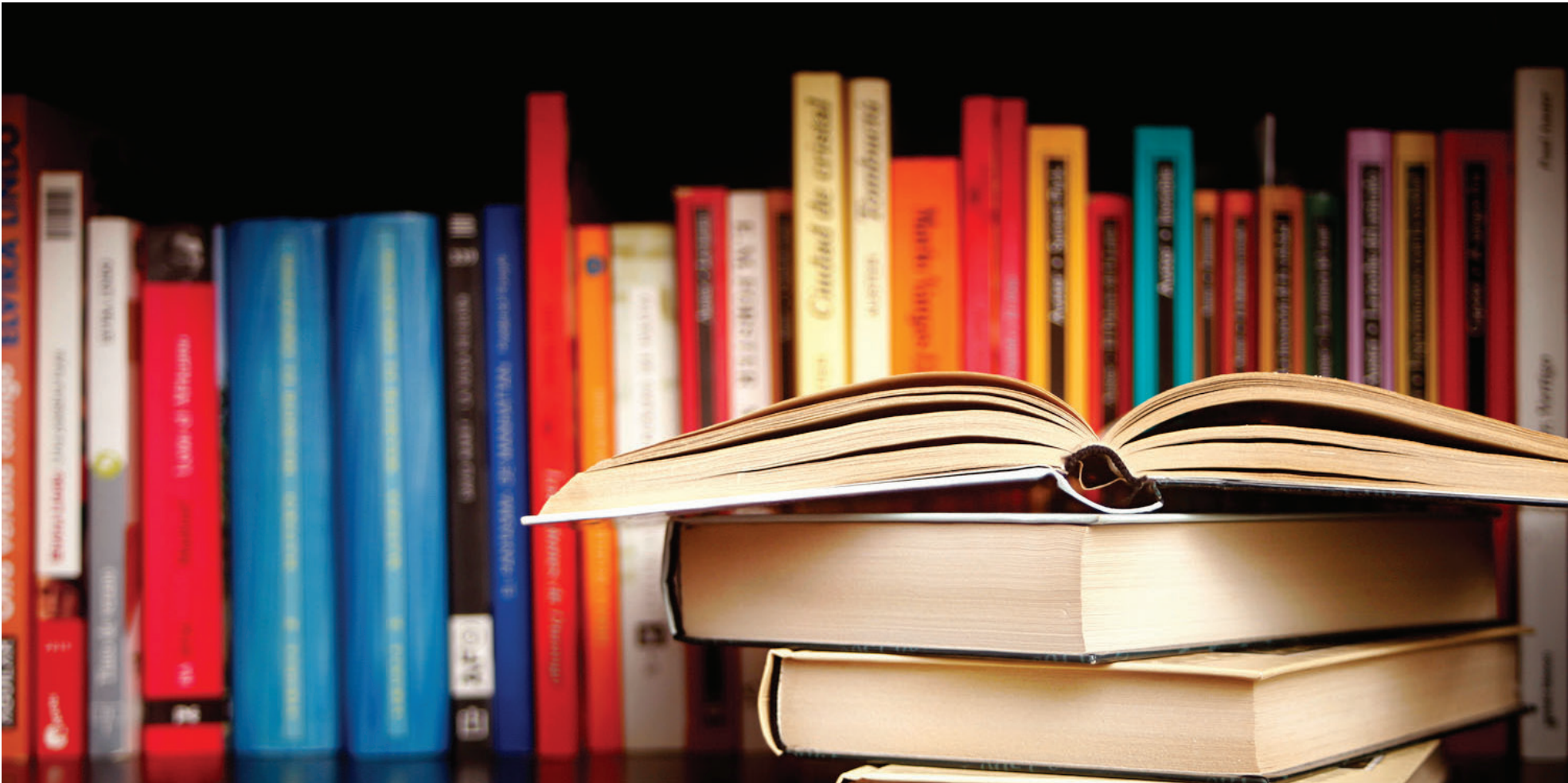


Photo Courtesy of Bucks’ Website

Jayden Torres
Centurion Staff

Best-selling Novelist, Dennis Tafoya, author of “Dope Thief” and many other crime novels, will be the final judge for the ninth annual Bucks County Short Fiction Contest and the top three writers will be given \$50-200 in prize money.

The cash prizes for the three winners are \$200 for first place, \$100 for second place, and \$50 for third place. Alongside the cash prizes, winners also get the honor to read

with Tafoya, in November at the Newtown Campus.

The contest is free and deadlines for submissions is Thursday, Oct. 8, at 12 p.m., however, there are requirements for both the applicants and the stories.

To enter as an applicant, you must be a Bucks County resident and 18 or older.

The first rule of story entries states that it must be an original short story that has never been online before or published (including blogs), and fanfiction isn’t allowed.

The second and third

rules pertain to formatting, title placement, and identifying information.

The fourth is that stories must be entered electronically.

The fifth is complete prohibition of AI in any way.

When asked if she is worried about AI slipping through the contest, director and founder of the contest, Professor Luciano, stated that, “of course there’s always a concern about AI.”

“There are some ‘tells’ that often show up in material that’s been generated by

AI. So, it’s more recognizable than you might think,” Luciano continued, stating that there is not typically much evidence of AI use within the contests, so there isn’t much concern.

For applicants curious about what else they can look forward to, “many long-time entrants show up at the awards event, to hear the winning stories and celebrate with the winners. Over the past almost-decade, we’ve really grown a supportive community of writers,” Luciano encour-

aged.

This brings the final rule; all winning stories are published onto Bucks’ website.

The official contest website stresses to all applicants to make sure you are comfortable with this if you choose to enter.

Any genre of story is allowed in this contest; popular ones seem to be dystopian and science fiction. The celebration event for the contest will be Saturday, Nov. 21, at 1 p.m.



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