

# BUCKNELL

SPRING 2024

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Unleashing  
Creativity in the  
New Era of  
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BY WAY OF BUCKNELL

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**LET THE SUNSHINE IN**  
Sunbeams cast a warm glow as  
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into spring.

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# PATHWAYS



FROM INTERNING  
IN AUSTRALIA

to

BUSINESS CONSULTING  
IN LEWISBURG

by SARAH DOWNEY '25

Ben Fink '24 arrived at Bucknell with a passion for the environment and an eagerness to make an impact. He took action by co-founding a Bucknell chapter of Epsilon Eta, an environmental honors society, and immersing himself in experiential learning opportunities as an intern with the Office of Campus Sustainability and as a member of Bucknell Student Government's Sustainability Committee.

Encouraged by his mentor, Professor Andrew Stuhl, environmental studies & sciences, Fink enrolled in an environmentally focused study abroad program in Byron Bay, Australia, his junior year. While there, he secured an internship with 4 Pines Brewing Company and learned about sustainable brewing using locally sourced ingredients.

Eager to apply what he had learned abroad, Fink contacted Rob Antanitis of Civil War Cider in Lewisburg to see if he would collaborate on a low-waste beverage. Together, they developed Misfit Mashup Hard Cider, which is made from "ugly fruit" — produce that would otherwise be thrown out because it's not attractive enough to be sold in grocery stores.

The beverage, which made its debut at the cidery in December, factors in every environmental impact, from emissions produced collecting fruit at local orchards to how much energy the storage freezer uses. "Bucknell gave me the ability to study in Australia and bring back what I learned to help support the local economy and create good vibes in the community," Fink says. "It strengthened my interest in pursuing a career in sustainability."



photograph by EMILY PAINE







## LETTERS

### THE CASE FOR EQUITY

**I WAS PLEASED TO SEE** an entire section of the Summer 2023 *Bucknell Magazine* dedicated to advancing equity (“Creating an Inclusive, Equitable Community”), and I enjoyed reading President John Bravman’s letter (“Our Commitment to Equitable Access and Outcomes”).

As someone who came to Bucknell from a rural foreign-language school outside the U.S., only to realize just how underprepared I was compared to some of my peers, I can personally relate to the case for equity. So-called “academic merit” more often than not is a reflection of the opportunities a prospective student has had to get to where they are, which tells me there needs to be a

better way to define their true potential — one beyond academic performance.

The benefit of diversity, equity and inclusion for the University, its students and the advancement of our society as a whole is clear. I am glad Bucknell is leading the way to ensure underrepresented students not only have a shot at getting in but also thrive there, regardless of where they happen to come from.

I hope the students are experiencing positive change in this area, and if not, that they demand more progress to be made.

**MASHA ZHDANOVA '13**  
*Amsterdam*

## SOCIAL PULSE

The Bucknell community engages with our stories online

The Fall 2023 issue included the story of **Peter '05** and **Caroline Robbins Gale '05** (“Stronger Together”). In 2021, they learned their young son suffers from a rare genetic disorder that severely impacts his coordination and motor skills. The Gales found solace and support within the Bucknell community. **Peter P'16** and **Susan Agostini P'16**, parents of **Danielle Agostini Gorospe '16**, have two sons with the same condition. In 2022, the families joined forces to collaborate on fundraising efforts.



**AS THE MOM OF A YOUNG LADY** who deals with several inherited recessive disorders (the main one is cystic fibrosis), I know the sense of community and a shared mission with others in the battle is so important. We are lucky to have established nonprofits that focus on fundraising and assisting families with CF. It’s beautiful that you found another Bucknell family to look to for support and understanding. Our thoughts are with both of your families, and I hope your fundraising helps fund therapies and medications that change your families’ lives.

**MARISA MATASCUSA LAW '90, P'21**  
*Harleysville, Pa.*

Wow! Love this story. Amazing how much has been accomplished by the parents. Very lucky boys!

**LINDA JACKSON '68**  
*Hilton Head Island, S.C.*

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Sam Nana-Sinkam '10 digs into a new venture to find a new purpose.

*Photo by April Bartholomew*

Lyric Abdul-Rasheed '26 expands her scientific knowledge to grow her business.

*Photo by Emily Paine*



## DOUBLE VISION

**PICTURE THIS:** You're the editor of *Bucknell Magazine*, and your talented editorial team produces two strong covers. Each one captures an extraordinary individual who embodies an entrepreneurial spirit nurtured at Bucknell. One showcases an esteemed alumnus who is venturing into a new endeavor, motivated to make the world a better place. The other features a current student who is a rising star, bursting with creativity and ambition.

As we deliberated, a realization dawned upon us. We had a unique opportunity to celebrate both Bucknellians while emulating their innovative spirit and their willingness to experiment and take risks.

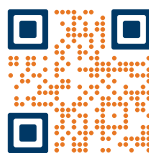
And so, the Spring 2024 issue of *Bucknell Magazine* has two covers. Half our audience is receiving a magazine featuring **Sam Nana-Sinkam '10** on the cover. Nana-Sinkam is part of the feature "Redefining Entrepreneurship" (P. 18). After a successful career at Target and then at Google, Nana-Sinkam decided to pursue a different path in sustainable agriculture. His new focus is on increasing access to nutritious food while ensuring future generations can live within a healthy environment.

The other half of our audience is receiving a magazine with **Lyric Abdul-Rasheed '26** on the cover. Abdul-Rasheed, featured in "Dream Funding" (P. 14), embodies the Bucknellian "do more" spirit. The chemical engineering major is advancing her scientific understanding so she can create best-in-class cosmetics. She handles every function of her start-up — from product formulation to marketing to order fulfillment — and in 2024, became the first student to hold office space in Bucknell's Small Business Development Center's StartUp Lewisburg business incubator.

Visit our online magazine to see both covers and share your thoughts with us.

**Katie Neitz**, Editor  
[k.neitz@bucknell.edu](mailto:k.neitz@bucknell.edu)

Scan to see our  
digital edition!



## BUCKNELL

magazine

Volume 17, Issue 2

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## COURAGE UNDER FIRE

**I JUST LOVED** your Fall 2023 issue's cover story, "An Explosive Revelation," about **Kevin Fitzgerald '84**. What an inspiring alum! Your story provides a real overview of Fitzgerald's life and character, and I love the quote it ends on from him: "I'm a much more spiritual person ... a happier person." Looking forward to your next issue.

**SIOBHAN MURRAY '15**  
*Corvallis, Ore.*



# Literary Liberty

**Novelist Jodi Picoult discussed the intersection of literature and politics at the Bucknell Forum**

by MATT JONES

New York Times bestselling author Jodi Picoult spoke about the surge of book bans — including the removal of 20 of her own titles from Florida schools — in Bucknell's 2023-24 Forum series on "Freedom of Expression." Picoult, known for addressing racism, assisted suicide, LGBTQ rights, school shootings and the death penalty in her work, engaged in a conversation with President John Bravman at the Weis Center for the Performing Arts in January. She captivated the audience with insights into the links between writing, activism, advocacy and education.

The Bucknell Forum speaker series continued with award-winning writer, activist and *New York Times* bestselling author George M. Johnson, who spoke on campus Feb. 27. The final speaker of this year's series was Academy Award-winning actor and activist Jane Fonda, who addressed the campus community March 19.

➔ [Learn more about the events at bucknell.edu/forum](https://bucknell.edu/forum)



▲ Jodi Picoult spoke with President John Bravman during the Bucknell Forum.



▲ The author engaged with students in a creative writing class.

## President Bravman Joins Council on Competitiveness

by MATT JONES

**BUCKNELL PRESIDENT JOHN BRAVMAN** has been invited to join the Council on Competitiveness, a national nonprofit organization that unites business, academic, government and labor leaders to develop a nonpartisan agenda that enhances the economic competitiveness and productivity of the United States.

"The Council on Competitiveness recognizes the critical role of higher education in meeting the challenges and needs of an increasingly diverse workforce and evolving economic landscape," says Bravman. "I am passionate about the enduring value of the liberal arts as a foundation for professional success and honored to share this perspective as a member of the council. This distinguished group represents a wide variety of public and private sector interests with a common goal, and I look forward to gaining new insight that will help inform how Bucknell prepares future generations of leaders."

The council has a general membership of roughly 80 academic and business leaders and maintains partnerships with universities, corporations and national labs throughout the country. Bravman's reputation as a highly respected academic and one of the longest-serving presidents at Bucknell, an institution that has a rich tradition in the liberal arts while embracing a forward-thinking culture of innovation, positions him as a leader who can bring unique value to the council.

## NEWS TICKER

### BIG IN BUSINESS

The Freeman College of Management is one of just three business or management programs from U.S. institutions to be named a Principles for Responsible Management Education Champion for 2024-25 by the United Nations. The college also ranked No. 20 overall and third among Pennsylvania institutions in a national ranking of undergraduate management programs by *Poets&Quants for Undergrads*.

### WE MEAN GREEN

In the Princeton Review's Top 50 Green Colleges ranking, Bucknell moved up 15 spots to No. 25. Bucknell was also recognized by the *University Herald* as one of 14 campuses "leading the charge in conservation and sustainability."

### NO SURPRISES

Bucknell joined the College Cost Transparency Initiative, a coalition of more than 360 institutions committed to following a set of principles that ensure transparency, clarity and understanding around student financial aid offers. Bucknell's participation demonstrates its dedication to providing students and families upfront, accurate and clear information to help them make informed decisions.



# 'burg and Beyond

In Lewisburg and far afield, Bucknellians make a positive and palpable difference



## Lewisburg

As a fellow with Geisinger Health System, Professor Benjamin Wheatley, mechanical engineering, is working with AposHealth to deliver an innovative, non-invasive, drug-free treatment for patients with knee pain and conditions such as osteoarthritis.

## What They Did

Apos developed biomechanical footwear — a shoe patients wear for an hour a day while going about their routine.

From most angles, it appears to be a typical sneaker. But look at the sole, and you'll see two convex cushions. The discs improve the alignment of users' muscle forces and their gait, which takes pressure off their knees while training them to walk with better form. The result is diminished pain and decelerated joint damage.

## The Benefit

While Wheatley conducts plenty of biomechanics-related

research in his campus lab, he says working on the Apos device is rewarding because it's improving people's quality of life. "I'm using my biomechanic expertise to educate physicians on how the device works and why it's beneficial so we can get more patients to use it," he says. "So while I'm interested in the device as a research project and how we can apply its principles to other muscular-skeletal conditions, for me, being able to help patients is really cool."

## The Outcome

Recently published clinical data shows that among people eligible for a knee replacement, 89% of patients using the Apos device have still not had a knee replacement after six years. Typical surgical avoidance rates would be only 10 to 15%. The treatment is available to Geisinger patients in central and northeast Pennsylvania.

— Mike Ferlazzo and Megan Collins '24



## Coal Township, Pa.

In 2022, Reece Pauling '24, an environmental studies and critical Black studies double-major, launched a horticultural therapy program at the State Correctional Institution in Coal Township to equip incarcerated individuals with gardening skills that can help with their post-release reintegration. The benefits of the program extend beyond the prison walls. The flowers grown are donated to residents of local nursing homes and rehabilitation centers.

## Measuring Results

This past fall, Christa Starghill '24, a psychology and women's & gender studies double-major, collaborated with Pauling to study the project's impact. She found that the garden not only changed the prison's environment, but it also improved individuals' mental health. "One man told me that he became more grounded and calm after working in

the garden," she says. "The garden lightens the atmosphere of the entire prison. It's cultivating beauty everybody benefits from."

## Future Focus

Pauling and Starghill, who plan to submit their research findings for publication, see their work as a small component in what needs to be a larger endeavor. "The prison system needs a lot of work, and this project is only scratching the surface," Starghill says. "Yet, it was refreshing to witness this program making such

a positive difference in the inmates' lives and the inimical environment." As Starghill and Pauling prepare to graduate this spring, they hope to identify other students interested in carrying the project forward.

— Sarah Downey '25



Learn more about Bucknellians who have engaged in educational programming with the corrections system at [magazine.bucknell.edu/issue/winter-2019](https://magazine.bucknell.edu/issue/winter-2019)



Professor Benjamin Wheatley, mechanical engineering, is helping physicians understand how an innovative knee-pain treatment can improve patient care.



# Bucknell Names New Provost

by MIKE FERLAZZO

**IN FEBRUARY**, Bucknell President John Bravman announced Wendy Sternberg as the University's incoming provost. Sternberg, who has served as vice president for academic affairs and dean of the college at Occidental College since July 2017, brings a wealth of experience to her new role.

Her tenure of nearly seven years at Occidental, coupled with her prior roles as the dean of academic departments and programs at Union College from 2013 to 2017 and as associate provost at Haverford College from 2008 to 2012, resonated strongly with the Bucknell students, faculty and staff who participated in the selection process.

"In an extremely competitive field of candidates, Wendy's combination of administrative experience and deep commitment to the liberal arts distinguished her as ideally equipped to guide our academic program and ensure its continued success," Bravman says.

Throughout her career, Sternberg has demonstrated steadfast advocacy for interdisciplinary education, a commitment to decision making rooted in data and equity, and a dedication to fostering inclusive campus environments that honor the dignity of every individual.

Sternberg earned a bachelor's degree in psychology from Union College and both a master's and doctor-



ate degree in psychology from UCLA, where she was also a postdoctoral fellow in the Department of Psychiatry and Biobehavioral Sciences. Her research program on the psychobiological underpinnings of pain served as a training ground for hundreds of undergraduate students and contributed important conceptual findings to the field.

"I'm delighted to be joining the Bucknell community. Bucknell is an institution I have long admired for its commitment to the liberal arts

▲ Wendy Sternberg will join Bucknell as the University's next provost in July.

in all forms and its emphasis on preparing students for lives and careers of meaning and purpose," Sternberg says. "I look forward to working with Bucknell's faculty, students and staff in ushering in the University's next chapter."

Sternberg's anticipated start date is July 1. Interim Provost Margot Vigeant will continue in the role until then.

## FREEMAN COLLEGE DEAN ANNOUNCED

by MIKE FERLAZZO



▲ Michelle Roehm will be Bucknell's next Kenneth W. Freeman Professor & Dean of the Freeman College of Management.

**AFTER AN EXTENSIVE NATIONAL SEARCH**, Michelle Roehm has been selected as the Kenneth W. Freeman Professor and Dean of the Freeman College of Management. Roehm will join Bucknell in July, transitioning from her current role as the interim dean of Wake Forest University's School of Business and holder of the Peter C. Brockway Chair of Strategic Management.

During her tenure at Wake Forest, Roehm managed a 160-person faculty and staff team, oversaw eight degree programs, and earned recognition for her expertise in data and analytics.

A professor at the Wake Forest School of Business since 1997, Roehm served in several leadership roles after joining the school's senior administrative team in 2008, providing strategic direction to academic centers, pre-experience programs and faculty across academic disciplines. She recently led the school's strategic visioning process with business school faculty, staff and the school's Board of Visitors. In 2008, she was named Educator of the Year by Wake Forest's evening MBA students.

"It is a tremendous honor to join the Freeman College of Management as dean," Roehm says. "I look forward to enthusiastically collaborating with students, faculty, staff and members of the larger Bucknell community to carry forward the rich legacy of learning and discovery at the intersection of management education and the liberal arts."

Roehm earned her bachelor's in communications as well as a master's in communications from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. She earned her doctorate in marketing from Northwestern University.

Interim Dean of the Freeman College of Management Cindy Guthrie will continue to guide the college until Roehm's July 1 start date.



# NADIA SASSO '11 TO HEADLINE BUCKNELL'S 174TH COMMENCEMENT CEREMONY

by MIKE FERLAZZO

**Nadia Sasso '11**, an accomplished creative cultural producer and digital storyteller, will deliver the keynote address at Bucknell's 174th Commencement on Sunday, May 12. Sasso develops engaging, cross-platform creative content that uses media as a storytelling tool to connect people around the world. Her work has been recognized by former President Barack Obama and former network news anchor Katie Couric.

Sasso's commitment to furthering inclusivity in the entertainment industry is manifested in her app BlaytorBox, which connects companies, brands and filmmakers to Black, Indigenous and other people of color professionals working in

creative fields. The BlaytorBox project earned her a semifinalist position for the Black Ambition Prize, which provides capital and resources to startups founded by Black and Hispanic entrepreneurs.

Through her entrepreneurial and creative ventures along with her passion for making connections, Sasso has worked with award-winning actress, writer and producer Issa Rae; *New York Times*-bestselling Nigerian-American author Luvvie Ajayi Jones; and award-winning journalist and filmmaker/producer Jose Antonio Vargas. She also has led creative campaigns working with such clients as Viacom, Nielsen, UBS, the Peace Corps and the United



◀ **Nadia Sasso '11**, an innovative storyteller and entrepreneur dedicated to furthering inclusivity in creative fields, will address Bucknell's graduating class May 12.

Nations. She has leveraged her background in diversity, marketing, communications and new media with the White House, the Smithsonian and universities around the world.

"Nadia is a gifted entrepreneur who has combined her talents and liberal arts

education to find exceptional success at the intersection of communication and technology," says President John Bravman. "Her global perspective and passion for social issues will no doubt inspire Bucknell's newest graduates as they embark upon their own careers."

➔ **Sasso appeared on the cover of the Fall 2019 issue of *Bucknell Magazine*. Revisit that story at [magazine.bucknell.edu/issue/fall-2019](http://magazine.bucknell.edu/issue/fall-2019)**



Our curious questions are the essence of Bucknellians' everyday work.

Professor Rajesh Kumar, computer science, and his students research the interaction patterns between smart devices and humans to develop fair and robust layers of security for our smart devices.



▲ **Professor Rajesh Kumar**, computer science

**FACIAL AND FINGERPRINT** recognition offer convenient ways to unlock phones, laptops and tablets. These security features fall into the category of physical biometrics: physiological features

that enable your device to recognize you easily.

However, these methods are not foolproof. The underlying algorithms could be biased, favoring lighter-skinned faces. This can be due to underrepresentation in development teams, implicit biases in data annotation, and the influence of historical imbalances in representation. Relying on one authentication layer — such as facial features alone — makes your device and all the information it contains vulnerable.

The future of device safety lies in creating a layer of security that uses behavioral biometrics. Our unique interactions with devices, such as swiping across

screens, can confirm our identities definitively and in real time.

Embedded sensors in smart devices, such as phones, watches and headsets, can measure the nuances of our movements, touch and typing. Gait analysis, which discerns how we walk, for instance, could usher in a keyless future where drivers unlock their cars with their stride.

By continually assessing the movements of our bodies, behavioral biometrics also promise to improve how we monitor our health. Smart devices can track disruptions to normal patterns, such as Parkinson's, seizures and falls, to develop timely responses from medical professionals.



# From Page to Stage

A professor and former student draw on their artistic talents and cultural connections to transform a children's book into a play

by KATHLEEN PURVIS

**I**t started with a library book Professor Anjalee Deshpande Hutchinson, theatre & dance, read with her daughter. Little did she know it would become a project that's drawn Hutchinson and **Mukta Phatak '18** into a creative partnership that's helping Indian and Pakistani families grapple with a tragic era in world history.

Veera Hiranandani's *The Night Diary*, a chapter book written for fifth- through eighth-graders, tells the story of two children caught up in the Partition, a monumental event in Indian and Pakistani history in 1947. When the British discontinued their control over much of South Asia, the vast territory was divided into two independent countries — Hindu-majority India and Muslim-majority Pakistan — which uprooted

an estimated 18 million people and set off a horrific period of violence that caused at least 2 million deaths. Rarely taught in history classes in America, it's still known as the largest forced human migration in recorded history.

Hutchinson was struck by the story, in which twins Nisha and Amil, born to a Muslim mother who died in childbirth and a Hindu father, are forced to flee with their father to escape imminent persecution. Nisha tells her late mother what's happening by writing in her diary every night, struggling with issues of identity, belonging and home.

## Director Seeks Playwright

As soon as Hutchinson read the book with her daughter, she knew it would make a rich subject for children's theatre. From Anne Frank's *The Diary of a Young Girl* to *To Kill a Mockingbird*, child protagonists have proven to be

powerful messengers in the illustration of some of humanity's most challenging events. "The material is not outside their understanding; we unpack it with them," says Hutchinson, a mother of four. *The Night Diary* is proof of that phenomenon. In 2019, it received a John Newbery honor, one of the most prestigious awards for children's literature.

Hutchinson approached a former colleague, Adam Burke, the artistic director of Children's Theatre of Charlotte (CTC) in North Carolina, about producing the play there. She liked that CTC gives young people credit for being able to understand complex topics.

At first, Hutchinson wanted Phatak to act in the production. With her playful nature and dimpled smile, "she would have made a delightful version of Nisha," Hutchinson says. But after graduating from Bucknell, where Phatak

majoring in theatre, she moved to New York City and joined the Actors' Equity Association theatre union. CTC isn't an Equity theatre, so Phatak couldn't perform there.

Hutchinson then came up with an even better idea: She asked Phatak to write the play. Not only did Phatak have the creative talent to tackle it, but she had a personal connection to the story. Her own family was part of the diaspora uprooted by the Partition. Phatak was eager for the chance to shape a story that reflected her family's history. "Playwriting had always been in the back of my mind," she says. "It was an opportunity I was craving."

Despite delays caused by COVID-19, Hutchinson and Phatak kept at it, getting the play through a weeklong workshop in July 2022, then finally opening in March 2023. Families who came to the play, particularly those of



▲ Mukta Phatak '18 (left) partnered with Professor Anjalee Deshpande Hutchinson, theatre & dance, to bring *The Night Diary* to life on stage.





In March 2023, *The Night Diary* play premiered at the Children's Theatre of Charlotte in North Carolina (above and right). The story details how a young girl who is half-Muslim and half-Hindu searches for a sense of belonging.

South Asian descent, were responsive, often approaching the actors after performances to talk about their own family's experiences. Parents used the opportunity to share something with their children that is difficult to discuss given the generational trauma, though a topic that is hugely important given the historical impact. In the theatre lobby, families stopped by a big map of Pakistan and India that traced the story's journey and used it to show their own family path.

Phatak, who is now working on getting the play produced in other cities, says she's glad she didn't end up acting in it. Using her writing skills and working so closely with Hutchinson, whose family is from the Mumbai area, was a thrill. When Phatak was a student auditioning for Bucknell's theatre program, she says she was stunned to discover the head of the

program was a fellow South Asian woman.

"Anjalee made me feel empowered to use my voice to tell a story that isn't taught in schools here," Phatak says. "Seeing South Asian students attend the performances amongst their non-South Asian classmates made me feel like I was giving them something I didn't have as a kid."

For Hutchinson, the play has been an opportunity to experience her former student in a new light. She stays in touch with her students when they move on, but she rarely gets to work with them.

"I saw the possibilities in her," she says. "But to see and get to work with the artist she has become? This is a gift."



"Anjalee made me feel empowered to use my voice."

Mukta Phatak '18



In fall 2023, an anonymous alumni couple pledged a \$1.65 million gift to provide significant improvements to Kinney Natatorium, the home of Bison men's and women's swimming and diving and water polo teams. The upgrade project will enable Bucknell's student-athletes to practice and compete in first-class facilities.



# A Plot Twist

by BRYAN WENDELL

**AFTER REPETITIVE INJURIES** forced an early end to her 11-year-long gymnastics career at age 14, **Meghan Catherwood '25** could've given up all that twisting and flipping for good. Instead, she made a splash in a different sport: diving.

In March 2023, Catherwood represented Bucknell as a sophomore at the NCAA Zone A Diving Championships, a significant accomplishment that required consistent high-level performances throughout the season. Catherwood was the first Bison diver to qualify in nearly a decade (following **Katie Hetherington '15**, who competed in 2012).

Catherwood was consid-

ered a latecomer to the sport when she transitioned to her Monroe-Woodbury, N.Y., high school diving team as a freshman. Everything that made her successful as a USA Gymnastics Level 9 athlete — strength, control, discipline, focus — carried over to the natatorium.

Still, diving has its own techniques and strategies, so Catherwood needed to become a student of the sport. She developed new skills, practiced landing head first and determined her preferred fulcrum setting to adjust the spring of the board. Catherwood also noticed something that surprised her as she bounced on the springboard above the pool. "I had less fear than I did in gymnastics," she says, "because the landing was a lot softer."

By her sophomore year of high school, Catherwood demonstrated great potential for the sport. As a junior, she medaled at invitational meets and finished 10th in the state. That's when schools like Bucknell took notice.

"It was rewarding to see that all the time I put into gymnastics gave me the ability to dive at a competitive

level that interested Division I schools," she says.

Although Catherwood wasn't able to participate in traditional recruitment visits due to the COVID-19 pandemic, her virtual interaction with diving coach Errol Carter and members of the team made an impactful impression that led her to ultimately choose Bucknell.

"Even though I couldn't actually meet the team in person, it felt like a really welcoming environment and community. My goal had always been to attend an academically challenging school with a great diving program. For me, Bucknell had that perfect combination," says the biology major, who is on a pre-health track. "I felt like this was a place where I could thrive."

Catherwood says her athletic and academic lives have benefited from being part of such a hard-working team. "We are very evenly matched in terms of our skills and our work ethic," she says. "It's fun to work with people who have similar mindsets. We push each other in practice and competition, and it's really special to be a part of."

▲ Meghan Catherwood '25 discovered that her gymnastics training enabled her to plunge into competitive diving.



## INSTANT REPLAY

### PRE-DIVE RITUAL

"I'll visualize the dive and focus on what I need to correct from practice to help me do the dive well in competition."

### DIVE FAIL

"During my first year at Bucknell, I was learning a new dive and landed flat on my stomach. It hurt, but I can laugh about it now that I can do that dive more easily."

### CONQUERING FEAR

"When you dive in the reverse direction — jumping forward and flipping backward — it's scary knowing the board is right there. I've become more comfortable by consistently practicing those dives and pushing through the fear."

### GOALS

"I want to contribute as much to our team as possible, and I'd love to go back to Zones in 2024."



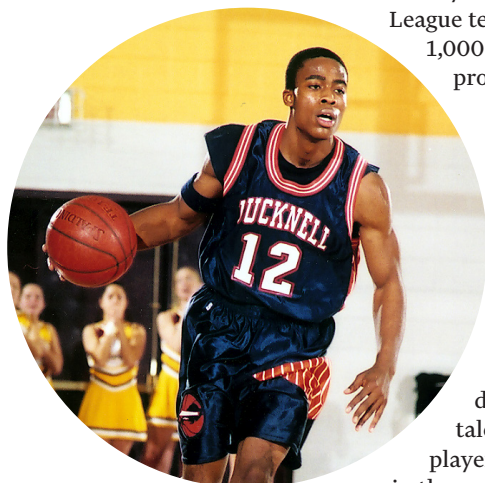
# Bison Ballers

by **BRYAN WENDELL**

Making it to the NBA is a competitive process – and not just for the players. With talent and perseverance, Bison alumni have risen through the ranks to coach some of the sport's top athletes.

## **Bryan Bailey '02, assistant coach, Atlanta Hawks**

Bailey grew up playing basketball and dreamed of going pro. As a high school senior, he walked into the Bucknell athletics office with a VHS tape, asking for a spot on the team. Four years, two All-Patriot League teams and more than 1,000 points later, Bailey proved he belonged.



### **GOING PRO**

Following a 13-year professional career in Europe, Bailey and his brother Mo created a basketball training company near Philadelphia.

Bailey found he loved developing young talent. "Getting to coach players and be immersed in the sport – I just love it," he says. "It never feels like work."

**INSIDE THE JOB** Each NBA assistant coach has a specific role – plays to watch, athletes to develop (one of Bailey's is All-Star Trae Young) and teams to scout. When analyzing an upcoming opponent, Bailey watches that team's five most recent games, scrutinizing 240 minutes of footage and blending his subjective impressions with the objective stats that quantify every action on the court.

## **Ryan Frazier '16, assistant coach, New Orleans Pelicans**

After a Bucknell career that included winning the Patriot League Award of Outstanding Leadership and Character, Frazier entered the world of investment banking in New York. But he realized he needed to pivot.

**GOING PRO** Frazier leveraged his Bucknell network and contacted NBA coach **Charles Lee '06**, who helped him land an internship as an NBA video assistant with the Milwaukee Bucks. It was a foot in the door. An assistant coach took the interns out to dinner and shared a nugget of wisdom: "He told us, 'You guys are here to serve.'" Frazier took it to heart. "At my next job, I said, 'I'm here to serve – whatever anybody needs.' When you have that mentality, people start asking you for help."

**INSIDE THE JOB** Before long, Frazier found himself sitting with the head coach chatting about technical aspects of the game. "That only happens if the coach trusts you," he says. "And he only trusts you because you have a spirit of service." Now with the New Orleans Pelicans, Frazier is the one taking interns to dinner. "I want to help them like coaches have helped me."



## **Bison in the Big League**

*On the court and off, Bucknell alumni bring their bounce to the NBA.*

**J.R. HOLDEN '98**, a standout Bucknell guard, played in Europe before transitioning to an NBA executive role. He's the director of player personnel for the Brooklyn Nets and general manager of the G League's Long Island Nets.

**CHARLES LEE '06** scored 15 points in Bucknell's 2005 NCAA Tournament win. After a playing career in Israel, Belgium and Germany, Lee transitioned to coaching. He's the lead assistant coach for the Boston Celtics.

**MIKE MUSCALA '13**, Bucknell's all-time leading scorer, is a forward-center for the Oklahoma City Thunder. He's played more than 500 games — and counting — across his 11 NBA seasons.

**D.J. MACLEAY '17**, who earned three straight regular-season Patriot League titles and made one NCAA Tournament appearance, is an assistant coach for the Boston Celtics.

**NANA FOULLAND '18**, who played professionally in Europe, is now an Oklahoma City Thunder video analyst.

**ANDREW FUNK '22** was signed by the Chicago Bulls after playing for the Grand Rapids Gold, the Denver Nuggets G League affiliate.

**OOMPA WILLIAMS '14**, a Boston-based rapper, is a halftime performer for the Boston Celtics.

**AUTUMN CEPPI '21**, a former member of the Patriot League All-Defensive Team, is a marketing coordinator for the Boston Celtics.

**LAURA BELTER SHANNON '90** is a member of Wizdom, the Washington Wizards' senior dance crew that features "energetic and seasoned" dancers ages 50-plus.



# Dream Funding

A microgrant program in Bucknell's College of Engineering helps bring 'nifty ideas' to life

by KATE WILLIARD

photography by EMILY PAINE



▲ Chemical engineering major Lyric Abdul-Rasheed '26 is expanding her lip gloss business with support from the Nifty Idea Fund.

**F**or nearly a decade, the Nifty Idea Fund has driven innovation on Bucknell's campus.

Recipients of the fund's \$500 microgrants gain the financial support to purchase essential supplies and equipment that enable them to transform their imaginative concepts into tangible products.

By collaborating within campus makerspaces with other curious, inventive creators, fund recipients have developed an array of diverse projects — including a Tesla coil device that turns electrical sparks into music, a Bernoulli Blower exhibit for the Lewisburg Children's Museum, a heated phone attachment that protects devices and extends battery life in extreme cold, and a blockchain board game.

Each project is as unique as the student who dreams it up. Here are three who took their "nifty idea" and ran with it.

## Lip Lab Alchemy Lyric Abdul-Rasheed '26

**Lyric Abdul-Rasheed '26**, a self-described "lip gloss addict," started Lyric's Lip Candy as a high school senior. In college, she knew she wanted to major in chemical engineering so she could develop a scientific understanding of how to create best-in-class products. "I don't just want to make lip gloss," she says. "I want to know and be able to prove what my product can do to improve my customers' skin."

She handles every function of her start-up — from product formulation to marketing to order fulfillment. From her lab space at her Dover, Del., home, she quickly scaled her product line to include lip scrubs and oils. She received a Nifty Idea grant in 2023 and used the funding to purchase high-quality ingredients and new equipment, including a portable dishwasher and a sanitizing LED light box. Both

help ensure that every step of her process is germ-free.

But the added equipment created a need for more space.

Fortunately, she knew where to turn. "The connections I have made at Bucknell have helped me make tremendous progress in my short time here," says Abdul-Rasheed. "And the Nifty Idea Fund provided the gateway to expand my business."

She leveraged the support of Bucknell's Small Business Development Center. During the fall 2023 semester, Abdul-Rasheed worked through the lengthy process to become the first student to hold office space in their StartUp Lewisburg business incubator. "There were weeks of preparation and meetings," she says. "And I had to satisfy legal requirements to gain this opportunity, including forming an LLC." In January 2024, she formally moved her operation to downtown Lewisburg.

In the classroom, Abdul-

Rasheed is connecting the dots between her product and its underlying scientific properties. "I understand the chemical breakdowns and cell structures that are included in the data sheets for the ingredients I use in my lip gloss," she says. "They're not random compounds anymore — I can identify what I'm looking at."

Abdul-Rasheed says she feels confident that the combination of her academic coursework and Bucknell's expanding entrepreneurial resources will ensure her future success. (Learn about the new Perricelli-Gegnag Center for Entrepreneurship & Innovation on P. 20.)

"I came to Bucknell because I knew it had a strong chemical engineering program," she says. "But the reality is that I'm getting so much more than the foundational chemical knowledge. I'm building my entire business. It's going to be incredible."





The Nifty Idea Fund enabled Thomas Smith '23 to create a sophisticated guitar pedal (above and right) capable of producing a variety of sound effects.

## Sound Shaper

### Thomas Smith '23

Guitarists use pedals to help them produce different sound effects, such as distortion, delay, reverb or wah-wah. Using multiple pedals can expand creative expression, allowing for more creativity and versatility in producing a uniquely customized sound — something that appealed to **Thomas Smith '23**.

"Ever since I started playing at age 12, I've been fascinated by the diverse range of sounds and effects that can be achieved through different pedals," he says.

When he arrived at Bucknell, the computer engineering major started a band and began conceiving what would become a nifty idea. Could he engineer a singular, complex, programmable guitar pedal that would encompass the functionalities of six individual pedals?

Smith used Nifty Idea funding to build a pedal board with six knobs, four switches

and two footswitches. Then he programmed an interface that allows him to readily switch between different configurations. His single pedal enables a guitarist to combine effects, offering a multitude of options for sound shaping and personalization while eliminating the need for multiple pedals.

"The Nifty Idea Fund provided me with a unique opportunity," Smith says. "I never thought I would be able to fully combine my passion for music with my electrical engineering and computer programming skills."

## Tiny but Mighty

### Luke Giugliano '17

**Luke Giugliano '17** spent nearly a year living off-grid in a tiny home he designed and built with support from the Nifty Idea Fund.

The mechanical engineering major applied his knowledge of solar electrical systems, plumbing and



carpentry to build the seven-by-14-foot home on wheels during his senior year at Bucknell. He used a 750-watt solar system to power the house, a 33-gallon tank to generate fresh water for a full-size shower and double-basin sink, and a propane tank to fuel the heating system and stove. The house's amenities included a queen-size bed, rooftop "deck," sky light and composting toilet. "In decent weather, I could go about 10 days without needing any supplies, and then it was usually just a water refill," Giugliano says.

After graduating from Bucknell, Giugliano drove his house from Pennsylvania to Colorado, where he lived in the wilderness on forest service roads. When his now-wife **Chrissy Bendzinski '18** moved west to join him, the couple realized they needed more space and sold the home.

"It was so satisfying to be able to take the house on adventures through the Colorado mountains," he says. "I used what I gained at Bucknell to build something self-sustaining. It was a huge success."



# Changing His Tune

by DAVID PULIZZI '94



▲ Ryan Nach '07 in his New York City studio.

➔ In a world where consumers are barraged with stimuli, it can be hard for a brand to break through the noise. That challenge is what drives **Ryan Nach '07** and lights his creative fires.

Since 2011, Nach has owned and operated his own audio production house, Knock It Out Music, creating short soundtracks for ad agencies and television and film production companies. His work has been used in campaigns by Audi, the NFL and V8, and even led to a collaboration with Snoop Dogg. Nach produced several tracks including “Wheels on the Bus” and “Head Shoulders Knees & Toes” for the rapper’s YouTube series for kids, *Doggyland*. It’s a niche profession far removed from the one Nach initially pursued with his Bucknell accounting degree. After working as a CPA for four years, he decided to make a musical leap.

## How did you get into music production?

In high school, I worked with a friend who was a rapper. He didn’t have any software or a way to record himself. So I bought a cheap computer program and taught myself music production. I didn’t have any formal music education. But I became obsessed with the art of production and arranging.

## With such a pronounced interest in music, why did you study accounting at Bucknell?

There was some part of me that had a pipe dream about a career in music, but it hadn’t really crystallized, and I didn’t see it clearly. Accounting was a solid technical skill, and I was good at math, so it seemed like a good fit.

## How did you transition from accounting to full-time music production?

I felt unfulfilled and wanted to give music a real shot. I think a lot of people feel like changing paths isn’t just a risk but also a waste of a degree, and maybe even a slap in the face to their parents, who may have paid for their education. I needed to overcome those feelings. In June 2011, I formed an LLC, opened a business bank account and launched what became Knock It Out Music. About six months later, I told my parents. At first they freaked out, but then they became supportive. They weren’t wrong in thinking that music was a hard career to break into. But I knew I was going to be able to make a career from it because I wasn’t going to stop until I did.

I don’t regret getting an accounting degree. It helps me manage my company’s finances. But more broadly, Bucknell provided me with a well-rounded education and a place to explore a number of disciplines. I developed strong relationships with other students who also had varied interests. I still tap into that network.

## What’s a project you are particularly proud of?

In April 2020, I collaborated with singers John Thomas and Kevin McCove to create a song called “Saving Us,” which honored the nurses, doctors and EMS workers who were tirelessly helping people during the COVID-19 pandemic. A few news outlets, including *People* magazine and *20/20*, covered it. It was gratifying that it was so well received. I most enjoy making music when it’s a collaboration. Whether it’s for a big brand or to support an important cause, I get an equally satisfying feeling creating something impactful with others.

➔ [Listen to a few of Nach’s creative productions at magazine.bucknell.edu](https://magazine.bucknell.edu)



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**DOWN TO EARTH** SAM NANA-SINKAM '10, FOUNDER OF BLOOM FARM, FINDS HIS COMFORT ZONE

photograph by APRIL BARTHOLOMEW





# Redefining ENTREPRE





After more than a decade at Google, Sam Nana-Sinkam '10 made a dramatic career shift to focus on more meaningful work. Read about his sustainable agriculture venture on P. 22.

At Bucknell,  
entrepreneurship  
isn't a profession.  
It's a mindset.  
One that's resilient,  
adaptable, creative  
and solution  
oriented. It's an  
ethos that thrives  
in every pursuit,  
in any field.  
Discover how  
this dynamic  
entrepreneurial  
spirit has thrived  
— and is now  
poised to grow —  
at Bucknell.

by **GEORGE SPENCER**

photograph by  
**APRIL BARTHOLOMEW**

# NEURSHIP



**T**o solve critical problems and spark meaningful change across any industry, you need innovative thinkers and resourceful problem-solvers. You need people who are versatile, who view challenges as opportunities and don't flinch at risk or adversity. You need the people who, above all, are determined to add value to the world. You need entrepreneurs.

Entrepreneurs are often thought of as business moguls or startup founders. That's a narrow view by Bucknell standards. At Bucknell, creative thinkers eager to forge new paths forward become equipped to not only launch businesses but also to spark change and advance society (see "Beyond Profits," P. 21).

Bucknell has furthered its commitment to entrepreneurship education with the launch of the Perricelli-Gegnas Center for Entrepreneurship & Innovation, made possible by a founding gift from **Scott '94, P'25** and **Susan Gegnas Perricelli '94, P'25**. "We're excited for the ways this new center will connect Bucknell's three colleges and ensure that all students have the opportunity to strengthen critical skills," Sue says. "It will be a hub for entrepreneurship for the entire Bucknell community and a differentiator for Bucknell."

A cross-college team of faculty and administrators has been championing the effort: William Meek, the Campbell Rutledge Jr. and Eleanor Rutledge Chair in Management and Entrepreneurship; Erin Jablonski, associate dean of engineering; Emily Martin, the Ellen P. Williams Associate Professor in Music; Steven Stumbris, director of Bucknell's Small Business Development Center (SBDC); and Sabrina Shankar, associate director of campus activities. Their mission is to bring together and expand Bucknell's entrepreneurial programming to create a cohesive center.

"I believe that 10 years from now, Bucknell will be recognized as a national leader in entrepreneurship," Meek says. "The University's interdisciplinary focus will allow the center to provide guidance, mentorship, networking and experiential learning opportunities for an array of student interests. Bucknell is one of the first liberal arts universities to truly integrate entrepreneurship education and experiential offerings into the curriculum. This ensures that the new center will provide resources for all students."

The Perricelli-Gegnas Center isn't

starting from scratch; it has quite the head start. Bucknell's hallmark entrepreneurial programs include the SBDC's BizPitch Competition, in which students develop ideas for new products and services and pitch their concepts to innovators and leaders to vie for prize money, and Management 101, in which students manage multi-divisional organizations that conduct service



Scott '94, P'25 and Susan Gegnas Perricelli '94, P'25 have provided the initial funding to launch the new Bucknell Perricelli-Gegnas Center for Entrepreneurship & Innovation. "We are fortunate that our grandparents and parents were successful entrepreneurs," Scott says. "Our Bucknell experience was critical in helping us become entrepreneurs and business owners, and we are excited to support the next generation."

projects funded by selling products they create. Additionally, Bucknell's arts leadership minor offers opportunities for students to understand how organizations execute and sustain nonprofit endeavors in the arts.

"Bucknell already has a diverse ecosystem for entrepreneurship with established infrastructure, including the SBDC's community-based business incubators in downtown Lewisburg and nearby Danville," Stumbris says. "The

Perricelli-Gegnas Center will enable us to amplify our existing programs and expand them so we can reach more students and provide a more robust entrepreneurial experience."

In the College of Engineering, Jablonski says engineers who participate in the long-established Nifty Idea Fund (see "Dream Funding," P. 14), which awards up to \$500 to students with ideas for new ventures, will benefit from the interdisciplinary collaborations the center will foster. "Engineers constantly design, optimize and rethink how things are done," says Jablonski. "Under the umbrella of the Perricelli-Gegnas Center, engineers will have the opportunity to co-create with faculty, staff and students from the College of Arts & Sciences, the Freeman College of Management and the greater Bucknell community. The center will bring people together for problem-solving and innovation."

Martin, who runs a consulting company that works with performing artists to facilitate their communication with the public, sees tremendous opportunities for her students. "Artists are known to be creative and take risks," she says. "A management major can learn from a music major how to think outside the box. A management major can help a music major think analytically about their creative practice."

The Freeman College has already taken steps to expand its entrepreneurial offerings. In 2023, the college launched an entrepreneurship minor available to students from all majors plus an entrepreneurship concentration for management & organizations majors. The college will add a fourth entrepreneurial course to its catalog this year, and Meek says additional faculty with entrepreneurial expertise will be hired to support the center's growth.

Meek says he aims to dispel the myth that entrepreneurs are born, not taught. He emphasizes that a robust education combining rigorous coursework and mentorship equips aspiring leaders with essential skills for success. And it offers them a competitive edge over those without formal training.

"At Bucknell, we are being intentional in our efforts to teach students to be thoughtful, systematic and persistent," Meek says. "Our world is full of problems. It's the people who see those problems as opportunities who achieve great things."





# Beyond PROFITS

Entrepreneurs, no matter what field they're in, share a common trait — a proactive, 'I-can-make-things-better' mindset. Meet five alumni who are driving positive change in an array of fields.

## Seizing Every Opportunity

### PETE KADENS '00

**Pete Kadens '00** believes his entrepreneurial spirit got a boost from his mild dyslexia. "My brain works differently," says Kadens, who majored in political science. "I have this nonlinear thought process and an insatiable curiosity."

These traits propelled him through a host of entrepreneurial ventures. In 2008, Kadens founded SoCore Energy, one of the nation's largest solar companies. Six years later, he launched Green Thumb Industries, a cannabis operator valued at \$3.5 billion today.

Kadens is driven by market demands, seeking opportunities where demand surpasses supply. His vision is reflected in his diverse array of ventures: He owns

an engineering company in Pennsylvania, several funeral homes around the country and an acclaimed Honey Butter Fried Chicken restaurant in Chicago.

Kadens caught the entrepreneurial bug in Bucknell's Management 101. "I loved everything about leading a company," he says. "Making money, coming up with new ideas, innovating and making an impact in the community."

This ethos led him in 2021 to establish Hope Chicago, a \$1 billion nonprofit that gives scholarships to economically disadvantaged Chicago teens. He also chairs The Kadens Family Foundation, which provides paths out of poverty through education access.

His advice to future entrepreneurs is to embrace the uncertainty. "Entrepreneurship is never straight up," he says. "The peaks and valleys make it challenging — but also exciting."

Through Hope Chicago, Pete Kadens '00 funds scholarships for Chicago Public Schools graduates and adult family members eager to return to school and update their skills.







## Empowering Leaders

### JOYA DASS '95

**Joya Dass '95** learned an important lesson at Bucknell: She needed to be responsible for her own success. In her sophomore year, she was informed that her tuition bill had not been paid by her parents. Dass hustled and worked with the finance office to obtain loans to fund her education.

“That ended up being an empowering experience. It taught me to set the vision for my life and not be dependent on others,” says Dass, who double-majored in English and psychology. “I think that’s why I’m an entrepreneur. I like having control.”

Dass runs the Women’s Leadership Lab, in which she helps executive-level workers advance their careers. Her flagship coaching initiative, the Samita Lab Mastermind, is a yearlong program focused on helping women with professional growth and public speaking. The experience culminates with each participant presenting a TEDx-style talk on a New York City stage.

Prior to launching her lab, Dass spent two decades as a broadcast journalist. The skills she honed — how to tell a compelling story, communicate succinctly and project confidence — now inform her coaching. “I help women develop the tools to become powerful leaders, realize their goals and command a room.”



Joya Dass '95 developed a coaching business to help women build confidence to thrive professionally and realize their career ambitions.

## Planting Seeds for the Future

### SAM NANA-SINKAM '10

**Sam Nana-Sinkam '10** says studying management at Bucknell “rewired” his brain, teaching him to demand the best from himself while also being true to himself — lessons he says took years to bear fruit.

Nana-Sinkam worked at Target as a business analyst and then at Google, where he led teams specializing in analytics, telecommunications and sporting goods before realizing that career success didn’t equate to career satisfaction.

So in 2022, he veered into an entirely new venture: agriculture. He runs a firm called Third Place (meaning not home and not work, but a place that gives additional value to your life), which practices and promotes sustainable farming. By investing in operations that are environmentally



At Bloom Farm in Oley, Pa., Sam Nana-Sinkam '10 is involved in all operations, including caring for alpacas and llamas.

responsible, socially equitable and economically viable, he aims to increase access to nutritious food while ensuring future generations have a healthy environment. Third Place’s first offshoot is Bloom Farm, a 40-acre property in Oley, Pa., named for his wife, **Sara Bloom '10**. There, Nana-Sinkam is developing an agroforestry system that integrates trees, crops, flowers and livestock in a mutually beneficial manner. By offering food experiences and wellness events, the farm will double as a retreat center.

He relishes being responsible for every facet of his business. “It’s working with the county on easements and zoning; it’s painting, hiring, marketing and fixing septic systems,” he says. “But more than anything, it’s building something I’ll be proud to leave behind.”



## The Culture Creator

### MIKE MAIOLO '89, P'26

Plato kept **Mike Maiolo '89, P'26** awake at night at Bucknell. The philosophy major took to heart the advice of the ancient master: Lead a virtuous life, one guided by wisdom, justice and courage.

Though Maiolo's intention had been to attend law school, his inner compass was guiding him in a different direction. After graduation, he entered a management training program at a paper company. Although it was a less prestigious

move, Maiolo saw it as "an opportunity to be a leader, not one of the masses," he says. That training became the foundation for his role in launching two successful software services companies, GenesisSolutions and Rizing.

Today, Maiolo is a leader at Wipro, an \$11 billion software management systems company. As the global head of Wipro's SAP practice (systems, applications and products), Maiolo integrates philosophical principles into his leadership, emphasizing the importance



of contributing to others' well-being. It's a value he lives through Wipro Cares, the company's charitable fund. Wipro donates two-thirds of its profits to global charities.

Maiolo takes pride in shaping both business and culture, applying a human-centric leadership approach that prioritizes employees and the betterment of society. "I'm family oriented, and that extends to my co-workers," he says. "The family I've built here is one of my biggest accomplishments."



## Compelled to Act

### KATHY BOSELLI VIZAS '79

**Kathy Boselli Vizas '79** never intended to be an entrepreneur. After studying biology at Bucknell, she went to law school and then spent the next 20 years as a corporate attorney. She had always wanted to give back, but her demanding career left little time for much else.

Her priorities shifted in 2015. While serving as associate general counsel for a software company, Vizas visited Myanmar with Population Services International, an organization that helps impoverished communities access health care. While there, she witnessed a woman dying of cervical cancer. "She was suffering terribly, and all I could think was how unnecessary it was," Vizas says. "I learned how little medical support there is to treat the disease worldwide. I was so frustrated by what I saw. I felt compelled to do something."

In 2017, she co-founded the nonprofit TogetHER for Health, which advocates for cervical health in under-resourced communities. Vizas learned that



Kathy Boselli Vizas '79 fought to increase funding for medical care and education in under-resourced communities in Africa (above, far left and center) and India (above, far right).

many nonprofits work within silos. Drawing from her corporate experience, she focused on establishing a coordinated approach. TogetHER advocates with policy makers for political support and mobilizes on-the-ground partners to expand funding and education for women in low-resource communities, from rural Alabama to Nairobi, Kenya. "Simple, inexpensive care should be available to every woman," she says, "no matter who she is or where she lives." ■





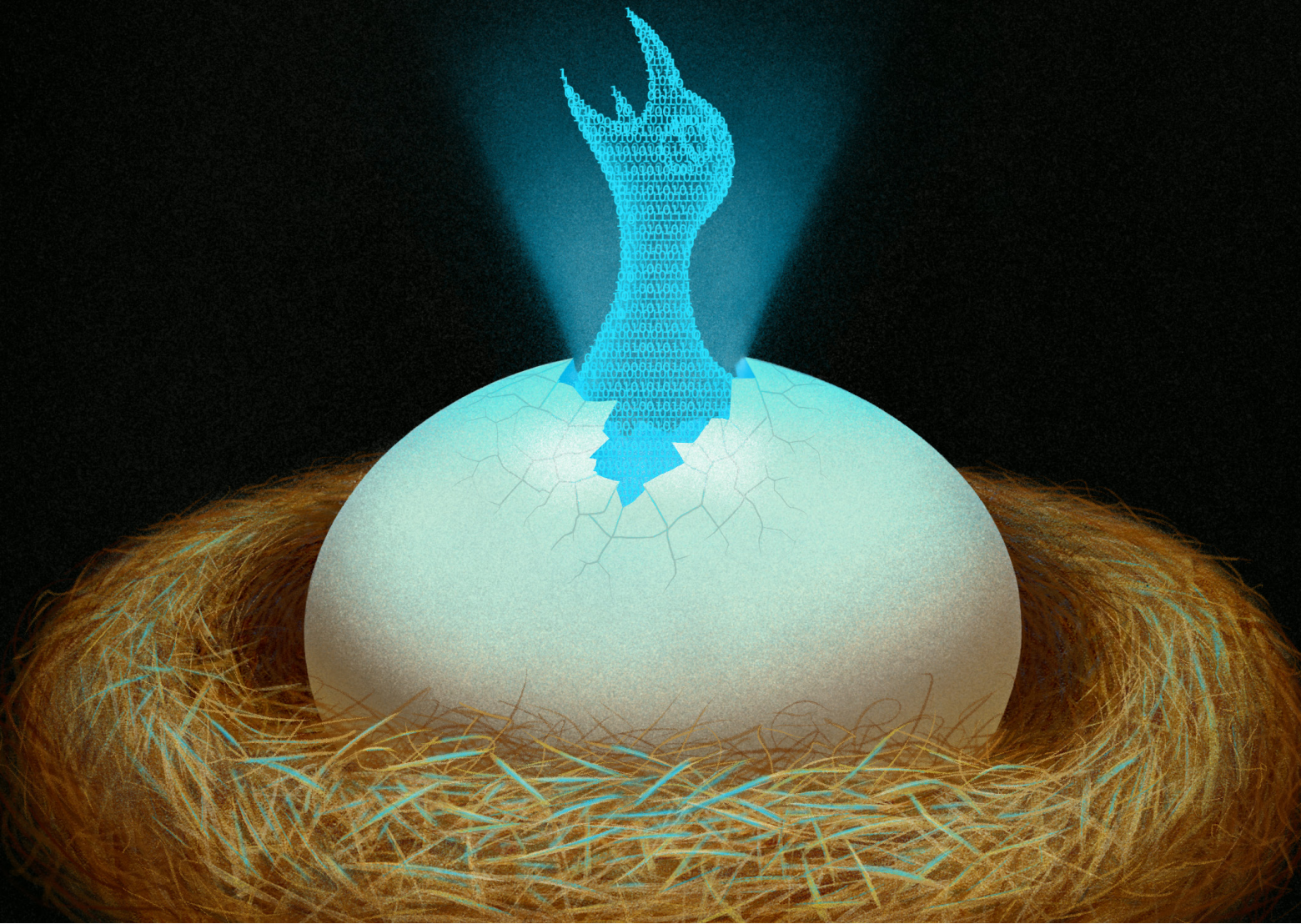


# The Data Science Revolution

THE WORLD IS MADE UP OF DATA. BITS AND BYTES OF INFORMATION FLOW THROUGH NEARLY EVERY ASPECT OF OUR LIVES, FROM OUR INTERNET HABITS TO HOW OUR BODIES FUNCTION. BUT WHAT DOES IT MEAN TO LIVE IN A WORLD INCREASINGLY DEFINED BY DATA? DISCOVER HOW BUCKNELLIANS ARE ADVANCING THE FIELD OF DATA SCIENCE TO BETTER UNDERSTAND AND UNLOCK THE POTENTIAL OF THE DATA AROUND US.

by MATT JONES illustrations by JON KRAUSE





T

## THROUGH HUMANITY'S SCIENTIFIC PURSUIT OF KNOWLEDGE,

novel ways of seeing have been developed to reveal what was previously hidden from sight. The invention of assistive machines and technologies have given us the ability to view everything from the microscopic world of electrons and cells to the distant reaches of the universe. But it is perhaps the introduction of modern computing, and subsequently the internet, that has played the largest role in reconstructing how we see the world. Specifically, as one made up of data.

In the same way that matter is the basic building block that undergirds the physical reality of the universe, data is the element that arranges matter into something meaningful to us: information that can be conveyed, interpreted and, with a little finessing, understood. While the concept of data is centuries old, the digital age has imbued the term with a new significance.



With the advent of the electronic computer in the mid-20th century, soon followed the arrival of data processing and data analysis, computer science, data mining and Big Data — disciplines and research paradigms that emerged in response to an existence more and more defined by bytes and bits of numerical code. The same can be said for data science, which is both a discipline unto itself and a reimagining of how to innovatively apply familiar methodologies and systems.

More importantly, data science is a way of seeing and thinking about the world, and a growing number of Bucknellians are already using data to build better businesses, extend lifespans, make the internet a safer place and even secure the future of the planet.

## What Is Data Science?

**Lauren Moores '85** is a data consultant and strategist with more than 25 years of experience in using AI and computational tools to develop data-based solutions for a variety of industries. She first remembers using the term “data science” back around 2008, which also happened to be the same year that the title of data scientist entered the public lexicon. For her, it was a way of signaling to clients that she wasn’t just working with research and analytics. She was embracing technology that allowed her to store, manipulate and access the massive amounts of data being generated across the internet through mobile phones, smart devices and computers. “Data science is not the tools — it’s not AI; it’s not machine learning — it’s about how those tools are used to solve problems and build the systems that allow you to make decisions easier.”

We are living in what has been dubbed the Zettabyte Era, so named in 2012 when the amount of digital data in the world surpassed one zettabyte, the equivalent of one trillion gigabytes. The proliferation of the internet has served to exponentially increase the amount of data, with estimates suggesting that humans produce more than 2.5 quintillion bytes of data every day. To participate in the modern, digital world — to search Google, click a link, wear your Fitbit, send a text message, swipe on Tinder, ask a question on Reddit, fire off a Facebook post when you’re upset, watch questionable reality television on Netflix, either half-heartedly or with rapt attention — is to generate data.

## The Birth of Big Data

By the early 2000s, datasets had grown to immense sizes and become more complicated in makeup, with a diverse range of content, including text, images and videos, all while being produced at a rapid pace. Managing these vast and complex datasets required a new approach. Big Data centers on processing massive amounts of information

that are otherwise impossible to comprehend when viewed within smaller segments. In this way, Big Data runs counter to the traditional academic approach of textual analysis, in which a close reading of a single text or handful of texts is performed to derive qualitative insights.

“When you look from a distance, it allows you to see patterns you didn’t see before,” says Professor Song Chen, Chinese history.

First coined by literary historian and theorist Franco Moretti, distant reading applies computational methods to large bodies of literary data. Chen likens the difference between close reading

**“DATA SCIENCE IS NOT THE TOOLS — IT’S NOT AI; IT’S NOT MACHINE LEARNING — IT’S ABOUT HOW THE TOOLS ARE USED TO SOLVE PROBLEMS.”**

and distant reading to the difference between viewing a location first from the ground and then from above, in an airplane. The bird’s-eye perspective gives the viewer the ability to read patterns within the landscape otherwise unobservable and untraceable from more immediate vantage points.

As a social historian, Chen finds distant reading a useful framework for prosopography research, which unveils patterns, connections and commonalities between individuals in a larger population.

“We’ll look at when they were born, the people that they studied with, the people they taught, how they entered government, what offices they held, where and from what time to what time, their marriage connections, their political connections, all sorts of stuff,” says Chen.

These connections can be used to illuminate how the relationships between individuals correspond to larger historical transformations across social, legal, political and economic institutions.

While distant reading was first developed to further literary studies, it’s a way of seeing that can benefit many fields of study, including environmental science and geography, medicine and health care, and marketing and merchandising.

## Protecting the Planet

In environmental science, a form of distant reading called remote sensing allows us to observe and understand transformations in the natural world on a larger scale. Since NASA launched the first one in 1972, a series of Landsat satellites has detected and classified objects on Earth. By producing millions of images, this technology has enhanced our understanding of species, urban development, water use and glacier retreat. Today, it’s giving scientists deeper insights into the health of global ecosystems.

“The field has been evolving, but essentially, data science itself is the art of managing Big Data to

**DEVELOP  
YOUR  
DATA  
FLUENCY**

### Algorithm

A set of step-by-step instructions given to a computer to perform a task or solve a problem

### Artificial intelligence

The science of teaching computers to think and learn on their own, simulating human intelligence



## DEVELOP YOUR DATA FLUENCY

### Big Data

Large and complex datasets beyond the ability of non-computer methods to manage and analyze efficiently

derive insights and then inform decision making,” says **Jessica Ertel ’14**, a data scientist in the World Resources Institute’s Global Restoration Initiative. “What that means in my role right now is we essentially combine remote sensing data — satellite imagery and radar imagery — with machine learning techniques to derive insights about where trees exist on the planet right now.”

Data that accurately quantifies the number of trees in a given area is especially useful for informing decision making by government agencies and private sector stakeholders about how to assess and implement protection and restoration efforts.

Ertel’s work is housed primarily within a field of artificial intelligence known as computer vision, which uses machine learning algorithms to recognize and analyze visual imagery. Put succinctly: She teaches computers how to see trees. To do that, she relies on massive visual datasets of high-resolution images gathered by the European Space Agency’s Copernicus Sentinel-2 imaging mission. These kinds of bird’s-eye-view images can give researchers a general understanding of the state of the world’s forests, but Ertel’s restoration work in non-forest landscapes requires an even greater level of precision and detail.

“Being able to count trees from satellite imagery is really complicated because you can imagine trees often have canopies that overlap, and so being able to detect individual trees is a really difficult exercise from just the imagery itself,” she says.

Because computers are not equipped with the same sensory hardware as the human eye and brain, they don’t see pixels as dots of color, but as a series of numbers corresponding to the

## “DATA IS THE LIFEBLOOD OF WHAT WE’RE DOING. I THINK IT’S THE OIL OF THE HEALTH CARE INDUSTRY RIGHT NOW.”

amounts of red, green and blue present in each pixel. In Ertel’s work with computer vision, she must create a structural framework of high-quality code capable of translating the visual data of satellite imagery into something computers can understand. In doing so, she can train models to detect and analyze complex patterns in images to delineate the features that characterize different types of trees.

### Redefining Medicine

Where the field of data science tends to excel is in analyzing immense datasets too unwieldy in scope to be processed by other means. Computer vision aids this process in its ability to automate and replicate the kind of detection and analysis that the human visual system is capable of at scale.

“We’ve been able to take the field of computer vision to look at slides of people’s tumors and start digging into what’s happening within the tumor itself and the area surrounding the tumor,” says **Justin Johnson ’01**, executive director of data science at AstraZeneca.

Johnson’s team is primarily concerned with leveraging data science to develop transformative medicines that lead to better patient treatment outcomes, with a vision to eliminate disease eventually. One of the first steps in creating a picture of an oncology patient lies in medical imaging, such as MRI and CT scans, which produce images of the body’s interior that clinical professionals can then analyze to develop a plan for medical intervention.

Training models on Big Data annotated by pathologists can improve the scalability, reproducibility and efficiency of our ability to analyze images using AI. This can help to detect subtle patterns earlier, reduce human bias and alleviate the workload of pathologists so they can focus on more complex cases.

The goal then is to transfer the highly specialized training of doctors, who can interpret the visual data of medical images, to an AI that can do the same thing repeatedly. The accuracy of these AI models relies heavily on the right data, the right oversight, and the ability to explain what the AI is doing to build trust and ensure these models are used correctly.

In Johnson’s case, he and his team use multi-modal data from different sources to construct the most comprehensive picture of a patient, improving disease understanding and allowing for more refined ways to model and design patient-centric design trials.

“Everything from clinical trial outcomes to radiomics and digital pathology data to their genomic data — we’re trying to get this data organized so that we can start building models to understand different outcomes,” says Johnson. “The more high-quality data you have, the more you can refine your model. The better you can understand the disease, the better you can streamline trials and treatment.”

Historically, methods of drug discovery relied on clinical trials in which one group of participants was given a new drug while the control group was either given a placebo or placed under a standard treatment. The most obvious drawback of this model is that the control group doesn’t receive potentially critical medical treatment, a fact that often serves as a barrier to participant recruitment.

Where data science offers new possibilities for improving patient outcomes is in the use of synthetic control groups in clinical trials. Instead of patients being assigned to the control group, AI models can use real-world data collected from a wide range of other sources, such as electronic





health records, disease registries and historical clinical trial data, to create a synthetic control group.

“We can use AI to generate a synthetic control arm based on data already available in the public domain, or on what we have internally, so that patients can be matched to the therapy best suited for them. We can really start pushing people toward therapy that will be of immediate benefit,” says Johnson. “Data is the lifeblood of what we’re doing. I think it’s the oil of the health care industry right now.”

Comparing oil and data offers an interesting perspective. Both are resources that can be refined, but the similarities mostly end there. Unlike crude oil, data lacks uniformity and consistent value. While data can be processed to extract insights and knowledge, those are concepts, not tangible

products. Instead, what matters with data is how those insights are applied to solve specific problems in different contexts.

## The Business of Data

Business applications of data science represent a potential paradigm shift in the discipline, one in which data is conceived of as less of a commodity with its own embedded value and more as a service where value is idiosyncratic and contextual, not something to be extracted, but created from the exchange that occurs when particular needs prompt the production of specific knowledge.

“Data without context means nothing,” says **Martin Gilliard ’99**, co-founder and CEO of Arteli, a predictive analytics platform that uses artificial intelligence and machine learning to optimize physical retail spaces, which includes everything from furniture to apparel stores. “Tons of people have data, but if they don’t understand how to apply it, then it adds no value.”

Gilliard’s work is primarily concerned with helping physical stores understand and apply data insights to optimize operations and increase revenue. To do this, he uses predictive analytics, a combination of machine learning and statistical analysis, to uncover patterns within large datasets that can be leveraged to make predictions about future behaviors.

“We start with what products should actually be in the store. And what that means is not just what

### UNLOCKING POTENTIAL

Thanks to a founding gift from **Michael J. Dominguez ’91**, Bucknell has launched the Dominguez Center for Data Science, which will prepare Bucknell students across disciplines to solve global problems in a digital age through hands-on learning experiences. The center will also emphasize responsible data use, ensuring students understand how to ethically execute data-driven decision making. Learn more at [bucknell.edu/DataScienceCenter](http://bucknell.edu/DataScienceCenter)



the consumers want, but where margin is made. We help them understand how pricing should be done, inventory quantity, inventory replenishment and how the store should be designed,” says Gilliard. “We don’t impact the number of people that walk in the store, but the economics of what happens once they’re inside.”

Using data to customize the experience of shopping online is one that can be accomplished by analyzing click-through rates, ad impressions and

## “DATA IS NEVER PERFECT. IN FACT, MUCH OF THE DATA THAT IS INDISCRIMINATELY COLLECTED IS LIKELY TO BE BAD.”

internet searches. But the challenges of customizing shopping at a physical retail store, a space naturally shared by individuals with different desires and needs, is decidedly more complicated.

“In a physical store, you’re dealing with things that historically have never been digital and things that have never been measured,” says Gilliard. “So the opportunity to innovate is huge, but the complexity is also huge, which is probably why most companies haven’t even jumped into it.”

It’s not just data about product inventory, purchase history and pricing that Gilliard has to consider. There are also macroeconomic factors such as inflation, the impacts of which are often unequally distributed across various geographic locations, that shape how consumers interact with products. Ideally, predictive analytics can examine the relationship between these variables to discern patterns that can be used to inform businesses about how consumers will respond to new conditions and future trends based on past experiences.

“Where I think the biggest innovation will happen is actually in the operations of the business,” Gilliard says, noting that businesses can use data to optimize all steps of the supply chain. “There’s so much within the operational part of retail that AI will be able to supplement and do a lot faster and better in the future.”

### User Beware

While the benefits of data are substantial and can lead to positive, life-changing impacts, it’s important to recognize the consequences of overreliance.

“Data is never perfect,” says Moores. “In fact, much of that data that is indiscriminately collected is likely to be bad.”

Bad data can mean a number of things, though the term typically refers to data that is inaccurate, fraudulent or biased in some way. A model trained on flawed data can generate faulty insights that lead to misinformed decisions, a

principle more succinctly captured with the maxim “garbage in, garbage out.”

“One of the fundamental tasks data scientists face is they have all this noisy data, and they need some way to find patterns out of it and develop measures from it,” says **Colin Henry ’11**, a post-doctoral research fellow in the Program on Extremism at George Washington University.

As a former Data Science for Social Good Fellow at Vanderbilt University who studies online extremism and hate speech, Henry primarily works with text from the internet. Specifically, he uses a massive dataset of more than 200 million individual posts from platforms such as YouTube, Facebook, Telegram, Gab, 4chan and Parler to train artificial intelligence models to detect and identify hate speech.

The primary challenge of teaching an AI model how to recognize hate speech lies in the fact that the already murky boundaries of the concept get further eroded within the vast network of online communities that populate the internet. For instance, while certain words can often be categorized as hate speech, the contexts in which they are deployed are harder to define, such as in instances when users engage in counterspeech or seek to reclaim terms that have been co-opted by hate groups.

“It’s a really nuanced process,” says Henry, one that is guided by machine learning, a subset of AI that uses algorithms to teach computers how to extract patterns from collected data to improve specific tasks. Henry’s research uses supervised learning, a form of machine learning that relies on human intervention to identify and label important data to better train machines. For instance, online comments deemed hateful are classified into specific categories, including hate based on religion, sex and gender, race, ethnicity, nationality and antisemitism. “We go through and mark these individually. We’ve had people doing this for a couple years, so we have close to 10,000 hand-coded elements. Once you have that, then you can train all kinds of models to do this classification for you.”

The ability to detect hate speech with AI models, in concert with an analysis of social media platform terms of service agreements, has allowed Henry to derive insights about the connections between specific categories of hate language and the potential for users to be deplatformed from an online community.

One thing that becomes clear when conducting a broad survey of data science is that the discipline is still taking shape, in part because it is growing — at an exponential rate no less — at the same time that its practitioners are attempting to define the broad contours of its capabilities and limitations. However, it is precisely this indeterminateness that belies the field’s potential and guarantees that Bucknellians will continue to be at the forefront of an evolving, dynamic field. ■

#### DEVELOP YOUR DATA FLUENCY

##### Computer vision

A field of artificial intelligence that teaches computers how to identify and understand information from visual inputs

##### Machine learning

A type of AI that enables computers to learn and improve without being explicitly programmed for specific tasks



# Big Problem, Bigger Potential

HOW A CROSS-COLLEGE TEAM OF STUDENTS AND FACULTY PARTNERED WITH STAFF TO SOLVE ONE OF THE UNIVERSITY'S BIGGEST PUZZLES

by KATE WILLIARD

## The Problem

Creating Bucknell's final exam schedule is an intricate challenge, requiring the registrar to organize exams across 80 time slots for about 3,200 students. For 15 years, Vince Pellegrini, assistant registrar, has tackled the complex problem, working to develop an exam schedule that minimizes "inconveniences" for students and faculty — such as back-to-back exams or three exams scheduled in 24 hours. With his analog approach, it took up to three months to produce each schedule. Fortunately, at Bucknell, such problems are learning opportunities for students.

## The Project

A team from Bucknell's three colleges partnered with Pellegrini, University Registrar Tim Kracker and Data Analytics Architect Mike Latorre to devise a more efficient method that also reduces inconveniences for students.

Pellegrini took his challenge to Sam Gutekunst, the John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Professor of Data Science, who reached out to Lucas Waddell, mathematics, and Thiago Serra, analytics & operations management, to collaborate. Each invited a student to join the team. "The number of possible exam schedules is massive — far more than there are atoms in the known universe," says Gutekunst. "Bringing students into a project of this scope that also had a direct application to

Vince Pellegrini (center) is benefiting from the expertise of a team of faculty and students, including Clara Chaplin '25 (center, right) and Tsugunobu Miyake '25 (center, left). Chaplin and Miyake won an award for their project at the 2024 Joint Math Meeting in San Francisco.



the University is what made it so exciting."

In 2023, **Stanley Gai '25**, business analytics and sociology, created a dashboard illustrating enrollment data, which Pellegrini used to refine the fall semester schedule. **Clara Chaplin '25**, mathematics and computer science, and **Tsugunobu Miyake '25**, computer science & engineering, developed a mathematical model and programmed a user interface that generates schedules

with minimal inconveniences.

To develop the spring 2024 schedule, Pellegrini used the computer-generated sample schedules as his starting point, which accelerated the process; he estimates it saved him several weeks of work on exam scheduling. He then applied his insights about campus dynamics and factors not easily quantifiable by data alone. "Vince is the one who ultimately knows the nuances we can't program or predict," Miyake says. Inconveniences will never be entirely eliminated; human expertise will ensure the schedule runs smoothly.

## The Product

The program drastically reduces the time Pellegrini dedicates to exam scheduling. Comparing his traditional method with the new collaborative approach shows striking results. In the spring 2023 schedule, 1,182 students experienced at least one inconvenience. In the schedule for spring 2024 — generated using Gai, Chaplin and Miyake's work — that number was reduced to 432. "My job will never be the same," Pellegrini says. "I'm amazed at what we have at our fingertips."

SMART SCHEDULING		
Inconvenience	Students Affected Spring 2023	Students Affected Spring 2024*
Three exams in 24 hours	243	54
Back-to-back exams	1,015	339
Evening exam followed by an early morning exam	194	64
Four exams in 48 hours	77	34
Students experiencing at least one inconvenience	1,182	432
		*projected



Imagine taking up a sport on a lark, just for fun, only to discover that you are more than good; you are great. So great that before long, you are traveling the world, climbing podiums and winning championship titles. That's what happened to these Bucknellians. Each carved a niche for themselves in a sport that went from casual hobby to serious endeavor. They may not be Bucknell Athletics Hall of Famers, but we think you'll be impressed by their achievements — and perhaps even glean insights to advance your own game.

by **KATIE NEITZ**

photograph by **EMILY PAINE**



# IN A



# LEAGUE OF THEIR OWN





Harvey Edwards '78, founder of the Bucknell Mudsharks Ultimate Frisbee team, was inducted into the Ultimate Frisbee Hall of Fame in 2007.





## THE IRONWOMAN

### Ava Warfel '22

In October, just two years after taking up the sport of triathlon, **Ava Warfel '22** won first place in her age group at the Ironman World Championship in Kona, Hawaii. Beyond the baseline challenge of needing to cover an imposing distance — 140.6 miles (a

2.4-mile swim followed by a 112-mile bike ride followed by a 26.2-mile run) — athletes contend with Kona's triple-digit temperatures and gusty winds. Warfel's 9-hour, 45-minute, 27-second finish time was the fastest among 18- to 24-year-old women and placed her 53rd overall among more than 2,000 world-class athletes.

Warfel's meteoric success is stunning but perhaps not surprising to former classmates. After all, she graduated from Bucknell in just three years — balancing a demanding student-athlete life as a biology major and cross-country runner while working full time as a night-shift paramedic in Lewisburg.

Ava Warfel '22 demonstrated her mastery of three sports at the ultra-prestigious Ironman World Championship in Kona, Hawaii, in 2023.

Post-Bucknell, Warfel pursued a nursing career and started swimming early-morning laps. Her two-hour workouts caught the attention of a triathlon coach. He recruited her, convinced she'd be a quick study. He was right. "I don't like to be complacent," she says. "If I'm going to do something, I want to do it to the best of my ability."

That's why Warfel's alarm beeps at 2 a.m. on weekdays. Before she heads to Alvernia University's health center where she works as a nurse, she does a double or triple workout (an hour swim followed by a 90-minute ride followed by a 40-minute run, for instance).

This year, Warfel will transition to elite status. Becoming a professional triathlete isn't lucrative. It won't allow her to quit her job. But sponsorships help cover race entry, travel and gear.

"My coach says that I like to suffer," she says. "I think that I like to suffer with purpose. I like when it hurts, and when you think you can't do something, but then you push through it. The more I put into this sport, the more I get out of it. That's the essence of it for me."

### How to Stay Calm Under Pressure

"I approach each race as a series of smart, tiny decisions. If something goes wrong, I stay in the moment and focus on making a smart decision. During Kona, my bike chain jammed. I was like, 'OK, I'm not going to panic. I'm going to pause, assess the situation and think.' I fixed the chain and didn't focus on the time I was losing. Taking things to the micro-level and focusing on the next step can prevent you from feeling overwhelmed."







## THE DISC-THROWING ICON

### Harvey Edwards '78

Ultimate Frisbee was in its infancy in 1974 when 18-year-old **Harvey Edwards '78**, a first-year Bucknellian and Brooklyn native, watched discs whisk around New York's Central Park. The game had attributes that appealed to the basketball player. It was fast paced and competitive. It required precise passing and catching skills and defensive strategies. But more than anything, it looked fun.

Although he was recruited to play for the Bison, Edwards wasn't getting much court time. So for fun, he started organizing games of Ultimate Frisbee on campus. Before long, he had a team of athletes from a mish-mash of sports who, like Edwards, were craving a change of pace. He ended up quitting basketball and founded the Bucknell Mudsharks (named for a Frank Zappa song).

Edwards says at its core, Ultimate Frisbee is about sportsmanship. "There are no officials, so you are refereeing yourself, and that makes it a game of honor," he says. "You have to respect the rules and each other. The Mudsharks had a good reputation. People wanted to play us not only because we were competitive, but because we played honorably — and we'd throw a good party afterward."

After graduating with an English degree, Edwards took a job as a preschool teacher and spent his weekends advancing his Ultimate Frisbee career. Over the next three decades, Edwards accumulated accolades and credentials, including three world championship titles. In recognition of his accomplishments, Edwards was inducted into the Ultimate Frisbee Hall of Fame in 2007.

Today, Edwards is enjoying his newfound retirement from a 44-year education career (after 29 years of teaching English at Selinsgrove Area High School, he joined the English faculty at Susquehanna University) — and a new pair of knees. Decades of athletic wear and tear caught up with him, he says, requiring double knee replacement surgery in October. Yet he remains active with the sport, working to introduce new generations to the game. "I think there is no sport more American than Ultimate Frisbee," he says. "It's inclusive, it's accessible and it's all about the spirit of friendship, solidarity and fair play."



Harvey Edwards '78 led his team to great heights: "By the end of our first year, we were seeded No. 1 on the East Coast," he says.

## How to Improve Your Throw

"You might know the basic backhand throw, where the Frisbee rests on your index finger, and you hold it with your thumb. But the throw I think is important to learn is called the 'flick throw.' Start by making a peace sign. Then insert the Frisbee between your index and middle finger so the Frisbee rests on your middle finger. Then, flick the Frisbee. It's a simple snap that helps the disc go far and fast."

## THE PADDLING POWERHOUSE

### Nathan Humberston '08



Despite being a relative newcomer to the sport, **Nathan Humberston '08** has made big waves in competitive sprint kayaking. Since picking up a paddle just six years ago at 32, Humberston has collected hardware at races around the world. The most recent: He earned a bronze medal at the Pan American Games in Santiago, Chile, in November.

That prestigious international, multi-sport competition was an important stepping stone to an even more prestigious international, multi-sport competition: the 2024 Olympic Summer Games in Paris.

In March, as this issue was going to press, Humberston was competing in the U.S. National Team Trials and vying for a spot on Team USA. Competing in Paris would be kismet for Humberston, who majored in French at Bucknell and taught French after graduation. It's also the 100th anniversary of his sport's Olympic debut; canoe sprint, which kayaking is part of, was introduced at the 1924 Games in Paris.

But if Paris doesn't pan out? Humberston says with a relaxed confidence that he'll simply adjust his focus forward — to the 2028 Summer Olympics. "I'll be 42 by then, which would make



Nathan Humberston '08 competes in four-seat (K-4), double-seat (K-2) and single-seat (K-1) kayak races.



## How to Paddle With Power

"It's a misconception that a kayaker's arms power the boat. The real power comes from the legs and core. Instead of ripping the paddle through the water just using your arms, you need to hold the paddle in place, then activate your core to stabilize you, and then press one leg down at a time and use that power to rotate the body and propel you forward."



me a bit of an outlier," he says. "But it's definitely achievable."

Humberston's optimism isn't foolhardy. It's rooted in a relentless work ethic, a fierce competitive drive and genuine love for his sport.

He dove into water sports at age 8 when he joined his hometown swim team. Swimming was his athletic focus for the next decade, including during his first year at Bucknell. But the rowing team made a convincing argument for him to transition to crew. He already had endurance, speed and power. Over the next three years, he developed technical skills while learning how to navigate water and weather conditions on the Susquehanna.

After graduation, he continued to seek athletic challenges. In 2014, his New Jersey ocean lifeguard squad won the U.S. Lifesaving Association's National Lifeguard Championships. In 2018, he paddled 40 miles nonstop around Bermuda to see how fast he could do it (just under six hours). It was around that time when a seasoned world-class kayaker took notice and offered to coach him.

Now, Humberston is all-in on his Olympic dream. In 2021, he moved to San Diego where he can kayak year-round and work a fully remote job for a tech startup that affords him flexibility to train. "I enjoy challenges and figuring out how to deal with them," he says. "I'm always looking forward, always trying to improve. I haven't hit my limit in this sport yet, so I'm going to keep pushing. It's fun to chase a big goal and see what you can get out of yourself."



Kent Lindeman '92 says he's relied on finesse — not power — to be successful on the pickleball court.



## THE PICKLEBALL MASTER

### Kent Lindeman '92

**Kent Lindeman '92** has been an avid tennis player for most of his life. But it wasn't until he switched his focus to pickleball that he started dominating the court. Lindeman has won three consecutive gold medals at the U.S. Open Pickleball Championships (the men's 50+ doubles category in 2023 and the men's 45+ doubles category in 2021 and 2022). The U.S. Open is the largest pickleball tournament in the world; a record 3,043 players from all 50 states and 29 countries competed in 2023. In April, Lindeman will compete in the 2024 tournament with the goal of earning his fourth consecutive gold medal.

Lindeman progressed from novice skeptic to national champion in just three years. "When a friend introduced me to the game in 2017, I initially dismissed it. I thought pickleball was a hobby better suited for people at a retirement community," says Lindeman, who majored in political science at Bucknell and owns HollandParlette, an association management company. "But I started playing and discovered it's truly addictive."

Lindeman isn't alone in that discovery, of course. Pickleball, a cross between table tennis, badminton and tennis, is one of America's fastest-growing sports with a growth rate of more than 158% over the past three years, according to the Sports and Fitness Industry Association.

While his tennis background equipped him with some carryover skills, Lindeman says pickleball is an entirely distinct sport that required a rewiring of his instincts and mechanics. "It's a finesse game," he says. "High-level pickleball players execute delicate dinks and well-calculated, angled shots. It's a different approach than hitting a tennis ball with power and topspin."

As the executive director of the Association for Applied Sport Psychology, Lindeman espouses the physical and mental health benefits of his sport at national conferences. "Developing new skill sets and friendships, especially as we get older, is just so positive. It helps your overall well-being, mental health and quality of life," he says. "Pickleball has that kind of impact." ■

## How to Develop Finesse

"New players often try to overpower their opponent. While it's easy to swing big, pickleball is more about touch and precision. Focus on hitting consistent, well-angled 'dink' shots. Give yourself enough margin to clear the net, but don't make it too high. The more you can execute these shots, the more pressure is placed on your opponent to pop a ball up, which you can then put away to win the point."







# 'ray BUCKNELL

FROM THE  
PRESIDENT

GREENING  
THE GLOBE

A WARM  
WELCOME

**SPIN, SHAPE, CREATE** CRAFTING  
POTTERY IN THE 7TH STREET  
STUDIO & MAKERSPACE

photograph by **SAM GODSHALL '24**





## Sustainable Success

**WHEN I WAS A BOY**, I used to wake up before everyone else on Saturday mornings to watch my favorite program, *Modern Farmer*, on our black-and-white TV. It was an odd choice for a New York City kid in the early 1960s, but I loved it. I truly thought I'd be a farmer when I grew up.

I like to say that I ultimately achieved my goal, but I had to become a university president to do it. The Bucknell Farm, planted in 2018 on the south edge of campus, offers 5 acres of opportunity for academic research and civic engagement, as well as thousands of pounds of nutritious produce for the community. It's one of the many exciting advances the University has made in environmental sustainability — achievements that are gaining recognition. (We define sustainability to include financial and human

dimensions as well as environmental ones, but this column will focus on the environment.)

Bucknell was well known for many reasons when I arrived in 2010, but perhaps a commitment to sustainability was not among them. I've been reflecting on that, as well as on the dramatic progress in sustainability that I've seen since my own college days, when Love Canal, catalytic converters and toxic waste dumps made headlines, and environmental issues were largely the concern of "someone else."

Fortunately, society has evolved and adopted a much more proactive approach to preserving the Earth and its resources for future generations. As scientific understanding of the impact of human activity on the environment has exploded in recent years, so too has an urgency — especially among

younger generations — to reduce emissions, pollution and waste.

I've observed this philosophical shift both as an educator and as the proud father of four sons — two around 40 and two in middle school. Colleges and universities, including Bucknell, understand that sustainability is a top concern for students. In a December 2022 *Inside Higher Ed* survey of about 2,000 undergraduates from 114 institutions, 45% said they considered environmental sustainability in their college enrollment decision, and 85% reported that it's at least somewhat important for their campus to prioritize sustainability.

So a commitment to sustainability is more than a moral obligation for higher ed leaders — it's an imperative that will determine our legacy and one of the four pillars of Bucknell's strategic plan. The farm is just one of dozens of advances Bucknell has made to support our sustainability goals, including reaching carbon neutrality by 2030. These successes include interdisciplinary academic offerings that focus on the environment and span all three colleges; an increase in recycling and waste reduction; the terrific work of the Bucknell Center for Sustainability & the Environment; the 7-acre solar farm on West Campus, which meets about 7% of campus electricity needs; the downtown Lewisburg Community Garden; the new 4-mile Bucknell Greenway that rings our beautiful

campus; and our multiple LEED-certified facilities.

We're receiving acclaim for these cumulative efforts. In January, *U.S. News & World Report* named Bucknell as one of the 14 most environmentally friendly college campuses. Last December, the Princeton Review ranked us among its Top 25 Green Colleges — a jump of 15 spots in just one year. And last summer, Bucknell repeated its STARS Gold Rating from the Association for the Advancement of Sustainability in Higher Education.

I am proud of this transformational change in our campus culture and grateful to the dedicated faculty, staff and students who make it possible, particularly the President's Sustainability Council and Office of Campus Sustainability — as well as the alumni, families and friends who support our work. We inherited the University we operate today with the understanding that we are protecting and positioning it for a future that will extend long beyond our time here. Ensuring our sustainability is part of that sacred trust.

**John C. Bravman**  
President

### EARTH DAY SPECIAL



Bucknellians are shaping the future of our planet. On the following pages, you'll learn about five alumni leading important sustainability efforts.





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We received news of the passing of **BARBARA MORROW HARRIS '44** Aug. 21 at age 99. Granddaughter Mercy Harris writes, "Barbara was born in Scranton, Pa., and grew up along the Susquehanna River, spending most of her formative days in Williamsport, Pa. As a child, she was introduced to stamp collecting, which became a lifelong interest. Before her senior year in high school, she moved to Lewisburg and later earned her bachelor's in biology and psychology at Bucknell. She moved to New York City to take in the energy of the war effort while earning her master's in merchandising at New York University. Memories of particular importance at that time were of Victory in Europe [Day] celebrations at St. Patrick's Cathedral and in Times Square.

"While in New York, Barbara met future husband [the late] Bob, a medical student. Due to his various Naval assignments, she found herself a young wife and mother in Portsmouth, Va., and Key West, Fla., where she liked to walk along the beach looking for artifacts. After Bob's discharge, they lived in

Shepherdstown, W.Va., with a growing family, before moving again to Richmond, Va., and finally to York, Pa. There, she was active in the medical and hospital auxiliaries, PTA and in two foreign exchange programs. Barbara was a lifelong reader and lover of the English language. Doing *The New York Times* Sunday Crossword was a three-generation tradition, as was playing Scrabble, especially with daughter-in-law Mary Ann. Barbara was always proud of a sonnet she wrote about the river she loved. At 72, her life changed upon welcoming the birth of her third grandchild, who grew up in her household bringing her great joy."

Barbara is survived by three children, Mark, Virginia and Anne, and by three grandchildren.

In other news, **MARTHA COATS VAN HISE '72** shared that her mother, **MARGY HUGHES COATS '48**, enjoyed a return to the Bucknell campus 75 years after graduating. In what was described as a "very special visit," Margy saw Hunt Hall, where she lived while at Bucknell. She was also delighted to see the new buildings, downtown Lewisburg and the Mods where, during her time at Bucknell, she babysat for a returning veteran. She'd been back previously for Reunions and to see her daughter and her grandson, **JONATHAN VAN HISE '01**. According to Martha, Bucknell means a great

deal to her mother, adding that "Margy is living independently at Lake Nuangola, Pa., for the summer and at her retirement community, Pennswood Village in Newtown, Pa., for the rest of the year. She has 14 grandchildren and nine great-grandchildren." — N.C.T. and A.M.P.

**1950**  
**HOLLY HINCHMAN**  
**REIGNER '96**  
[hehreigner1@gmail.com](mailto:hehreigner1@gmail.com)

**1951**  
**FAITH BRADLEY KING**  
[faithbking@sbcglobal.net](mailto:faithbking@sbcglobal.net)

**1952**  
**CAROLYN KNIES**  
**ERDLE**  
[liberty384@comcast.net](mailto:liberty384@comcast.net)

**ELI CHILDS LEWIS** is holding down a chair in the second-violin section of the Nittany Valley Symphony as well as serving as president of its board. She said the group hired a new music director, Timothy Farrand. A small-world coincidence occurred when she went out to dinner with Tim, his wife, his mother and grandmother. Tim's mother, Tammy, mentioned that they'd lived in Honesdale, Pa., for generations. Eli then recalled that a good friend at Bucknell, **SALLY BAUMGARDNER STANTON**, also lived in Honesdale. It turns out that Sally was Tammy's third grade teacher, and

they knew the Stanton family very well. — C.K.E.

**1953**  
**CHRISTINE HILL**  
**KILLOUGH**  
[chkillough@gmail.com](mailto:chkillough@gmail.com)

**JOHN MANBECK**  
[manbeckj7@yahoo.com](mailto:manbeckj7@yahoo.com)

**BETTY STAGG NUOVO** died July 4 in Vermont. Her pursuit of justice led her to read for the law while she was rearing her children, and she was among the first 100 women lawyers in Vermont. She served for Middlebury in the Vermont House of Representatives for more than 30 years. She began her career by teaching children from 5 to 18 years old in a one-room schoolhouse. She maintained a law practice in real estate in addition to her service in the legislature. She also was an avid gardener and a passionate cook, especially desserts for her children and grandchildren. She is survived by her husband of 70 years, Victor, twin sister **EDNA STAGG ARMSTRONG**, two sons and four grandchildren.

**JOAN HARRIS TAYLOR** of Ellington, Conn., and Naples, Fla., died July 30. On a blind date at Bucknell, she met husband **WILLIAM TAYLOR '52**. Joan taught English and social studies soon after she married. Then, after their children were grown, she earned her master's in education and taught English in a junior high school. She was awarded

teacher of the year in Manchester, Conn. Participation in PTA was always important to her, as was assisting with the Girl Scouts. However, she was most proud of her work with Literacy Volunteers of America, working with Chinese students to obtain U.S. citizenship. Joan is survived by her husband of 70 years; two children; four grandchildren, including **ELIZABETH PETERS BARTHOLOMEW '05** and her husband, **JON BARTHOLOMEW '04**, and **STEPHEN PETERS '07** and his wife, **KELLI JO JENSEN PETERS '08**, and eight great-grandchildren.

**BLAINE PURNELL** died Aug. 2. Before entering Bucknell, he spent a year as a medical technician in the U.S. Air Force and also received a private pilot's license. Later he earned a master's degree in hospital administration. After some years working for Johnson & Johnson in the early 1960s, he started a cottage industry in Haddonfield, N.J., making milk can lamps and other rustic novelties. His business expanded into selling to retail stores. An avid sportsman, Blaine enjoyed tennis, golf, swimming, scuba diving and water skiing, most of which were enjoyed at Lake Naomi, Pa., and at Hilton Head Island, S.C. He was active in his Methodist church. Because of his experience as an Eagle Scout, he worked with youth wherever he was. He is survived by his wife of 67





# Bite-Sized Appalachia

by MATT JONES

**TRUTH MAY VERY WELL BE** stranger than fiction, though fiction can be a helpful tool for understanding the strangeness that pervades much of the human experience. **Tucker Leighty-Phillips '18** uses his writing to mine the sometimes bizarre realities hidden just beneath the surface of ordinary life.

"I found that when I started to de-familiarize, or lean into the surreal or the absurd, I could capture the truth of a thing in a way that the more direct address of it wasn't doing," says Leighty-Phillips.

*Maybe This Is What I Deserve*, his debut short story collection, embraces the absurd as a tool for illuminating and challenging the memories and myths at the heart of his childhood growing up in rural Appalachia. Over the course of 28 flash fiction stories, readers are introduced to a landscape consumed by consumerist impulses and desires. Toddlers imagine themselves as airports. Parents yearn to become chain stores. Kids construct their identities through the lens of their favorite brands. This intentional conflation between what is human and what is commodity, Leighty-Phillips argues, serves to critique common misconceptions about the place he calls home.

"One of the things I think about in my work is the way that commodity works in terms of class identifiers. I wanted to sort of push back on Appalachian fiction as being the mountains and the streams and the hills and the hollers," he says. "In this day and age, the Walmarts and Dollar Generals are just as much a part of the landscape, whether we like it or not."

Flash fiction is both a genre and a form unto itself, one that favors extreme brevity. This economy of language can

be used to generate narrative momentum while enhancing thematic clarity. In "Statement from the Silver-taloned Monster Ravaging the Local Townspeople," which comes in at under 200 words, Leighty-Phillips uses the perspective of a literal monster to draw attention to the effect that extractive economies have on the communities they inhabit. The piece's pithiness, coupled with its matter-of-fact tone, draws attention to the absurdity of the normalized disparities between the ruling and working classes.

For most of his life, Leighty-Phillips identified with being a reader, devouring any text he could get his hands on, including the works of Roald Dahl, Judy Blume and Louis Sachar. It was upon transferring to Bucknell as a Community College Scholar that he really started to think of himself as a writer.

"At Harrisburg Area Community College, I was working on a degree in publicity and communications. When I got to Bucknell, I switched to literary studies, and I took an elective class doing flash fiction with Joe Scapellato. It just opened up a lot of possibilities for me, and I started to write more," says Leighty-Phillips. "Being able to take a class in short-short fiction that's all about contemporary flash fiction is something that I never had the chance to do anywhere else."

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After completing his degree with an English — literary studies major at Bucknell, Leighty-Phillips went on to Arizona State University where he obtained his master of fine arts in fiction. *Maybe This Is What I Deserve* was selected as the winner of the 2022 Fiction Chapbook Contest and subsequently published by sponsor Split/Lip Press in 2023.



▲ Tucker Leighty-Phillips '18

## ALUMNI & FACULTY PUBLICATIONS

**Shawn Samuelson Henry '84**

***Made in Maine*** (Woodhall Press, 2023)  
After studying international relations at Bucknell, Henry continued her education at Harvard University and the University of Wyoming. Her time as an English teacher and a children's librarian inspired her to write for a young-adult audience. *Made in Maine* is a Young Adult novel that addresses issues of addiction, homophobia, identity, adoption, alienation, socioeconomic disparity, the power of community, and ultimately, hope. It has been nominated for several awards, including the 2024 Pushcart Prize. Henry is also a playwright who lives in Davidson, N.C.

**James Zervanos '92, M'95**

***Your Story Starts Here: A Year on the Brink with Generation Z*** (Vine Leaves Press, 2024)

Zervanos, a high school English teacher, formulated his second memoir from journal entries he wrote throughout a year documenting the issues "his kids" grappled with, including identity politics, gun violence and political uncertainty. Zervanos is a Philadelphia-based writer, artist and teacher whose award-winning short stories have been published in literary journals and magazines. While at Bucknell, the English and art history double-major and baseball player received the William Bucknell Prize for English and was named Patriot League Scholar-Athlete of the Year.

**Jackson Hill, professor emeritus of music**

***Symphony No. 3*** ("Fleisher Discoveries" podcast, 2023)

For four decades, Hill, an accomplished composer of symphonic, ensemble and vocal music, taught at Bucknell University, where he served as associate dean, Presidential Professor and chair of the Department of Music. In November, his *Symphony No. 3* was selected as the subject of the "Fleisher Discoveries," a podcast that highlights "remarkable treasures" housed in the Edwin A. Fleisher Collection of Orchestral Music at the Free Library of Philadelphia. Hill's symphony premiered at Bucknell in 2006 and can be found by searching "Fleisher Discoveries Hill" on SoundCloud.



years, three children, nine grandchildren and five great-grandchildren.

Last summer, **TRUDY KNUTZEN POWELSON** invited **DOWNEY STANCS** and his daughter, Laura, to her lake house in the Berkshires in Massachusetts, for lunch and reminiscing. They, along with **CHRISTINE HILL KILLOUGH**, shared college memories and how it is living in their 90s. Each of them was grateful to have a daughter as a primary chauffeur. After the comical adjustment of hearing aids, a lively discussion of current events and books ensued.

The Rev. **GEORGE LOWER** published a paperback volume available on Amazon entitled *Jesus IS a Democrat*, which purports that the teachings of Jesus support the political platform of the Democratic Party. Separate essays from five theologians cite Christian principles that appear in the 2020 Democratic platform. Biblical quotations are compared to contemporary references to charity, peace, health care, equality and women's rights. George's essay deals with the topic of health care, referring to Jesus and his healing powers. He dedicated the book to his late wife, Nancy, who was a medical director for the Peace Corps in Mauritania in northwest Africa. George has served campus ministries in Edinboro State University of Pennsylvania and Brigham Young University in Utah. His

summers are spent in Islesboro, Maine. — C.H.K. and J.M.

**1954**  
**BONNIE MACKIE**  
**ASPINWALL**  
[bmaspinwall@gmail.com](mailto:bmaspinwall@gmail.com)

**BARBARA "BEBE" BLESS-KANY ROGERS** transitioned to an assisted living facility. She was pleased with her apartment, her activities and the new friends she'd made. Her report echoed what many of my friends and I've experienced.

I've lived in an assisted living facility for more than a year and know that moving to it was the right decision for me. Recently, I had a health setback, and I'm sporting a pacemaker, using a walker and exercising to make me stronger. My children live nearby, and they definitely make my life more enjoyable. Still, assisted living has made it easier and more pleasant for us all.

If you're reading this article, it tells me you are still interested in our class, and our class is still interested in you! Please write. — B.M.A.

**1955**  
**ELEANOR MACKIE**  
**PIGMAN**  
[empigman@gmail.com](mailto:empigman@gmail.com)

**NORMA SKOW SMAYDA-STALEY**, a Rhode Island handweaver and teacher, has exhibited in Hera Gallery, the Newport (R.I.) Art Museum, among others as well as being a curator of exhibits and

the subject of an artist talk at the Gilbert Stuart Museum in Rhode Island. Norma established and teaches at the Saunderson Weaving School.

**VIRGINIA WALLIS KLAER '56** wrote about her good friend **NORM SINGLE**, who passed away Oct. 28. He "loved to tell the story that on the first day at Bucknell he saw [the late] **ELEANOR RUGEN SINGLE** and thought: 'There is my future wife.' I remember Norm as a playful worker in Larison Dining Hall who was always ready for fun." — E.M.P.

**1956**  
**JOSEPH EBERHART**  
[jdocyardley@aol.com](mailto:jdocyardley@aol.com)

Following my last column, I received a call from **JOHN HAYES**. It turned out that he lived just two blocks from my new home in Arizona. We went to church together and talked a lot about our Bucknell days and our shared days of grueling study at Temple Medical School. John has been widowed twice, the second being **DOT HUND HAYES '57**. He's very active with the Shriners in their work with children with orthopedic challenges.

I received a nice card from **DICK CHISHOLM**, who is living in a retirement village in Mason, Ohio. In spite of having had a stroke, he swims every morning and remains active. He lives close to his daughter and two sons, all of whom are college graduates. We subsequently spoke about our proud days as "Demies"

(members of the Demosthenian Club, an oratorical society that became the Delta Upsilon fraternity) and our time as pledges "praying for rain" at Larison. — J.E.

**1957**  
**CAROLYN "CALLIE" MEYER**  
[meyerwrite@comcast.net](mailto:meyerwrite@comcast.net)

**CAROL WANAMAKER LENKER**  
[caroldalelenker@gmail.com](mailto:caroldalelenker@gmail.com)

If you don't know about the Pasadena Doo Dah Parade, held before Thanksgiving, it's "the twisted sister" of the more well-known Rose Parade. **ANN HARRIS HUNNEWELL** planned to march with the League of Women Voters as Rosie the Riveter. But fate intervened: "I fell, broke my arm, rode with the firemen to the very nice Huntington Hospital and missed the parade entirely." There's always next year, Ann.

**HELEN KRUUSMAGI EICHHORN** died Nov. 6. She was born in Tallinn, Estonia, but in 1944, when she was 9, her parents and five others escaped invading Soviet forces in a fishing boat piloted by her father across the northern Baltic Sea. Twenty-four hours later, they made it to Sweden and stayed in Stockholm for four years. When Helen was 13, they came to the U.S. and settled in Lakewood, N.J.

After graduating from Bucknell, Helen taught school until marrying Emil, a fellow Estonian

refugee, in 1958. They raised two children, **Eric '85** and Lisa. Emil died in 2006, and Helen moved to a retirement community in 2018, where she tried her hand at oil painting and knitting baby blankets and had many friendships.

**EDIE EMERY O'POLKA '56** sent word of the passing of husband **DON** May 21. "Our *Bucknell Magazine* came last week," she writes. "Don always looked for news about his classmates." Edie is a great storyteller, and she gave me permission to sift through the richness of a shared life that started when they met in Chapel Choir.

Don was an American Baptist minister with a degree from Colgate Rochester Divinity School, after which he served four churches. Then he took a break from the ministry and taught third grade for 10 years. In 1980, he was back in the pulpit as pastor of Whitesboro Baptist, a small church that kept him and Edie involved in visiting hospitals and nursing homes and calling on congregants. They took groups caroling, served breakfasts, sponsored exchange students and brought in a Ukrainian family of 15. (The O'Polkas themselves created a family of five children, 11 grandchildren and five great-grandchildren.) In the late '80s, when the old church was declared unsafe, the men salvaged what they could and built a new one, then got busy raising money to pay for it by selling hot dogs, hamburgers and pies,



organizing bus trips and whatever else they could think of, paying off the mortgage in the mid-1990s.

Edie adds, "Don was the old-time, fatherly type of minister and was always there to help people [from a loose screw to counseling] — no matter what the problem or the day or time."

— C.M. and C.W.L.

## 1958

**ROBERTA BAYER SCHLACKS**  
[schlacksr@aol.com](mailto:schlacksr@aol.com)

### EDWARD STAIANO M'60

died Sept. 24 in the company of his wife of 66 years and his daughter. Born in New York to immigrant parents, he graduated from Mineola High School and attended Bucknell, where he met wife **JANET SMITH STAIANO**. In addition to his wife, Ed is survived by his sister, his daughter, **EVA STAIANO TOMASHEFSKI M'85**, four grandchildren, including **TONY TOMASHEFSKI '14**, and six great-grandchildren. Ed was a part-time resident of the Phoenix area for 26 years and a full-time resident for the past seven years. Read more about Ed's life and his accomplishments on P. 59.

**EDGE** and **LORIAN RODI DEUEL** write, "We started our 65th year together last June and had four girls over that time, who have provided us with 11 grandchildren. After 50 years in Frostburg, Md., we moved to Annapolis four years ago for health care, family and hospitality — so far all has worked

out quite well.

"As you no doubt expect, we are dealing with our 80s with some issues. Lorian gets around with a walker, and I have my cane. Still, we travel and had lunch with **SHIRLEY COOK HATCH** and **JAN BULL BORDEN**. Lorian keeps in touch with her Phi Mu friends, even at a distance. Also, we got to New Orleans, New York City and Myrtle Beach, S.C., this year for family events. I [Edge] have contact with

**CORBIN "CUB" WYANT** and **FRED MACDONALD** as the rest of my Phi Gam class have passed away as far as I know. Over the years, I've kept in touch with several of our Sammie lads during visits to New York City. I do miss the Bucknellians who were such an important part of our life."

Your class reporter made a trip to Houston for a company reunion and had the pleasure of spending the night with **CHARLOTTE GENTRY SISLER '59**. — R.B.S.

## 1959

*If you are interested in being the Class of 1959 Reporter or have news to share, please email Heidi Hormel, Class Notes editor, at [hjh006@bucknell.edu](mailto:hjh006@bucknell.edu).*

## 1960

**PETE FRITTS**  
[peteffrittsr@att.net](mailto:peteffrittsr@att.net)

The year 2024 is 64 years since we graduated (in our soggy caps and gowns) in the antiquated Davis Gymnasium, following a surprise

rain shower just as we started our outdoor procession. I want to thank those of you who sent me your input for this episode. However, due to my limit of 750 words, I had to edit for length.

**CHUCK BRYDEN** writes, "My wife of 58 years, Barbara, and I and two of our children live in the Charleston, S.C., area; our third child lives in Tucson, Ariz. Barbara and I've been going to Sanibel Island, Fla., since 1990. However, the hurricane last September dealt a pretty big blow; hopefully, the condo will reopen next summer. We live on the 18th hole of the Links at Stono Ferry, outside Charleston, and play three to four times a week. I keep in regular contact with **LOU RUSSO**, a Lambda Chi brother."

**BOB HOWELL** reports, "Betsy and I are at our home at the Grey Oaks Country Club, Naples, Fla., for the winter where we play a lot of golf (have shot my age) as well as volunteer for St. Matthew's House, on whose board I sit, which addresses homelessness, hunger and addiction. Both of us are actively involved. We spend summers at our home at The Golf Club at Turner Hill, Ipswich, Mass. We stay in regular contact with Dodie and **BARRY TAGUE** and see them a couple times a year when we pass through Philadelphia. We have been very blessed with good health and meaningful lives."

**BONNIE STEELE CALLAHAN** writes, "**GEORGE '59** and I are approaching 63 years married this year and will

celebrate with our three daughters and their families, including 11 grandchildren and five greats. We moved from the Atlanta area in 2016 to Bluffton, S.C., for five years and are now in Upper South Carolina, on Lake Keowee, near Clemson. George retired three times from full-time ministry, the last time back in 2007. We've enjoyed our retirement time with family and travel and are grateful for relatively good health. Because two of our girls, one son-in-law and three grandchildren have or are attending Auburn, we have become Tigers fans but keep our eye on Bison sports."

**MARK PETERSON** reports, "I retired from a private psychology practice shared with my wife at the age of 59. We started this new journey with a five-month backpacking trip around the world that included visiting our firstborn granddaughter in Zimbabwe in 1997 and ended with a return to the U.S. from Sydney in May 1998. We then led Elderhostel groups in both Western and Eastern Europe for 10 years, along with other trips to Turkey, South America and the Far East. We then moved to Philadelphia from rural New Hampshire in 2005 and spent almost 15 years there. I developed and taught a course called Having Your Voice to the End of Your Life at Temple University for nine years. Then, we moved to Massachusetts in 2019 where we live in a 55-plus community. I continue to teach here about once per month. Carol and I

will celebrate 60 years of marriage in September."

From **JANE LYDMAN EMSBO**: "Thanks to **JOHN BERGFELD** for remembering the missing. In short, my health is good. My husband died four years ago. I'm in contact with various sorority sisters. I spend winters in a Massachusetts retirement place and summers in our Block Island [R.I.] house. I have published a poetry book and a parenting guide. Music is my passion."

In late 2023, the following classmates attended **NEIL MURPHY M'61**'s 85th birthday party in Richmond, Va.: Lee and **TONY RINALDO**, John and Wilma Bergfeld, **DENNY COX**, **BOB PATZWALL** and myself. A great time was had by all. — P.F.

## 1961

**JAN POWERS**  
[jpowers0135@earthlink.net](mailto:jpowers0135@earthlink.net)

## 1962

*If you are interested in being the Class of 1962 Reporter or have news to share, please email Heidi Hormel, Class Notes editor, at [hjh006@bucknell.edu](mailto:hjh006@bucknell.edu).*

## 1963

**PENNY WEST SURITZ**  
[pennysuritz@gmail.com](mailto:pennysuritz@gmail.com)

I'm sorry to report the death of **NANCY HENDERSON GREENWOOD** April 21, 2023. She'd been a devoted caretaker for her husband, Robert, for



several years prior to his death six months before hers.

After graduating with a bachelor's in French and political science, Nancy completed a degree in horticulture at the Barnes Foundation in Philadelphia. She was a member of Pi Beta Phi. Her son, Thomas, graduated from the University of Richmond; her son, Daniel, from Middlebury College; and her daughter, Julie, from Williams College. Nancy was a member of the Pennsylvania Horticultural Society and was a volunteer at the Philadelphia Flower Show and the Jenkins Arboretum & Gardens.

**JOHN DESANTO** moved to Allentown, Pa., after a three-year stint in the U.S. Coast Guard at Yorktown, Va. He worked as a project engineer and manager for 35-plus years in the industrial gas industry. John was called back to work part time for seven years in retirement, which he said was a blessing in disguise. As a civil engineer, he tried something new in retirement and has been helping seniors and low-income families prepare their taxes through AARP Tax-Aide for the past 15 years. John moved into a 55-plus active community that has presented new ways to stay active and

help the community.

**MICHAEL SQUIRES** has a new biography, *The Limits of Love: The Lives of D.H. Lawrence and Frieda von Richthofen*, from Louisiana State University Press. It concisely chronicles the tumultuous marriage between these two powerful personalities.

Your class reporter has relocated from Arlington, Va., and its busy city life to a small town in Delaware where life is pretty quiet until summer when the resort bursts into a frenzy of beachgoers. I have wonderful neighbors, and there are many activities and library-sponsored events and

lectures to fill my time. It was a surprise to learn that in this little town of about 3,000, there is another Bucknellian: **RAY KEENEY SR.**

Ryan Wesley Suritz, my first grandchild, arrived and was at home with his parents, Adam and Meg. — P.W.S.

**1964**  
**BETH WEHRLE SMITH**  
[bethdonsm@gmail.com](mailto:bethdonsm@gmail.com)

**1965**  
**JACKIE HONOR PLUMEZ**  
[plumez.dr@gmail.com](mailto:plumez.dr@gmail.com)

Who can beat **SUE METZ MCCARTNEY**'s spirit of adventure? Before moving into a retirement community in State College, Pa., where she intends to enjoy painting and walking her dog, Sue decided to jump out of a plane with her two grandsons. She reported they all felt very brave.

**JAY GIARDINA** and **DON NIDDRIE** tried to get a group of Bucknellians to attend the Bison vs. Fordham Rams game in the Bronx. Since none of their buddies would join



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them, Jay and Don had to live it up for everyone missing the fun. They had a great time at a pre-game tailgate, cheered for Bucknell and then partied with locals at an Italian restaurant on nearby Arthur Avenue.

**JIM DUSENBURY '66** suggests that classmates meet in Lewisburg in May, even though it isn't our big Reunion. He'll spend the winter in Florida but will be back in time to gather on campus May 31–June 2.

**MARY BRECHT MCGREADY** and nine of her Delta Zeta sisters met annually for many years. While the group lost three beloved members, she still meets with **BARB STELL HATHEWAY, PAT PRIESTER MCKEON, JUSTINE BODLEY PONIKTERA** and **JEAN HAMMOND ZIMMERMAN**. Mary writes, "We enjoy sharing experiences and supporting each other when life sends curve balls."

*The Wall Street Journal* published an op-ed, "Thank Your Teachers Before It's Too Late." In response, **JIM ROWBOTHAM** wrote this lovely tribute that *The Journal* published in November: "Respected, influential faculty deserve written gratitude — so do faculty who help GPAs with generous grades. During the 1960s, Bucknell University Professor Robert Ewing earned the nickname 'Uncle Bobby.' He did so with gentle treatment of male athletes and struggling students. Yet many students in his journalism classes worked hard and learned a lot about

how the media shape news stories. To this day, alumni speak fondly of Uncle Bobby and his wise academic decency."

Please send me news about yourself and Bucknell friends. We all like to hear about classmates who are trying new things, going to interesting places or telling amusing anecdotes about their friends or themselves. — J.H.P.

**1966**  
**JACKIE PEARSON**  
**WEIDENFELLER**  
[theweids@verizon.net](mailto:theweids@verizon.net)

In corresponding with **TOBY DECKER '65** about his military service and then about my husband, **CHUCK '64's**, interment in the columbarium at Arlington National Cemetery, Toby suggested paying tribute to all the alumni veterans from our era. I have no idea how many of you from our class were involved; I suspect that there was a large number. Some of you were victims of Agent Orange and/or PTSD. A number of you earned the Purple Heart and/or Silver or Bronze stars. **ROLAND "CAPPY" CAPONE** not only lost a leg in Vietnam but survived 9/11 walking, with only one good leg, down more than 100 floors in the South Tower of the World Trade Center just before the plane crashed into the building. Amazingly, Cappy doesn't suffer from PTSD, but he does still have nightmares about failing Advanced Calculus at Bucknell. We have so much gratitude for any of you who gave

your service for our country. **BEN ELLIOTT**, who was chief speechwriter for the late President Ronald Reagan, writes, "I remember, before even stepping foot inside the White House, the day of the president's inauguration and standing among thousands to hear his address. As he neared the end, he spoke of the great monuments and their heroes, and then, looking across the Potomac to the sloping hills of Arlington National Cemetery with row upon row of simple white markers bearing crosses or Stars of David." Ben also recalled the loss of fellow FIJI veterans, **EDWARD "BUB" MORGAN** and **JACK DORR**, calling them his heroes. Both the football and men's lacrosse teams give out the Bub Morgan Award

Looking to level up your professional game and network with fellow Bucknellians?

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[linkedin.com/groups/77833](https://linkedin.com/groups/77833)

for Tenacity to a graduating senior at their respective annual banquets.

**TOM DRESSER M'68**, who served in the Navy, will this year be reaching his milestone 80th birthday, like many of us. "I'm still working full time at Harry S. Truman Memorial Veterans' Hospital (Columbia, Mo.) and in May 2023 received a 50-year service pin (21 years active-duty Navy plus 29 years with the VA). After my 80th birthday in February, I plan to go to one day per week. The greatest blessing of my career was to work with people who shared a meaningful common purpose." Tom was chief of nuclear medicine and credits Viktor Frankl's *Man's Search for Meaning* for inspiring him with the quote: "True

happiness is having a meaningful purpose — and the most meaningful purpose is to serve others." Tom has definitely done that.

About as soon as I got down to Naples, Fla., this fall, I met up with brother-in-law **BILL WEIDENFELLER '65** and his wife, Joyce, to celebrate his 80th birthday. Bill and I, sometimes joined by other Bucknellians, enjoyed reminiscing about the "old times." **FORREST CHILTON '65** was in touch with Bill, and I discovered that Forrest lives near me in the D.C. area. Toby had this to say: "Forrest and I are good friends and were roommates for two years at Bucknell. I was there the moment he met his wife, **VALERIE SILBERNAGEL CHILTON '65**. He is extremely



dedicated to Bucknell, and many of his relatives have attended the school, including a son, **FORREST CHILTON '88**, and two granddaughters, **TABITHA CHILTON '22** and **ANNIE CHILTON '24**. Forrest, a veteran, served our country for over 50 years, mostly in the military.

**BART FRAME** moved into a staged living community outside Sacramento, Calif., remaining near friends and family. He stays in touch with several FIJIs and hoped to go to Bucknell for the annual reunion of the guys in several classes. Bart visited **TOWNLEY LARZELERE**, who has been recovering from a stroke and enjoys hearing from all his old friends. One of Bart's FIJI "sons," **DAVE DEYSHER '68**, lost wife **ELIZABETH "FAY" HANEY DEYSHER '68** to complications of Parkinson's disease.

**JOHN SKIAVO M'68** writes, "As we 'gently age,' the relationships we've had in our lives become even more prominent, especially those we've been able to maintain. Bucknell was a big part of my life, particularly my FIJI brothers. **JERRY THIMME** and **DICK PACE** came to Myrtle Beach, S.C., in September for golf. I also hear from **MEG COCHRAN MILLER** from time to time about her travels with her husband." — J.P.W.

**1967**  
**CHUCK GILLILAND**  
[cdgilliland45@gmail.com](mailto:cdgilliland45@gmail.com)

**1968**  
**GEORGE VINCE**  
[gvince@madriver.com](mailto:gvince@madriver.com)

**RON PETERSEN** writes, "My wife, **LYNN SCHAEFER PETERSEN**, has been awarded a master's in history from the University of Oxford. We've lived in England for 50 years but have stayed in touch with Bucknell and our Bucknell friends. Our daughter, **CAROLYN PETERSEN '91**, graduated from Bucknell. We live in Buckinghamshire, about 45 minutes from Oxford, and we've enjoyed the easy access to Oxford's many resources."

I prodded **KATHY FENTON WAGNER** to recap the Alaskan adventure that she had with **BRENDA CROUTH-AMEL ADAMS**, **LYNNE HUNTSBERGER KILLHEFFER**, **JENNY PAYNE REESE**, **NANCY WEBER VETTER** and **SUSAN PENECALE ZOLLA**.

"Chapter I: Six good friends gathered in Alaska in late July to spend several wonderful days with Alaska (almost) native Brenda, a resident of Homer since 1991. We flew in from Illinois, Wisconsin, California, Oregon and Pennsylvania, meeting up with Brenda in Anchorage, the starting point for our adventures.

"Chapter II: We went to the Alaska Wildlife Conservation Center, then saw more wildlife with a behind-the-

scenes tour of the Alaska SeaLife Center with the CEO, a colleague of Kathy's. Once settled in our beachfront condo, we explored the Homer Spit and its charms. A few of us tackled the Kachemak Bay and Yukon Island in kayaks, getting up close with octopus and snacking on kelp from the bay. All of us spent an entire amazing day fishing in the Cook Inlet where we caught 163 pounds of salmon and halibut (Nancy's 25-pound king salmon was the winner. Our captain said it was the largest spawner that season, and the mate's comment as it was reeled in was 'holy f\*\*\*in' fish!'). The good news: The dockside processing plant prepped, flash froze and divided up our catch and shipped it to each of us non-natives.

"Chapter III/The End: We then explored more wildlife — a little shopping and a crazy dive bar, the Salty Dawg Saloon, on the Homer Spit with a lot of dollar bills tacked to the walls, windows and doors. We also visited several of Brenda's former clients' gardens and were totally impressed. Along the way, we were delighted to meet Brenda's 'friend,' Phil, who made us a delicious snow crab dinner at his amazing log home where we celebrated our long friendship and toasted Brenda on the sale of her garden-design business. We said our final farewells — until our next gathering — at Brenda's home and garden where she cooked, and we all enjoyed a salmon tasting

of each of the three kinds we'd caught."

It's sad to report that **MIKE LEWIS** died unexpectedly in August. He was a huge presence on campus, both while attending and as an alumnus. Mike was married to **PEGGY SMITH-LEWIS** and had three children, including **MICHAEL LEWIS '00**, and nine grandchildren. Mike and Peggy were one of Bucknell's Cinderella couples, who met at college and married. He was a Phi Gam and played football and lacrosse. After Bucknell, he attended dental school and was a successful and giving dentist for 50 years in his hometown of Rochester, N.Y. To list all of his awards, interests, successes and accomplishments would take volumes. A few include being an Eagle Scout and receiving the Bucknell Service to Humanity Award that recognized his worldwide charitable contributions through dentistry.

**ELIZABETH FAY HANEY DEYSHER** passed away Nov. 6 after a lengthy battle with PSP, a form of Parkinson's disease. She leaves behind her husband of 54 years, **DAVE**, two daughters and four granddaughters.

Fay and Dave, another Cinderella couple, married soon after she graduated as an elementary education major. Later, she earned a master's as a reading specialist and was an educator for over 40 years. Fay loved reading, gardening and was an active athlete, playing tennis and golf, skiing

and snowshoeing. She will be sorely missed by everyone she touched.

I had a lively and fun-filled Zoom with fellow Theta Chis, **JIM VARGA '69** and **BOB MARTUZA '69** (both accomplished medical professionals), who are planning to attend Reunion in June. More about them in a future edition. — G.V.

**1969**  
**PETER E. D'ORSI**  
[pdcpa@hopetechpartners.com](mailto:pdcpa@hopetechpartners.com)

**1970**  
**LYDIA HALLER DODD**  
[lydiadodd@yahoo.com](mailto:lydiadodd@yahoo.com)

After 50 years of parish ministry at First Congregational Church of Coventry, 37 as pastor and 13 as pastor emeritus, **BRUCE JOHNSON** has published his memoir, *Voices from Pulpit and Pew: A Memoir from Retirement*. It is available through Amazon and Barnes & Noble. It's a book about the truths, both theological and personal, that he learned from the daily religious narratives of members of the church and friends in the community. He and wife **LOIS RANCK JOHNSON '71** are parents to Tim and Peter and grandparents to Hailey and Cole.

**JOHN MCFADDEN** celebrated the 50th anniversary of his ordination. It was celebrated at First Congregational Church of Christ in Appleton, Wis., where he was senior pastor for more than 23 years. He is



married to **SUSAN HAMILTON MCFADDEN M'73**.

**DAVE JACOBS** writes, "Reading the obituary of Professor Candland reminded me of when I took his animal behavior class, and we went to study the primates at the Bronx Zoo. That class helped me to decide to pursue my career in veterinary medicine from which I retired in January after 48-and-one-half years of small animal medicine in Falls Church, Va. For the last 10 years, I've volunteered at the Smithsonian National Zoo, collecting behavior data on the pandas." — L.H.D.

**1971**

**LOU KISSLING**

[L\\_KISSLING@msn.com](mailto:L_KISSLING@msn.com)

**1972**

**ANNE SMITH BENBOW**

[anne@benbow.net](mailto:anne@benbow.net)

We've lost a few friends and classmates. **JOHN "DUCK" MOSSER**, a member of Kappa Sigma, died in May 2023. Bucknell relationships led him to Telluride, Colo., in 1975, where he joined **BANKS BROWN**, **SAM SIEGEL** and **STEVE PATTERSON** to ski. Duck fell in love with Telluride and would ski 100 days a season and during the summers would backpack in the San Juan Mountains. In 1981, Duck married Yvonne and had two sons, Clifford and Mitch. He had a successful 44-year career with Rice Lumber and later Alpine Lumber. He won Salesman of the Year several times.

In 2020, he was

diagnosed with pancreatic cancer. Following recovery from surgery and chemotherapy, he skied 97 days that winter and hiked many miles on his favorite trail. In April 2023, he was given a terminal diagnosis and chose to end his life on his own terms at home in his favorite easy chair with his wife and sons by his side.

**NIGEL YORWERTH**, foreign rights agent, publishing consultant and champion of authors and independent publishers, died in March 2023. A member of Kappa Sigma at Bucknell, he started his career in sales, advertising and marketing until he discovered his passion for book publishing.

In the early 1980s he worked as a bookstore manager and later as vice president of sales for SBI Book Distributors and Bookworld. He then served as director of sales and marketing for SBI and for such book publishers as Summit University Press and Power Press.

In 2003, he founded Yorwerth Associates publishing consultancy, and in 2005, took on the role of literary agent at Yorwerth. He spent many happy years living in Bozeman, Mont., where he is survived by his wife. I last saw him five years ago and am happy to have that memory.

I am especially saddened to report the passing of **JANET CUNNINGHAM** in December, as she was one of a group of 12 friends from Bucknell who have been spending time together regularly since 2006. We last saw her in early 2022 at the

memorial gathering for **PATTI SHULTZABERGER SHARPE**, another member of the group.

Janet graduated as a French literature major and was a member of Kappa Kappa Gamma who loved being involved in theatre and played the part of Amanda in *The Glass Menagerie*. Her first job was as a Capitol Hill liaison for a large labor union. In the early 1970s, she married **MILES HAMM '74**, whom she'd met at Bucknell. In 1976, they moved to Boulder, Colo., and soon after, with her sister-in-law, Janet, opened a catering company.

Next, Janet went to work for a software company, was quickly promoted to sales and assigned to the Baltimore office, which was managed by future husband the late Tony

Sepp. They were married in Golden, Colo., in 1993 and later moved to Manhattan, where Janet worked in commercial real estate, developing the concept of luxury shared-office space in New York City and later in Arlington, Va.

Janet volunteered throughout her life at The Lighthouse for the Blind, a veterans' organization, and for Pets on Wheels. She and Tony traveled, and she was passionate in her love of animals, especially dogs and elephants. For the past four years, she lived in the Boulder area. She is survived by her brothers and their families.

On a happier note, in early November, a tight group of Bucknell friends gathered in New Hope, Pa., for a long weekend. Joining me were **PAM**

**SILKWORTH FINN**, **DOTTY FRIES JOHNSON**, **LORRIE CANGELOSI ZORBO**, **CINDY BLAND LESKER**, **PAM DINGWALL HERRING** and **HELEN SCHWALM BULLWINKEL**. We were joined on Saturday night by **JUDY GLEASON '71**, **STEVE and SUE MARTELL BAIRD**, and **ALAN SHARPE**, who provided wine and dinner for all. The weekend was spent hiking, visiting historical places and shopping. We're looking forward to gathering in 2024, probably at the Jersey Shore. — A.S.B.

**1973**

**SUSAN LATIMER**

**CURLETT**

[slcurlett@aol.com](mailto:slcurlett@aol.com)

**DAVE STACY** writes, "It was great to see so

# Honor your GRADUATE

From the anticipation of move-in day to the satisfaction of turning in that final assignment, you have witnessed each step in your student's journey to this milestone.

We invite parents to honor their graduate's accomplishments by making a gift to an area of Bucknell important to you and your family. All parents who choose to honor their graduate by making a gift this year will receive a commemorative Class of 2024 pin to wear at Commencement.



We look forward to celebrating the achievements of the Class of 2024 at the University's 174th Commencement May 12.

[give.bucknell.edu/HonorYourGrad](https://give.bucknell.edu/HonorYourGrad)



many classmates at our 50th Reunion last June. I was honored to be part of the Reunion planning leadership team with **KEITH COUGHEY, JEAN "MIMI" MCCLOSKEY DOW M'78, NANCY GRDEN, GREG PROWANT and JANE WEIRICK ROSS M'75**. We were fortunate to have Tara Michaels from the Center for Alumni & Family Engagement helping us. She did a terrific job, and working with her was a lot of fun. Our class set a record for 50th Reunion attendance and for Reunion giving.

"On a personal note, wife Leisl and I observed the fourth anniversary of our move from Minnesota to Delaware. We had 23 great years in the Twin Cities, where we raised sons Pete and Greg. Both are living and working in Seattle, and we try to make the trip a couple of times a year. We love our 55-plus retirement community and our proximity to the ocean and several cities with great sports and cultural attractions.

"Leisl spends much of her time as a member of several quilting clubs, including one that she started in our community last year. Now 25 women strong, they focus on making Quilts of Valor for U.S. military veterans and baby quilts for the NICU at the local hospital. Meanwhile, I continue to do some part-time cyber security consulting with a focus on small and mid-sized businesses and nonprofits. In my spare time, I'm an avid baseball, hockey and college basketball fan. I planned and led a six-stadium East Coast trip for three fellow

baseball junkies in 2022 that included a couple of days at the National Baseball Hall of Fame in Cooperstown, N.Y. I'm in the planning stage for a five-stadium Midwest trip later this spring.

"Leisl and I are just off the I-95 corridor and would welcome visits from classmates nearby or who are passing through." Dave is at [dwtstacy1951@gmail.com](mailto:dwtstacy1951@gmail.com). — S.L.C.



**1974**  
**NORBERT W. CHURCH JR.**  
[churchandchurch@yahoo.com](mailto:churchandchurch@yahoo.com)

By now we have all reached the big 7-0, and this May, we will celebrate another big milestone — the 50th anniversary of our Bucknell graduation. I'll be attending; will you? There will be so much to share and remember. What freshman hall group were you on? Mine was 2nd Kress. How many concerts do you remember? Seatrain? It's a Beautiful Day? Billy Joel just before he became famous? Who else? Be ready to laugh. Be ready for warm embraces. Be ready to renew old acquaintances. We have a Reunion Committee assembled, and by the time you read this, we will have reached out to you asking you to join the fun. See you all soon!

On another note, **ED HAFER** reached out to me with the sad news

that his wife of 49 years, **KAREN WEAVER HAFER**, passed away Oct. 13 after a long struggle with Lewy body dementia. Ed was her full-time caregiver for the last three years of her life. — N.W.C.

**1975**  
**NANCY QUAY BRADLEY**  
[nancy.bradley6@gmail.com](mailto:nancy.bradley6@gmail.com)

**LAURA WININGS AUSTIN** shared with me that **JOHN GRANNIS** died July 31. He lived most of his adult life in California — from 1975 until he moved to Idaho with his wife. He practiced law in LA, but about five years ago, he stopped practicing law and began to teach, a very fulfilling endeavor for him. Laura shares that John "continued to pursue knowledge passionately, continued to exude a 'joie de vivre,' continued to display his love for people and continued to be loyal. He was magnanimous and bigger than life, a man of many interests and a man of deep faith." Laura felt blessed to count him among her best friends and privileged to speak at his burial service in North Olmsted, Ohio, Sept. 30.

Some happy news arrived from **MARY LOVE** about turning 70: "**DIANNE BROWN ELDERKIN** made this year's mini-reunion extra special by hosting it at their beach house in New Jersey. **BETSY STOVER GRANGER** had the great idea to create a soundtrack from the 1970s through current

music, covering the time since we met each other freshman year. Betsy solicited song input from all attendees which, in addition to her and Dianne, included **JUDY GERTZ, CELINE KOROP-CHAK** and **NANCY WOLLET LARSON**. Our enthusiastic response generated over 14 hours of music — a great backdrop to our three-day visit. The playlist entitled 'Bucknell Reunion Tour: 2023 LBI' can be found on Spotify. A personal chef preparing a five-course dinner with wine pairings was fantastic, but getting together and catching up with this group of women was priceless."

**CAROL MERRIMAN SCHWANHAUSSER** shares that on a September weekend, "10 Tri Deltas from the Class of '75, who have been getting together somewhere once a year for the past 15 years, had everyone in attendance at a celebration of our 70th birthdays" at Carol's house in Westport, Conn. The women boated to Long Island, N.Y., for lunch, had a private Pilates class poolside, walked, cooked and more for four days, including a day of games when Sunday was a washout. Carol adds, "We laughed together as if we were still 20, and we're all excited to return to Bucknell for our 50th in 2025."

In attendance were **NANCI JONES BUTLER, SUSAN STRICKLAND GIVEN M'78, PATTY WALLACE WILLIS, CAROL, SUSAN LEWIS, SUSAN HENRY BAKER, LYNNE SCHREIBER PEARSON, CINDY FUHR DECKER,**

**LINDA ORTLIEB TOZOUR** and **ANN PARTRIDGE SPARKES**.

Life in 2023 has been a series of adventures for my husband and me as we faced Jeff's lung cancer diagnosis in December 2022, a surgery in March 2023 to remove two thirds of his right lung and an amazing recovery since. Revitalized and ready to resume our adventures, we traveled to the beach twice with family, visited a Bucknell friend in Arizona, flew to Spain for a seven-day bicycle adventure on the island of Menorca and jetted to Chamonix, France, in August to watch one of Jeff's former high school runners, Zach Miller, compete in the Ultra-Trail du Mont Blanc, an incredible 106-mile race around the mountains in France, Italy and Switzerland (where Zach finished second in the world). We feel blessed beyond measure and look forward to spending the winter in Venice, Fla., after a one-year hiatus. Life is so good.

Please let me know what is happening in your lives as we begin our seventh decade. — N.Q.B.

**1976**  
**GAIL WATERBURY FERRI**  
[waterburyferri@gmail.com](mailto:waterburyferri@gmail.com)

**MARY LOU KUPFER**  
[maryloukpf6@gmail.com](mailto:maryloukpf6@gmail.com)

We are sad to relay the news of the passing of **JACK FITZGIBBON** this past June. He was a member of Kappa Sigma



## UNEARTHING JUSTICE

Environmental lawyer Wayne Hettenbach '90 fights to keep the planet and its inhabitants safe

by JENNI WHALEN GRITTERS '12

**Wayne Hettenbach '90** is a crime investigator whose mission is to protect the planet from eco-criminals.

Hettenbach has spent 20 years working as an environmental lawyer, litigating criminal and civil matters that involve violations of federal environmental laws, including the Clean Water Act and Clean Air Act. In his role as assistant chief of the environmental crimes section of the U.S. Department of Justice, he oversees a team of investigators and prosecutors who specialize in white-collar criminal law as it relates to environmental crimes.

The scope of his work ranges from investigating corporate pollution and wildlife trafficking to prosecuting toxic waste disposal and the falsification of environmental records.

"It's pretty much like what you see on *Law & Order*, except our victims are the environment, animals and the public at large," he says.

Hettenbach says he remembers seeing the effects of pollution firsthand while growing up in coastal New Jersey. Medical and plastic waste washed up on the beaches where he swam; areas where he once enjoyed clamming were closed off due to sewage runoff.

"Later in life, I learned that there were jobs like mine, where I could improve the environment by holding people accountable for doing illegal things, and I was hooked," he says.

The seeds of his career were planted by his education at Bucknell, where Hettenbach graduated with a double-major in philosophy and political science.

"My philosophy major was interesting because it taught me to ask questions and think deeply about issues," he says. "But



As an environmental lawyer, Wayne Hettenbach '90 tackles corporate pollution, wildlife trafficking, toxic waste disposal and more.

because I wanted more concrete answers, I thought law would be a good pairing. In my career, I think deeply about issues but ultimately argue one way or another."

Hettenbach says he's especially drawn to the aspect of his work that he calls "cracking the code." Working with a team of scientists, analysts and legal professionals, he uncovers clues and deciphers puzzles that ultimately enable them to stop illegal activity and break up criminal networks.

"People and businesses usually break environmental laws for profit, either to make or save money," he says. "They count on hiding their conduct and making their schemes too complex to penetrate. We work to unravel their plans and make them lose their money and forfeit their freedom. It's very satisfying to make sure there are consequences for these companies and individuals — and even more rewarding to know that my work results in a cleaner environment and protects imperiled animals."

and a four-year member of the Bucknell golf team. He spent several years working for Mobil Oil after graduation and then went to Seton Hall School of Law. Ultimately, he worked in real estate law in Southern California where he was a recognized expert in his field. Outside work, Jack continued his golfing at Newport Beach Country Club and volunteered with his church community. In 2015, he reconnected with Pamela Parker, whom he'd known from his D.C. days. They were married in 2017. Jack

loved life and especially the joy that came from his many friendships. — G.W.F. and M.L.K.

**1977**  
**SUSAN HUNSICKER**  
[8elsiemarie@gmail.com](mailto:8elsiemarie@gmail.com)

**BRIAN KNAPP**  
[cbknapp@charter.net](mailto:cbknapp@charter.net)

**MILTON "SKIP" WADDELL, MELINDA MITCHELL SHUMWAY** and **THOMAS MCLEAN '78** served on the Blair Academy 1973 50th Reunion Class Committee. The reunion

coincided with the school's 175th anniversary celebration, which was also attended by **LAURA COCHRAN MORRIS '79**.

**DOUG BURNS** reported that a lot of laughs and love were shared during a gathering of water polo and swimming brethren at the September 2023 Bucknell Invitational. Attending were **TOM CAHILL, JAY FISETTE '78, MARK GENSHEIMER '81, ANDY KARPUK '79, DON MOLL, TONY PAXTON '81, DAN RICHARDS '78, MARC SICKLE '76 and BILL VANDERWILT '79**. "We had a great time; we always

do when we're back in Lewisburg." Doug retired in November 2018 following a 40-year corporate career that began in the Bucknell placement office.

**KURT WATERS** enjoyed dinner in New York City with Tamara and **PETE ANDERSON** and Tamara's niece and nephew. The couple was on the way to Europe via the *Queen Mary 2*. During the crossing, they danced in turn-of-the-century costumes, an activity they have since shared with The Flying Cloud Academy, the dance troupe Tamara founded

in 2000. Pete works as a financial adviser for the Principal Financial Group in Cincinnati. Kurt is semi-retired from Fairfax County (Va.) Schools and splits his time between Virginia and New Jersey.

**MARTY MARRA** returned to Bucknell in October for the 50th anniversary of the founding of the Rugby Club. There were about 20 old ruggers who attended including **MARK CURRIE '74, MARK HANNA '79, CHRIS KARABIN '78, BOB LANGTON '76, JIM POCOCK '75, PAUL POLEY '75, MARK REILLY '76, KEVIN SHINNERS '75, TOM**



**SOUTHER '80, MARK SPRINGER '76, MARK STEPHANOU '75, BILL VITRIOL '75** and Mike McDowell, a Lewisburg resident on the team. "On Saturday, we watched the club play a match on their own dedicated pitch, followed by dinner at Coach Gazes' home with the current players. Many of the rugby alumni donated the funds for a scoreboard that's been erected at the field. Everyone had a fun time learning what their friends did in the last 50 years."

**CHRIS TINKHAM** is in his 25th year of teaching skiing and training instructors at Okemo Mountain in Vermont. He commutes from Stamford, Conn., to New York City to work in the NYC advertising world Monday–Friday, noting, "gotta catch up after paying for that third divorce." In addition to skiing, guitar playing and fly fishing are on the top of Chris's list of activities.

**ALEX VALICENTI** works full time and was looking forward to retirement, except her husband and law partner wants to keep working.

**RICK MARSH** is alive and well, practicing as an attorney in the Carolinas. One son is a glass artist who lives west of Denver at a nearly 10,000-foot elevation. His other son is an attorney in Greenville, S.C., and his daughter works as a defense contractor in Goose Creek, S.C. Rick enjoys "three grandkids, so far, who are all still pretty young. Cindy and I are still working jobs we enjoy that give us time to do the non-working things we like." — S.H. and B.K.

**1978**  
**KATHY MCDONALD**  
**ADELBERGER**  
[tedkathy@comcast.net](mailto:tedkathy@comcast.net)

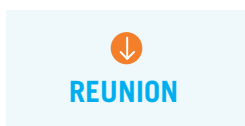
I couldn't think of a better way to start 2024 than by announcing the birth of my granddaughter, Natalie Eleanor, Nov. 30. Mom, **JEAN ADELBERGER ZECHMAN '13**, and Dad were coping with lack of sleep but loving every minute of parenthood. I made a special stop at the Bucknell bookstore on a return trip home and have properly accessorized her with Bucknell gear. For a potential fourth generation Bucknellian, the purchases were mandatory. While in Lewisburg, I took the time to drive around campus (since I missed Reunion) and must say our campus just gets more beautiful and impressive each time I visit. Despite all the new buildings and expansion of the campus, it immediately felt like home.

I received a nice update from my former 4th West Roberts hallmate **SUE KVETON MITCHELL**. Her Mod 19 gang has been reuniting almost every year since our 30th Reunion. In the group are **LESLIE SMITH FLORIO, MARY LYNN "M.L." HEDISON, JEANNIE METZ, DENISE SHUMOCK NOKES, LYNNE UHL, PAULA SYKES MENGHETTI, SOLVEIGH SCOTT MARCKS, MISSY HARTUNG DIMASSA, GAIL EHRHART CURREY** and **COLETTE SHEEHY**.

After a break due to COVID-19, the group resumed its reunion in 2022, gathering at Leslie's home in Stone Harbor, N.J. In 2023 the friends went to D.C., and they're planning to meet in Monterey, Calif., in fall

2024. Sue notes, "We've had a blast every time, and it always feels like we haven't been apart at all, picking up right where we left off. Our Bucknell years forged such a strong bond, and I'm so grateful for the friendship I have with each and every one of these wonderful ladies."

There is no doubt that our years at Bucknell helped many of us to forge lifelong friendships. Let's keep them going by contributing to Class Notes. — K.M.A.



**1979**  
**ALAN SCHRIGER**  
[altam@netvision.net.il](mailto:altam@netvision.net.il)

As many of you know, I have lived in Israel since 1985. Israel has been at war, and the country is dealing with many issues, among them the thousands of military reservists who have left their families, jobs or places of learning to serve the country. Our middle and youngest sons as well as a son-in-law have gone to the front.

**PETER BURY's** band, Pariah, held a mini-reunion at the end of July. **THOM JAYNE '80, CONNIE CURRIER '81** and Peter got together for a few days, went back into the studio and re-recorded two of their original songs from their Bucknell days, "Sail" and "Standing All Alone."

Band members **KATHI BREITENFELD '80** and **JOHN GOODMAN '81** were at the studio in spirit. Peter plans on releasing these new versions on an upcoming Pariah website. It will also

contain original versions from the 1979 Columbia Records demo as well as post-Bucknell Pariah tunes and various individual projects from the past 40-plus years.

**MICHAEL "SPIKE" LOBDELL** was planning on coming to our 45th Reunion this year and seeing old friends. He has worked at J.P. Morgan for 28 years but is most proud of helping to found the New England Science & Sailing Foundation (NESS). The organization teaches STEM to approximately 9,000 students across the country using water-based platforms such as sailing and adventure sports. The program combines science learning and acquiring valuable life skills, such as teamwork, communication and perseverance. Over 50% of the students receive some form of financial aid. Spike and NESS have received significant regional and national recognition including the Robert W. Crawford Achievement Prize, given to the individual who does the most to advance the lives of inner-city youth through athletics. NESS has been the only school partner program accredited by the New England Association of Schools and Colleges.

**BOB OTT** retired as a Delta international pilot in 2022 after 32 years. The reason was that the Federal Aviation Administration does not allow a commercial pilot to fly past age 65. Bob enjoyed his career as a pilot and flew a bunch of aircraft on the A-330 simulator, which he now teaches part time to other Delta pilots. He retired from politics after serving 12 years as a local county commissioner represent-

ing 185,000 people. Among his other achievements, Bob helped get his district the contract to build the new Atlanta Braves stadium. Bob also teaches woodworking to young men ages 16 to 28.

Bob and wife Judy celebrate 30 years of marriage this April. Their daughter will be married in June. Both children are out of the house and gainfully employed. His church group was due to visit Israel but had to postpone because of the war. I hope to see you, Bob, when the war is over and that goes for all fellow classmates. When you come to Israel for a visit, let me know.

**LINDA CHENEY** was part of a couple of wonderful mini-Bucknell reunions over the last year. "The first one was hosted by **MARY ELLEN DARCY AUSTIN** at her beach house in Isle of Palms, S.C., with **MARY JACCODINE, PAT NOWAK DEBSKI** and **ALLIE BLAIR SPENCER M'79**. We enjoyed all the activities, including the beach and pool, spa time, a fantastic walking tour of historic Charleston, golf and tennis, and, of course, dining out and in (thank you, Allie and Mary Ellen, for cooking)."

The second get-together was with Linda's Bucknell roommate **ANN BOGOROWSKI CLEVINGER** at her home outside Philadelphia. They golfed at the Links Golf Club, took a day trip to Long Beach, N.Y., and played pickleball at local courts.

Linda adds, "I'm looking forward to seeing everyone at Reunion and hopefully playing the Bucknell golf course." — A.S.



## 1980

**DEBORAH L. HENNEL**  
dhennel@aol.com

I just want to remind you to keep in touch about the cool stuff you're doing or the friends you've reconnected with during 2024.

**JIM KNIGHT**, whose work has been improving the Bucknell infrastructure for decades, writes, "After 43 years, I guess it's time for a life update from me. I'll be retiring from Bucknell at the end of September after working for the past 27 years in the facilities department, most recently as the director of energy and utilities. I started at Bucknell in 1996 as the project manager to replace the old coal power plant with a highly efficient natural gas cogeneration plant. It's fitting that my last major project was managing construction of the solar-generation system between Bucknell West and the golf course. In between, we accomplished a lot in supporting the major expansion of the campus from 2000 to the present. More importantly, despite all of the new construction during that time, the campus consumes far less energy than it did in 1996. I'm proud to leave Bucknell knowing the campus infrastructure is much more reliable, efficient and environmentally friendly than when I started.

"My wife, Laurie, and I plan to stay in Lewisburg for the foreseeable future. I'm looking forward to spending more time outside, hiking, biking and running (though much slower and shorter than the old days). We'll be regulars at the men's and women's basketball

games and other athletic events.

"I plan to continue as a volunteer assistant coach for the track and field team and on the board of supervisors for East Buffalo Township, which will keep me busy enough. I'll miss the daily routine and challenges of the job but am ready to start taking life at a slower pace.

"Of course, I look forward to the annual mini-reunion with my Bucknell cross-country teammates at **RICH COFFIN '82**'s house in the Finger Lakes, N.Y."

With the lag between this information and publication, something tells me that Jim is already keeping plenty busy. I hope someone sends an update about the cross-country mini-reunions.

On a musical note, if you want to take a listen down memory lane, check out Pariah's website, [pariahback2023.com](http://pariahback2023.com). There are lots of music links, too. Don't you think that they should get the band back together for our next Reunion (which is only a year away)? — D.L.H.

## 1981

**CAROL CHRISTIE ROSNER**  
ccrosner@aol.com

Just a quick update this time as my "mailbox" has been empty. But I'm excited to share news from **LORI WELSH MARTINET**, who has had a very exciting and special year. I don't think she's ever been included in one of our columns, so I'm happy to do so now.

Lori writes, "2023 was an amazing year for our family. Our two daughters had babies just 11 days apart in July. Despite living in different states, Scott and I were

able to be with them for the arrivals. Kelly and Josh Pullin had daughter Avery Leigh July 11 in Austin, Texas. Caroline and Austin Wernecke had baby boy Wells Daniel on July 24.

"It was a very special Christmas as everyone joined us in Baltimore for the holidays. We love being grandparents to these adorable babies and watching our daughters and sons-in-law enjoy the wonders of parenthood. We are truly blessed.

"This year, we are taking our first Viking cruise down the Rhine in May. I hope to get together with our 1st West ladies again to celebrate the big 6-5." — C.C.R.

## 1982

**BECKY GOODWIN KANGOS**  
rgkang@aol.com

**SCOTT THISTLE** writes, "My wife, **KAREN DAHL THISTLE**, and I moved to Newark, Del., this past May in order to live close to our eldest son and his wife. Our youngest son in Chattanooga, Tenn., was married in September, and our daughter, her husband and their toddler live in the Mobile, Ala., area. I retired at the end of last year from the law firm in Pittsburgh that I worked with for 30 years and plan to start doing some pro-bono work in the near future. Karen is volunteering in the community, and I have joined a symphonic choir associated with the University of Delaware. We are glad to be better able to visit with family and friends on the East Coast."

Our news has been thin lately, so drop me a line and let me know what you're up to, who

you've seen lately and any other fun or interesting news you'd like to share. — B.G.K.

## 1983

**TRACEY TRUSK EICK**  
tteick@bellsouth.net

**JULIET SHIELD-TAYLOR** was kind enough to send a recap of our 40th Reunion when she heard I'd missed it. She and **CINDY DEVAL** stayed with **STACEY BERNHARD SMOLLEN** on Thursday night in Madison, N.J. "**CATHERINE 'C.J.' KOLB STROUP** joined us for lunch on Friday. We all met up with **EILEEN MCCARTHY BORN** that afternoon, drove to Bucknell and had dinner together under the tent. Later, we attended our class gathering at the Weis Center where we met more classmates. I spoke with **MIKE** and **AMY PETTIBONE TOOLE** and had a lovely fireside chat at the Fairfield Inn on Friday night with **LONNIE FERTIK WILLIARD, DAVE** and **CAROLINE DILLON MARREN**, Stacey and Eileen."

Juliet saw **JEFF ERICKSON** and **PAT MCMAHON** at lunch on Saturday and spoke with **LARRY ZMUDA**, who shared that he'd been to almost all 50 states and was the developer of both TSA PreCheck and CLEAR. "I tried to kayak on the Susquehanna with CJ on Saturday afternoon, but a big thunderstorm came through, canceling it. **MEG BARRON BORN, LAURIE HOLBEN FINE** and **KAREN FRACAS MONAGHAN** arrived on campus Saturday afternoon.

"Our class dinner at **CHUCK ZALESKI**'s winery was well attended, and **JANICE**

**MUELLER CRAMPTON** did a great job speaking for our class. I saw **JUDY KNOX**, my former roommate, **JOHN** and **CHRISTIE WHOLEY KELLY** and **ALISON REIDER HENNEN**, my AXO big. Alison and I had a great conversation about her early childhood center in Milwaukee. I also saw **WENDY PLUMP, SUE DEKIMPE GLENN** and **DWAYNE MCALILEY**, who spoke about being a travel consultant in Portland, Ore. The tent party was particularly fun for Karen, who danced the night away. Some of us turned in early now that we are all over 60. C.J., Karen and I flew to the Stroup home on Kiawah Island, S.C., for a few extra days to extend our reunion. CJ was a wonderful host, showing us her beautiful spot, and our activities included horseback riding, biking and a dolphin cruise."

Craig and **EILEEN MCCARTHY BORN** were thrilled to join the best club in the world: grandparenthood. Their family welcomed Cameron Atkins Nov. 2, who is the firstborn son of Drew and **AMY ATKINS BORN '13**.

It is with profound sadness that I report the passing of **DAVID KAMMER**, one of our more interesting classmates. I met David early in our time at Bucknell through Meg. David and Meg were lifetime friends who grew up together at their happiest place. I remember his ever-present smile and being a friend to all.

Meg sends the following: "This Mother's Day [2023] marked a sad day for the family and friends of David when he passed away suddenly at his home in Marcellus, N.Y. He is remembered by





## A BISON PROTECTING BISON

Mark Cool '91 is working on 'the coolest conservation project you've never heard of'

by JENNI WHALEN GRITTERS '12

**Mark Cool '91** embraced the liberal arts philosophy at Bucknell, where he "tried a bit of everything," taking courses in nearly every department before landing on a major in psychology and a minor in education. "My Bucknell transcript was like a quilt with many different patches of interest," he says. "My career has played out in much the same way. I have never been afraid to try something new."

After three decades of living in the greater New York City area and working in insurance, banking and advertising, Cool decided in 2022 to make a drastic change. He relocated to Montana to become the chief marketing officer at American Prairie, a nonprofit conservation organization that's working to build the largest nature reserve in the contiguous United States.

In his role, Cool and his team develop compelling storytelling around American Prairie's mission in order to build national awareness, engage donors and raise funding to support what he calls "the coolest conservation project you've never heard of." American Prairie's goal is to connect 3.2 million acres of private and public land to restore a fully functioning prairie ecosystem. By connecting and preserving the vast grasslands in Montana's Northern Great Plains, the organization strives to restore the biodiversity of the area.

Successful restoration means that species native to the region — including bison — can thrive and fulfill their natural ecological role. Millions of bison once lived on the Great Plains, but they were nearly extinct by the late 1800s. American Prairie first reintroduced these native grazers to the landscape in 2005, after a 150-year absence in that region. Today a herd of more than 900 bison roams across tens of thousands of acres there.



Mark Cool '91 is working to support the restoration of wild bison to Montana's Northern Great Plains.

"Bison are considered a keystone species in that they shape the ecosystem to such a degree that their absence would drastically change the environment and negatively impact other species that depend on them and their habits," Cool says. "Our ultimate goal is to grow bison herds to a population size that would result in the species fulfilling their ecological role on the landscape. Seeing bison roam across the prairie and knowing we are preserving this experience and this landscape for future generations drives me and fulfills me in ways financial services never could."

Cool says it's never too late to embark on a new path in life. "I like to give this advice: Take chances," he says. "Follow things that are interesting. Be intrigued by where you're going and what you're doing."

many Bucknellians for his love of practical jokes and antics, adventurous spirit, and love of rocks and minerals, the outdoors, photography, whitewater and any mechanical challenge. I am forever indebted to him for helping me get through physical geography and calculus and for the joy he brought others while I was an RA in Roberts our junior year. One day, David organized the freshman girls on the hall to move the entire contents of my room into the hallway bathroom.

He was also an honorary member of 4th Harris during our freshman year. He and I knew each other long before we started Bucknell. We grew up together at the place where he was most at home — Lake Waynewood in north-eastern Pennsylvania. We spent much time together since Bucknell at 'The Lake.' He is greatly missed by his wife, Brigid, and their three children, Andrew, Annie and Park; the Waynewood community; and all who called him a friend. He was prede-

ceased by son Will." — T.T.E.

### REUNION

**1984**  
**ALLISON ABOUCHAR CROSS**  
[14380th@gmail.com](mailto:14380th@gmail.com)

**GAYLE ROBINSON SNYDER** released a Christmas album in late 2023. A project that

she'd considered for years, the concept was to cover 1,000 years of Christmas music (one song per century). The last song on the album was co-written with husband David. The project took the better part of a year during which Gayle researched the songs, wrote harmonies and recorded the vocals. David did the mixing and mastering. Links to various streaming services are at [gaylesnyder.hearnow.com](http://gaylesnyder.hearnow.com). — A.A.C.

**1985**  
**CAROL RHEAM TEVIS**  
[rheamtev@ptd.net](mailto:rheamtev@ptd.net)

**1986**  
**JOAN DAUGHEN CADIGAN**  
[jcadigan@mac.com](mailto:jcadigan@mac.com)

**SCOTT FERGUSON M'89** writes, "I'm still in Aiken, S.C., with wife **MEG REYNOLDS FERGUSON '88** and have been working for Keysight Technologies as a field apps engineer for years. I got to play some golf with **JOHN DELANEY** a couple



## ON A TRANSITION MISSION

Michelle Lesh '00 is driving the growth of renewable energy in Europe

by JENNI WHALEN GRITTERS '12

Michelle Lesh '00 likes to solve problems — the greater the complexity, the more satisfying the reward. She has dedicated her career to tackling complicated, multifaceted challenges to help the world transition from fossil fuels to more sustainable sources of power like renewable energy.

Lesh is the chief commercial officer for Alfen, a Netherlands-based company that builds and implements sustainable energy solutions across Europe. Lesh is tasked with making sure new technologies, like electric vehicles (EVs) and renewables such as wind and solar energy systems, can work with existing energy grids. From her office in Amsterdam, she manages the strategy that propels several key energy-related areas: creating a system of accessible EV charging stations in Europe, implementing energy storage solutions to enable more renewable energy and building sustainable electricity grids for the future.

While studying mechanical engineering at Bucknell, Lesh participated in the Institute for Leadership in Technology & Management program, which helped her see how her engineering expertise could one day be valuable in advancing a business. She then interned at General Electric (GE), gaining



Michelle Lesh '00 took a strategic risk pursuing a career in renewable energy; today she's a leader in the rapidly growing industry.

exposure to the company's innovative work on energy systems. She parlayed that into a full-time position after graduation, and for more than 20 years, she helped utility companies generate power from renewable sources. She also worked on creating smarter electricity grids that would make it possible for more people to charge EVs at home.

"I worked at GE back when people said wind would never be a viable energy source," she says. "Bucknell helped me learn the value of being forward thinking and taking a strategic risk. That's allowed me to have the career I have. I'm grateful to be a leader in the energy transition."

weeks ago as he was in town to visit his son."

In January Scott was planning to return to Lewisburg for a basketball alumni week when Bucknell hosted Colgate. He was set to play the national anthem, sit in with the pep band and maybe squeeze in a little "Yakety Sax." — J.D.C.

**1987**  
**LAUREN SLAVIN**  
**WROBEL**  
[laurenwr@optimum.net](mailto:laurenwr@optimum.net)

My family celebrated two milestone graduations in May 2023. Our daughter, Nicole, graduated from The College of New Jersey with a major in elementary education and is teaching. Our son, Kevin, received his J.D.

from Seton Hall School of Law, passed the bar exam and is clerking for a judge. Stan and I will be married 30 years, and we still live in the same house we had built. Stan celebrated his 35th anniversary with J&J and is employed by Kenvue (a J&J spinoff company) as a principal scientist in consumer products. As for me, this is my 16th year as a substitute teacher in Bridgewater, N.J. If I could have done it all over again, I would have majored in secondary education because I love working with middle school students.

**COLLEEN DEVANEY** reports, "I spent a lovely weekend with dear friends from my Bucknell days. **SHARON LINK O'SHAUGHNESSY** hosted about a dozen Bucknell-

ians, most of whom were Gamma Phis, at her home in Downingtown, Pa. We had Gamma Phi sisters come in from not only Pennsylvania and New Jersey, but also Virginia, Ohio, Oklahoma and Georgia. It was a blast to see so many great friends, all in one place and in person, and reminisce about our Bucknell days. Others attending were **DAWN ACKERLY LATHAM**, **SUE HERMAN DARNELL M'91**, **LINDA JACOWITZ**, **CHERIE STUNTZ**, **CATHY MOREUS**, **CHRIS DOMBECK LUKSIC**, **LIZANNE HURST '86**, **DEB LONZER '86**, **JOANNE INFANTINO '86**, **HOLLY ROSS '88** and **PAM MEYERS MCLAUGHLIN '89**. A larger Bucknell Gamma Phi reunion is being planned for September 2024 in Philadelphia, so Bucknell

sisters (from any class years) who are interested in joining in, please reach out to **MARTHA GUY GORK '84** at [megork62@gmail.com](mailto:megork62@gmail.com) for details. Can't wait to see everyone again."

I would love to hear more news from the Class of 1987. Send updates, please. — L.S.W.

**1988**  
**STACIE VELISARIS DE LA PARRA**  
[svdelaparra@yahoo.com](mailto:svdelaparra@yahoo.com)

I'm living a dream in my new job at Bucknell! Thank you to those who have reached out to say "ray!" If any of you find yourselves on campus, please let me know; I would love to connect.

I'll start with an email from **STEVE "MEL" BLOUNT**, who reported that the Blount family went to Maine in July for another **LINDA FLEMING ZOLPER** wedding, celebrating with **PAUL** and **CINDY PHILLIPS FREUD**, **LEIGH SMITH PETRAS**, **NANCY PAYNE BRUNS**, **KATIE SIMPSON CASTE**, and **DAVE FEHNEL** and **ANDE GABRIEL** and their kids **STEVE '18** and **ALEX '23**.

"I joined **GREGG SMITH '87** and **BOBBY LE BLANC** for a round of golf at Rye Golf Club to start August. That weekend, **KAREN BAILEY BLOUNT** and I went to Long Island, N.Y., to join **KEVIN '87** and **STACEY GARDNER MULLINS** for their annual summer weekend, along with **ROB** and **CORINNE COLE RYAN**, **CHRIS GLAVIN CHEO**, **MAUREEN**



**CARROLL, JILL MANUEL COUGHLIN, ADAM RUBIN and TOBY '87 and KAREN KARLOVEC HUMM."**

Then, Mel played golf at Rumson Country Club with **JOHN BYREN '87, DAVE HENRY '86 and MARK STANISCI '86**, where they wore their orange and blue and caught **BEN SMITH '08's** eye at the halfway house.

In late August, Mel spent an afternoon with **JOHN and LAURA ROSENBURGH SHMERLER** at the Baltimore Country Club. TKE brothers held a memorial golf outing for the late **JIM TOPOR '87** in honor of a nonprofit he was heavily involved in called Good Grief. The outing was coordinated by **MARK WORMS '87** with a solid TKE group including **RICH MAUCH '86, KEN CARPENTER, Gregg, RICHARD "CHIP" WILKINSON '87, JED PETTY '87 and ROB "CUBBY" STEFFENS '86.**

"I drove to Misquamicut Golf Club in mid-September for a round with **BOB WILLIAMS '87 and TOM COLLINS '87.** On the way home, I stopped at a Bucknell Athletics Department cocktail party in Westport, Conn., hosted by **ELLIE WILLIAMS '92** and caught up with **H.J. WILLCOX, TODD NEWCOMB and JOE PASTORE.**

Then Mel and his wife attended their 10th consecutive Family Weekend where they saw **STACIE VELISARIS DE LA PARRA, PAT D'AGOSTINI PERAZZINI '82, KYLE MCGEE '04, MATT DELOCA, JOSH '90 and SUE DEAN TRAGER '90, JOHN WALLACE '85, ED ROBINSON '86, BRYAN '87 and SANDY D'ALESSANDRO HUBER '86, ERIN O'CONNELL LANGTON, SUE HOLBACK EVANS, GREG '89 and**

**SHELLEY GLOWACKI WHY '89, KRISTEN BUTT MAY '89, GREG PRIME '89, BRUCE '87 and CYNTHIA CIATTO BOWER '87 and ROB CANESTRARI.**

"I went back the following Friday to play in the Big Al Yearick Bucknell Basketball Golf Outing with **GARY SCOTT '86.** Other FIJIs at the outing included **BOB MAUTE '86, BOB WILLIAMS '86, KYLE YEARICK '84, PAT CUSICK '84 and STEVE BAUER '84.**

In early October, Mel along with **SCOTT LILLIS, H.J. and MIKE MIGNANO '89** watched Boston College at Army (Scott's son, Hans, was on the Boston squad.) About a month later, Mel was back at West Point to see Bucknell women's soccer win its third Patriot League title in a row and saw Todd Newcomb and **CHRISTY MITCHELL SCHIANO '90** (Greg and Christy's daughter, **KATIE '25**, has been a defensive back for all three titles.)

"I made a bucket-list trek to Durham, N.C., to see Bucknell men's basketball at Duke, along with **STU FRANK; Rob and Corinne Cole Ryan and their son REESE '23; Gary Scott; Ed Robinson; MARK '86 and JILL BARLOW BLOOM '87** and daughter **LINDSEY '22; BILL CLINE '85; ERIC SUTHERLAND '85 and, of course, head coach JOHN GRIFFIN III '08."**

Mel saw **RALPH PASCUCCI '87** at the Boston wedding of Tom Collins's daughter and the following week, he drove back to Boston for another bucket-list item: the Army vs. Navy game. He caught up with **BRIAN MULHALL '89** at the tailgate there. (Brian's daughter is in her fourth year on the Navy crew team.)

Mel also went to the

Pinstripe Bowl (Rutgers vs. Miami) at Yankee Stadium in late December with **HARRY BUELL,** and they saw Rutgers head coach Greg Schiano at the game.

"The Blount family spent New Year's Eve at **LESLIE NORTHRUP LONG '87's** house and then I, Karen and daughters **MELISSA '18 and SAMANTHA '20** made a trip to Boston to move Melissa into her new apartment. While in Boston, we had dinner with Melissa's best friend (and new Boston neighbor) **MAGGIE CARLSON '18,** Karen's sister, **SUE BAILEY THOMSON '86,** and the full Fehnel family." — S.V.P.



## REUNION

**1989**  
**RENEE LEAVITT BARLOW**  
[reneebarlow999@gmail.com](mailto:reneebarlow999@gmail.com)

**SUSAN MILLER KING** was selected for inclusion in *The Best Lawyers in America* for 2024. She is a partner at Hancock Estabrook and is chair of the Trusts & Estates Department. Susan advises clients with estate and wealth transfer planning, estate administration and taxation, corporate formation and business succession planning, elder law and special needs planning. — R.L.B.

**1990**  
**LAURA MICHALEC OLSZEWSKI**  
[laura.michalec@gmail.com](mailto:laura.michalec@gmail.com)

**LAURA BELTER SHANNON** wrote with some exciting updates. She auditioned for and made it onto the senior dance team, Wisdom, for the NBA's Washington Wizards. They will be performing at 10–12 home games this season. Her daughter graduated from Appalachian State University; her son is working at a British sports car garage and taking classes at Northern Virginia Community College. She and her husband are counting the days until retirement. Stay safe and be well. — L.M.O.

## 1991

*If you are interested in being the Class of 1991 Reporter or have news to share, please email Heidi Hormel, Class Notes editor, at [hjh006@bucknell.edu](mailto:hjh006@bucknell.edu).*

**1992**  
**LISA BLOCKUS BROWN**  
[lisa.blockus.brown@gmail.com](mailto:lisa.blockus.brown@gmail.com)

**LINDA MASSA SAFFLE**  
[lindaoncapecod@gmail.com](mailto:lindaoncapecod@gmail.com)

**1993**  
**CHRIS ZACHARDA**  
[chris.zacharda@gmail.com](mailto:chris.zacharda@gmail.com)

**CATHERINE GUGGENHEIMER PEARLMAN** writes, "I released my second book, *First Phone: A Child's Guide to Digital Responsibility, Safety, and Etiquette*. It is for 8–13-year-olds who are getting their first smartphone, iPad or digital device. It teaches boundaries, digital etiquette, safety, self-care, social media,

cyberbullying, sexting, sleep, when to Google and when not to, and scams, phishing and other dangers. I wrote this book after hearing from so many parents who are struggling with their tweens and teens and their digital access.

"A bit of personal news: a few years ago I moved to southern California. I saw a flier in Starbucks for a man who needed a kidney, and I decided to donate. I donated three years ago to a stranger, and it was the best decision. He's a wonderful man and doing great with my kidney, and I'm doing great with just one." — C.Z.



## REUNION

**1994**  
**SARAH A. SMITH**  
[ssmith4321@yahoo.com](mailto:ssmith4321@yahoo.com)

**1995**  
**JENNIFER BLOB BONER**  
[jenboner@gmail.com](mailto:jenboner@gmail.com)

**1996**  
**BRIAN TIMMS**  
[bibliomane74@gmail.com](mailto:bibliomane74@gmail.com)

**SCOTT WARREN** writes, "I haven't written in before, but I was reading the last magazine and thought I would. I'm opening a small business with my wife and four kids called Bricks & Minifigs in Cherry Hill, N.J. ([bricksandminifigs.com/cherryhill-nj](http://bricksandminifigs.com/cherryhill-nj)). I'd love to see anyone when you're in town." — B.T.





## HELPING JUSTICE FLOW

Alexandra Campbell-Ferrari '09 wants clean water to be a universal right

by JENNI WHALEN GRITTERS '12

Alexandra Campbell-Ferrari '09 believes there's nothing more important for human survival than water, so she's dedicated her career to making sure every person on the planet has access to it.

Campbell-Ferrari is executive director of the Center for Water Security and Cooperation, a nonprofit organization she co-founded in 2015 to spur the creation of laws that promote transparency in water management, address issues of water access inequality, and ensure long-term planning so water resources are managed with a focus on future sustainability.

"Water quality, sanitation and drinking water — all of this needs to be protected," Campbell-Ferrari says. "Water is one of the most basic issues of human dignity, and at the moment, many laws don't demonstrate that governments care."

In her role, Campbell-Ferrari consults with politicians to help them write water-focused legislation. She often travels to places where there is little legal framework for environmental protections and citizens need help building it from the ground up. In partnership with the U.S. Ambassador's Water Experts Program, she's provided legal guidance to decision-makers in countries such as El Salvador and South Sudan. "I help them build relationships and programs and help them consider how they can implement important laws," she says.

Campbell-Ferrari says she has always been interested in holding powerful people accountable. At Bucknell, she double-majored in political science and Spanish and played an active role in student government. She received a Fulbright



Lawyer Alexandra Campbell-Ferrari '09 helps develop legislation to ensure water equity.

scholarship to conduct research in Spain, where she focused on studying water law and watershed management. That experience inspired her to study environmental law at George Washington University Law School.

As a lawyer, she has worked with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, the Natural Resources Defense Council's Water Program, the U.S. Department of Justice Environment and Natural Resources Division's environmental crimes section, and the U.S. Department of Energy.

"Law and policy are one of the most important tools we have for managing our water resources responsibly," she says. "I want the law to show that we care."

1997

**SARA BLOOM BRUCE**  
sarabloombruce@gmail.com

1998

**HEATHER MURPHY LOUDON**  
heather\_loudon@yahoo.com



REUNION

1999

**STACEY MACKES**  
stacey.mackes@gmail.com

**CARLA CHRISTY GALLO**

'98 and I never connected at Bucknell. We didn't meet while she attended medical school with my husband, **MIKE MOORE '97**. But our children finally brought us together in the last few years. We successfully helped their school receive Middle States accreditation (I promise we do fun things, too). It's been such a wonderful experience working with her; I wish we'd done it ages ago. I hope you get a chance to connect with a Bucknellian in the world and do good work. — S.M.

2000

**BRIAN BAXTER**  
btxbaxter@gmail.com

2001

**HEATHER POLLARD ADRIAN**  
hdpollard@aol.com

2002

**KATY ZACHRY VANDEGRIFT**  
kzvandegrift@gmail.com

**JANELLE WEAVER FOSTER M'04**  
janelleweaver02@gmail.com

**DAVE HALPERN** and wife Ana Paula had Nathan Alexandre Aug. 25. He joined sibling Samuel (2). — K.Z.V. and J.W.F.

2003

**PAIGE NICOLE WIEDERSPIEL BASKWILL**  
pnjacobson@gmail.com



REUNION

2004

**JENNIFER BUNCH WEBLER**  
jen.webler@gmail.com

2005

**NIKKI HOLLISTER OLSZYK**  
nikkiolszyk@gmail.com

2006

**JULIA SARGEANT**  
julia.sargeant@gmail.com

2007

**JENNA CAMANN**  
jenna.camann@gmail.com  
jcamann@alum.bucknell.edu



## 2008

### JOHN LANDANY P'08

wrote about a memorial scholarship to honor his daughter, the late **MARY KATHERINE LADANY**, who died in 2009: "For the year after Katie graduated from Bucknell, she taught math at Murrell Dobbins High School in Philadelphia, a technical/trade school, where she was preparing to re-introduce calculus. Since 2010, [the Ladany family has] awarded a \$4,000 college scholarship to a deserving senior at the school selected by the faculty. These kids have attended college all over the Northeast and often write to us about their progress.

"Over a number of summers up to high school, Katie went to sleep-away Fleur de Lis Camp in New Hampshire, finally becoming a junior counselor. There is a bench in Fairmount Park in Philadelphia near the scene of her accident. Katie is also listed on the wall of remembrances behind the chapel at Bucknell."

For class members who want to contribute, send payment with a note that it is to go to the memorial scholarship to Bucknell University, Attn: Gift Processing, 301 Market St., Suite 2, Lewisburg, PA 17837.

The Boston-based law firm Nutter has made **NICK STABLE** a partner in its Private Client Department. He counsels clients in estate planning. Nick serves on the Boston Bar Association's (BBA)

Trusts and Estates Steering Committee and was a member of the BBA's 2017–18 Public Interest Leadership Program. He is a 2023 fellow of the Leadership Council on Legal Diversity, a member of the Hispanic National Bar Association and the Massachusetts Association of Hispanic Attorneys and an adviser to Playworks New England. He's been noted as an Up & Coming Lawyer by *Massachusetts Lawyers Weekly* and a Ones to Watch by *The Best Lawyers in America*.

**JENNIFER GRANT BUDACKI** reports, "**LIZA KABANOVA** passed peacefully on the morning of Oct. 17 with her caregivers by her side. Liza's friends celebrated her life Nov. 5 at the Levering Mill Tribute House in Bala Cynwyd, Pa. Those attending included **EUNICE GAMBRAH DADE, ELIZABETH CAVALLARI, JESSICA MINES MAZZELLA, CHRISTINE TIRAMANI CASSO, LAUREN BOLCAR, LINDSAY CARTER ALLEN, MEGHANA PAI, SOPHIE WEINER, CHRISTINE MILLER, CHRISTINA CHO VANES, MARK ULBRECHT '07** and Jennifer. Liza planned for a bench to be dedicated in her memory in NYC's Central Park."

*If you are interested in being the Class of 2008 Reporter or have news to share, please email Heidi Hormel, Class Notes editor, at [hjh006@bucknell.edu](mailto:hjh006@bucknell.edu).*



## REUNION

### 2009

**NIKKI SEAMAN ISELINN**  
[seaman006@gmail.com](mailto:seaman006@gmail.com)

**CHRISTOPHER '08** and **SARAH HALLOWELL PLEIN** had baby David William July 31.

**DAVE SCOTT** and wife Emily welcomed a daughter, Lucy, Aug. 8. She is their third child, joining older brothers Oliver and Petie. The family also got a puppy, who is called Louie after Lewisburg. All are happily adjusting to all the new changes at home.

**TARA HANKINSON** and husband Jason Mellone live in Bronxville, N.Y., with twins Paloma and Ulysses (3) and baby Rafaela (1). Tara is the co-founder of TALEA Beer, NYC's first and only female-founded brewery, which has four locations in NYC, including taprooms in Bryant Park and the West Village.

**YABEI CHEN** moved back to the U.S. after 10 years of living and teaching abroad in the Netherlands, Cambodia and China. She is the director of dance at Kimball Union Academy, a co-ed boarding high school in New Hampshire. She lives there with husband Logan, son Linli and cat Nori. She was looking forward to reconnecting with some alumni after being away for so long.

I hope you have saved the date for our 15-year Reunion Weekend, May

31–June 2. I'm looking forward to seeing many of you roaming (the even more beautiful and updated) campus, riding the lone Lewisburg escalator at the bookstore or grabbing a drink at Bull Run (or Towne Tavern, whichever suits your fancy). Be well, Bucknellians. — N.S.I.

### 2010

**JENNIFER HIRSCH MANN**  
[jenniferhirsch@gmail.com](mailto:jenniferhirsch@gmail.com)

**DAVID ISELIN**  
[dtselinel@gmail.com](mailto:dtselinel@gmail.com)

It was so good to hear from members of the Class of 2010 with some exciting updates.

**LAUREN HALL MAST** and husband Shawn welcomed baby no. 5, a boy, in August. His three sisters and one brother were overjoyed.

**DIAMOND BISHOP** founded a new company, Augmend, that is using AI to clone human expertise and make it accessible to other humans or AIs. Augmend has raised seed funding and launched its first product aimed at sharing across software development teams. This and his new baby are keeping things exciting. — J.H.M. and D.I.

### 2011

**LINDSAY MACHEN**  
[lindsay.machen@gmail.com](mailto:lindsay.machen@gmail.com)

On Sept. 19, **CHELSEA ROSE** and **DIAMOND BISHOP '10** welcomed

their first child, Arthur "Ari" Rose-Bishop. They celebrated Ari's birth and the Thanksgiving holiday with close family, including the baby's uncle, **CORY BISHOP '12**. — L.M.

## 2012

**PHUONG NGUYEN '15** writes that she "and **DAVID SULON** married Sept. 23, the very same day they first met at Bucknell in 2011. In attendance were 14 Bucknellians: **NADIR SHARIF '07, M'11, MALIKA SUBRAMANIAN '11, RAVI BASNET, CLARK BOGLE, KOPANO MAJARA, ZINKAL BHUTWALA PANUMATI '13, YU AUNG '15, CHERRA MATHIS '14, TONY VELOZ '14, ANDY HRITZ '15, M'15, LOUJIN DAHER '15, YASH BHUTWALA '17, GRAY REID '20** and **KARTIKEYA SHARMA '21**. The couple tied the knot at Stokesay Castle in Phuong's hometown of Reading, Pa. Phuong is a health care auditor for Cotiviti, and David is a senior software engineer at Applied BioMath. They live in Camp Hill, Pa., with their dog, Buddy."

*If you are interested in being the Class of 2012 Reporter or have news to share, please email Heidi Hormel, Class Notes editor, at [hjh006@bucknell.edu](mailto:hjh006@bucknell.edu).*

### 2013

**MASHA ZHDANOVA**  
[mz008@bucknell.edu](mailto:mz008@bucknell.edu)

In this first Class Notes column of 2024, I encourage you to reach out and send an update



on your life. Is there anything you'd like to share with your classmates? At our Reunion last year, many of you told me that Class Notes is your favorite part of *Bucknell Magazine* — I agree! I look forward to hearing from you soon (my email address is above).

My husband, **GREG EPREMIAN '12**, and I moved to Amsterdam in August. This was a long-standing goal for us, allowing me to be closer to my mom and brother, who live in the south of the country, only three hours away. I have also taken a management consulting job with PwC, helping international clients reorganize and improve their operations. Living in Amsterdam has been great so far, and we hope to connect with other Bucknellians in the area soon.

That's it from me for now; write anytime.  
— M.Z.



## 2014

**KAITLIN MARSH**  
[kaitlinmarsh@gmail.com](mailto:kaitlinmarsh@gmail.com)

On Aug. 19, **EMILY CONNERS HENRY** married Benjamin Henry in Easton, Pa. Numerous Bucknellians attended, including her parents, **DOUGLAS '82** and **KRISTEN FOSTER CONNERS '82**, grandfather, **ROGER CONNERS '59**, and bridesmaids **KATIE JANDA '13**, **CAROLYN**

**WILLIAMS** and **ASIA HUNDLEY**. Other Bucknellians who attended the celebrations were **AVA GUILIANO, BOB '78** and **REGINA CIATTO BRYSON '78** and **CATHERINE BRYSON DAVIS '11**. Emily is the co-president of the Bucknell Club of the Lehigh Valley.

On May 21, **KAITLIN MARSH** married Howard Tilkin at Red Maple Vineyard in West Park, N.Y.

**KATHRYN LEBOLD** became assistant professor of chemistry at the U.S. Naval Academy in July.

**TRICIA COLLINS M'16** married Brandon Smith in June at the National Aviary in Pittsburgh. Their wedding included several Bucknellians from class years 2012 through 2015. While wedding planning, Tricia also passed her exam to be a licensed psychologist.

**EMILY HOOPER** produced and stars in the short film *Love is a Test*, which she planned to submit to film festivals in early 2024. Follow @loveisatestshortfilm to learn more. East Coasters might also have spotted her in a commercial for Bob's Discount Furniture.

**JB '15, M'17** and **ALEXANDRA RUSSELL RING** had their first child, Quinn Kathryn, Sept. 27.  
— K.M.

## 2015

**COLIN HASSELL**  
[cmh027@bucknell.edu](mailto:cmh027@bucknell.edu)

On May 27, **AMANDA CHIKOWSKI** and **TYLER BOGACZYK** got engaged on the Malesardi Quadrangle during a

Bucknell sunset. Both were crew team members and have been together since they started dating senior year. Amanda is a vice president at Guy Carpenter in Philadelphia, and Tyler has finished medical school and was working as a general surgery resident at Lankenau Medical Center. They will be married on Labor Day weekend and hope to have many Bucknellians in attendance.

**JB M'17** and **ALEXANDRA RUSSELL RING '14** had their first child, Quinn Kathryn, Sept. 27.

**PHUONG NGUYEN** and **DAVID SULON '12** married Sept. 23, the very same date they first met at Bucknell in 2011. In attendance were **NADIR SHARIF '07, M'11, MALIKA SUBRAMANIAN '11, RAVI BASNET, CLARK BOGLE, KOPANO MAJARA, ZINKAL BHUTWALA PANUMATI '13, YU AUNG '15, CHERRA MATHYS '14, TONY VELOZ '14, ANDY HRTIZ '15, M'15, LOUJIN DAHER '15, YASH BHUTWALA '17, GRAY REID '20** and **KARTIKEYA SHARMA '21**. They tied the knot at Stokesay Castle in Reading, Pa., Phuong's hometown. Phuong is a health care data auditor for Cotiviti. David received his Ph.D. in mathematics from Drexel in 2018 and is a senior software engineer for Applied BioMath. They live in Camp Hill, Pa., with dog Buddy. — C.H

## 2016

**REBECCA MOORE**  
[rebecca.moore016@gmail.com](mailto:rebecca.moore016@gmail.com)

## 2017

**AVID KHORRAMIAN**  
[avidkhorramian@gmail.com](mailto:avidkhorramian@gmail.com)

Grandfather **BILL JOHNSTON '59** writes, "**MARISA BENS** had an eventful year. She graduated from the Moritz College of Law at Ohio State University in May [2023]. In August she and John Robertson were engaged, with the wedding to take place in June. In October, Marisa passed the Ohio bar exam and is working for a law firm in Columbus, Ohio." — A.K.

## 2018

**ANNA MILLAR**  
[aemillar3@gmail.com](mailto:aemillar3@gmail.com)



## 2019

**ELLA RI**  
[ella@alum.bucknell.edu](mailto:ella@alum.bucknell.edu)

I'm **ELLA RI**, and I'm excited to take on the role of your class reporter. I'm based in NYC and working at a credit fund. I'd love to hear about your journeys — whether you've completed graduate school, relocated across the country, tied the knot or had a serendipitous encounter with another Bucknellian. Please share your notes by emailing them to [ella@alum.bucknell.edu](mailto:ella@alum.bucknell.edu). Keep me in the loop, and 'ray Bucknell. — E.R.

## 2020

**CHANDLER HOULDIN**  
[cwh021@bucknell.edu](mailto:cwh021@bucknell.edu)

## 2021

**MACKENZIE GROSS**  
[mag052@bucknell.edu](mailto:mag052@bucknell.edu)

Congratulations to **JACOB MALECKI** and fiancée Rachel Frame on their engagement, and to **JEREMY DERICKS** and **LAUREN KINNEE** on their nuptials. We wish you a lifetime of joy and happiness.

Also, congratulations to all of the Bison who ran the NYC Marathon at the end of 2023, including **ALLY GLYNN '23, ANNIE MALEY, BRENDAN LOVING, CLAIR SHIN, CHRISTOPHER MANGANO, COURTNEY ABBOTT, COURTNEY SELLIG** and **EMILY BRANDES**.

In what became the world's largest marathon in 2023, the New York City Marathon has just a 5% acceptance rate and is a running feat that only a select few accomplish in their lifetimes. Emily and Clair shared their stories.

Emily, who has her bachelor's in political science and economics and is an account executive at Darktrace, writes, "I ran the NYC Marathon to fundraise for the Crime Victims Treatment Center (CVTC), which provides a range of services for victims of sexual assault and domestic violence as well as facilitates training for sexual assault forensic examiners. I've always wanted to run a marathon but have never been much of a runner until August 2022 when I decided to start running



a few days a week. The miles slowly increased, and when the spots for the NYC Marathon opened, I knew I wanted to give it a shot. When I got the opportunity to run in support of CVTC, I felt so proud to be able to represent such a great cause. The day of the marathon was all the NYC magic come to life; it couldn't have been more special. By the end of the day, my face hurt from smiling so much. The whole day was emotional, but the feeling I got as soon as I caught sight of the finish

line is something I'll never forget."

A senior associate at PwC who majored in mathematical economics, Clair reports, "Running is a true full-circle moment for me, and it will always mean to me that there is always room to grow. I used to hate running. While I was a competitive swimmer until college, COVID changed me as a person, and that's where my love for running all started. Running my first marathon in NYC was a pivotal moment as my own dad and inspiration

has run seven NYC marathons. I was very excited to continue forward with two more marathons planned."

If folks are interested in putting on those running shoes, reach out to your city's Bucknell Club to see if there are any local upcoming races. Running isn't your speed? Check out the club for other social events and to connect with other alumni.

As a heads up if you didn't see the email: To prevent your Bucknell email/Google account from being permanently

shut down, log into your Bucknell account or reset your Bucknell password before July 15! Lastly, happy one year before our first Reunion. We hope to see everyone back on campus and reuniting at Towne. If you have any news or stories you'd like to share, please email me at mag052@bucknell.edu. — M.G.

## 2023

**KATELYN COLLINS**  
kec019@bucknell.edu

The Class of 2023 marathon runners include: **ALLY GLYNN**, **COLETTE HUGHES** and **CJ BARONI**, New York City Marathon; **CHRISTINA DEMOLA**, Philadelphia Marathon; and **VAL LAMORE**, Richmond Marathon. — K.C.

## 2022

**JASMINE MINHAS**  
jkm030@bucknell.edu

## EARTH DAY SPECIAL

# THE COST OF CLIMATE CHANGE

**As an expert in climate-related financial risk, Asha Jordan '13 is guiding JPMorgan Chase into new territory**

by **JENNI WHALEN GRITTERS '12**

**Asha Jordan '13** is both a climate and data scientist working at the forefront of an emergent field. As vice president of climate risk at JPMorgan Chase, Jordan studies and informs others about the financial risks associated with climate change.

One of her focal areas is understanding how the physical effects of extreme weather events and a transition to a low-carbon economy influence the stability of banks and the broader economy. Specifically, she studies how environmental shifts can affect consumer lending for purchases like homes and automobiles. For instance, rising sea levels or floods can pose risks to properties, which has an impact on the terms and conditions of mortgages. And as the world transitions away from high-carbon industries, associated costs could influence credit losses.

"Climate-related financial risk is still really new," she says, noting that she often feels like she's guiding the ship as she's building it. "There just aren't a lot of people with my background who are applying climate change research to finance."

Her background is indeed unique. After majoring in environmental science and minoring in economics at Bucknell, Jordan became an environmental stewardship intern for the Clinton Foundation. She then earned master's and doctoral degrees in earth and planetary sciences from Johns Hopkins University.



Asha Jordan '13 applies the critical-thinking skills she sharpened at Bucknell to tackle the uncertainties of climate-related financial risks.

Jordan credits her Bucknell education for encouraging her to chase her passions, even if they didn't fit neatly into one discipline. "My liberal arts education meant I could go where I was drawn," she says. "It also helped me develop important critical-thinking skills."

While she knows there's no simple fix to climate change, Jordan enjoys playing a part in solving the puzzle. "So much of climate-related risk is uncertain and unknown," she says. "I'm excited to get up every day and tackle this work."



## IN MEMORIAM

### 1939

**FRANCES MEEK MCCORMICK M'42**, Oct. 21, Allenwood, Pa.

### 1941

**BETTY BOYER TRESS-LAR**, Dec. 15, Plainfield Twp., Pa.

**DARINA TUHY**, Sept. 27, Wilkes Barre, Pa.

### 1943

**MARCIA HERRGESELL HEGEMAN P'70**, July 15, Scotia, N.Y.

### 1944

**LEO "MAC" MCQUILLEN**, Aug. 6, Edgewater, Fla.

### 1945

**BARBARA MORROW HARRIS**, Aug. 21, York, Pa.

### 1946

**ELEANOR "TISH" DELONG CONRAD**, Dec. 12, Wyomissing, Pa.

### 1947

**DOROTHEA DETWILER NELSON P'74**, July 22, Hollidaysburg, Pa.

### 1949

**CURT BARTELT**, Sept. 5, Cary, N.C.

**MEL BROOME**, Oct. 27, Sunbury, Pa.

**WILLIAM DAVIS**, Dec. 2, Lancaster, Pa.

### 1950

**JACK CONNOR**, July 5, Albany, N.Y.

**DICK FREED**, Aug. 12, Warminster, Pa.

**JAN MARDAGA HIGGINS**, Aug. 9, Wheaton, Ill.

**DICK JOLLY**, Dec. 5, Columbus, Ohio

**GUS KRAYE M'55**, May 26, 2023, Sanford, Fla.

### 1951

**PEGGY BELL**, Nov. 22, 2022, Marcellus, N.Y.

**DICK LARUE P'74**, Nov. 17, Santa Ana, Calif.

**DICK MORRISON**, Aug. 23, Jacksonville, Fla.

### 1952

**WARREN KIMBALL P'83**, Oct. 1, Gibsonia, Pa.

**GARY RYAN**, Nov. 6, Willingboro, N.J.

### 1953

**CARL HEMPHILL**, Oct. 15, Ocean Isle Beach, N.C.

**BENJAMIN MCKEEL**, Dec. 6, Midlothian, Va.

**BLAINE PURNELL**, Aug. 2, Haddonfield, N.J.

**JOAN HARRIS TAYLOR G'04, G'05, G'07**, July 30, Ellington, Conn.

### 1954

**MARGY KLUGH BENNETT**, July 2, Cape May Court House, N.J.

**GEORGE BROKAW**, Sept. 3, Harwood, Md.

**ELLIE GILLIAMS DONALL**, Aug. 15, Honey Brook, Pa.

**PAUL GANZ M'62**, July 29, Silver Spring, Md.

**HANK PFISCHNER**, Dec. 10, State College, Pa.

**LYNN HOWELL THOMPSON**, Nov. 5, Springfield, Ohio

### 1955

**LARRY COMFORT**, Sept. 28, Baldwinsville, N.Y.

**ANN WHERRY GORMAN**, Sept. 26, Houston

**RODNEY HERMANN**, July 21, Silver Spring, Md.

**JEAN KISTLER**, Nov. 19, New York City

**NORM SINGLE**, Oct. 28, Atlanta

**GENE SNYDER**, Sept. 18, Cape Coral, Fla.

**GEORGE SYLVESTER**, Dec. 10, Houston

### 1956

**SALLY BERRY CHRISTENSON**, April 4, 2023, Naples, Fla.

**SAMUEL FAIELLO**, Oct. 2, Stockton, N.J.

**JACK KAUFMAN**, Oct. 9, Boulder, Colo.

**ART KINNEY P'81**, Sept. 3, Barrington, Ill.

**PHIL KREIS P'84, P'86**, Dec. 18, Longboat Key, Fla.

**BETTY KIELAR SKWEIR**, Nov. 25, Allentown, Pa.

### 1957

**RONALD BERND**, Dec. 6, Puyallup, Wash.

**BILL CLINE P'85, P'91, G'19**, Nov. 14, West Chester, Pa.

**MIKE CORRIGAN**, Oct. 1, Las Vegas, Nev.

**HELEN KRUUSMAGI EICHORN P'84**, Nov. 6, Timonium, Md.

**ROBERT MITCHELL P'92**, Dec. 28, Virginia Beach, Va.

**SAMUEL MORROW**, Aug. 27, Danville, Pa.

**DON O'POLKA**, May 21, Edgewater, Fla.

**JAY SACKS**, Nov. 28, Bradenton, Fla.

### 1958

**ROGER BECK P'89**, Sept. 25, Pittsburgh

**SHIRLEY PARKER CURRY**, Oct. 29, Jenkintown, Pa.

**EARL EVANS**, Aug. 29, Loudonville, N.Y.

**WALT SPECK**, Sept. 21, Easton, Pa.

**ED STAIANO M'60, P'85, G'14**, Sept. 24, Scottsdale, Ariz.

### 1959

**HERB GLASER**, Aug. 31, Old Tappan, N.J.

**LEWIS HART**, July 21, Yardley, Pa.

**BARBARA JAFFEE HORNER**, Aug. 1, Westfield, N.J.

**ROBERT "HUB" HUBBARD**, Nov. 13, Buford, Ga.

**JACK MATTHEWS**, Sept. 11, Roaring Spring, Pa.

### 1960

**EUGENE HETZEL**, Dec. 15, Palmyra, Pa.

**SANDRA CLARKE HOPF**, Oct. 28, Block Island, R.I.

**DONALD JONES**, Aug. 28, Carlisle, Pa.

**BRIAN O'LEARY P'84, G'15**, Sept. 4, Charlotte, N.C.

**MARCIA MAHLAN SEMAN**, Aug. 6, Venice, Fla.

**ELLIE MICHAEL SHENK**, Dec. 8, Federal Way, Wash.

**BRUCE TAYLOR P'93, G'27**, July 19, San Rafael, Calif.

**NEIL WEISBECK G'21**, Sept. 4, East Aurora, N.Y.

### 1961

**DONALD HOGAN**, Jan. 9, Westfield, Mass.

**ROGER KRAMM**, Dec. 5, Cardington, Ohio

**GARY SUMNER**, Dec. 22, Towanda, Pa.

**JUNE WEIGEL THOMPSON**, Nov. 28, Cleveland, Ohio

### 1962

**BETSY BUNNELL BEHRENSHAUSEN**, Oct. 8, El Paso, Texas

**WAYNE "DUFFY" GROVE**, Dec. 19, West Chester, Pa.

**LEN NANGEL**, July 28, Easton, Pa.

### 1963

**STEVE DANISH**, Aug. 24, Bethesda, Md.

**BOB NEUMANN**, Sept. 18, Skaneateles, N.Y.

**BONNIE ZWICKER OWEN**, Oct. 5, Brevard, N.C.

**SAMUEL SCHOLL**, Nov. 5, Monroe, Ga.

### 1964

**JOHN MUELLER**, July 9, Harrisburg, Pa.

### 1965

**LYNN MERKLE MEEHAN**, Nov. 2, Salisbury, Conn.

### 1966

**JOAN HENDERSON DEROSE M'67**, Aug. 7, Greensburg, Pa.

**DAVE ERICKSON**, Aug. 26, Mahwah, N.J.

**PETER FIFER**, Aug. 7, Birchrunville, Pa.

**JACK MCALLISTER**, Sept. 4, Erie, Pa.

**BILL SCHNURE**, Dec. 13, Somerset, N.J.

**LIZ AWAD WILLIAMS**, Nov. 3, Scotia, N.Y.

### 1967

**LOUIS DEROSE**, Nov. 14, Greensburg, Pa.

**WALTER JACOBSEN**, Aug. 3, Morris Plains, N.J.

**ALICE HARTZELL SALLADA**, Oct. 26, Dallas, Pa.

### 1968

**ELIZABETH "FAY" HANEY DEYSHER**, Nov. 6, Amherst, N.H.

**MIKE LEWIS P'00**, Aug. 12, Pittsford, N.Y.

### 1969

**WILLIAM RECH**, Jan. 20, 2023, Brambleton, Va.



## IN MEMORIAM

# EDWARD STAIANO '58, M'60, P'85, G'14



### Edward Staiano '58, M'60, P'85, G'14

died Sept. 24. Staiano's ties with Bucknell began as a mechanical engineering undergraduate student. He went on to obtain his master's from Bucknell and then taught engineering and computer science as part of the faculty before eventually becoming a member of the board of trustees.

Staiano also served as the director of the Freas-Rooke Computer Center. Although he left Bucknell in 1967 to complete his doctorate at the University of New Mexico, he returned to teach until 1973. Recognized for his forward-thinking approach, Staiano helped to establish the Computing Center as a campus-wide facility.

He and his wife, **Janet Smith Staiano '58, P'85, G'14**, established the Dominick & Martha Staiano Scholarship (named for his parents), which benefits deserving students in the College of Engineering.

For the second half of his career, Staiano worked at Motorola, where he eventually served as executive vice president, president and general manager. *The Washington Post* reported that under his leadership, the cellular division grew to become Motorola's largest business. In 1999, he founded The Sorrento Group, a venture capital firm through which he supported small business entrepreneurs.

He is survived by Janet; his daughter, **Eva Staiano Tomashefski M'85, P'14**; three grandchildren, including **Tony Tomashefski '14**; and six great-grandchildren.

## 1970

**KAREN SEDDON ALVARADO**, Oct. 14, Laguna Beach, Calif.

**PETER BOYNTON**, Dec. 30, East Falmouth, Mass.

**JEFFREY MOORMAN**, Aug. 9, Ferndale, Wash.

**CHRISTINA POWERS VAN BUSKIRK M'79, P'91, P'93**, July 21, Millerstown, Pa.

## 1971

**HUGH MCMASTER**, Dec. 24, Sewickley, Pa.

**JOHN NAGEL**, Nov. 21, Sisters, Ore.

## 1972

**JANET CUNNINGHAM**, Dec. 4, Longmont, Colo.

**VALERIE KIERNAN GERVAIS**, Aug. 31, Fox River Grove, Ill.

**JOHN "DUCK" MOSSER**, May 10, Telluride, Colo.

**BRUCE SCHUESSLER P'07, P'11**, Nov. 5, Emmaus, Pa.

**ROBERT SPINELLI**, Dec. 30, Upper Montclair, N.J.

## 1973

**RICHARD ANDREWS**, June 28, Sherrills Ford, N.C.

**JUANITA BROWNE**, Nov. 21, New York City

## 1974

**KAREN WEAVER HAVER**, Oct. 13, Malvern, Pa.

## 1975

**JOHN GRANNIS**, July 31, Twin Falls, Idaho

**ROGER KEYSER**, Aug. 10, Long Valley, N.J.

## 1976

**STEVEN CLARK**, Aug. 10, Grand Island, N.Y.

**MARY JANE HECHT JOHNSON**, Sept. 20, Rockport, Texas

## 1978

**HOWIE SMITH P'07, P'11**, Sept. 5, River Vale, N.J.

## 1980

**WILLIAM ERNST**, Sept. 4, Phoenix, Md.

**ROBERT EVANS**, Nov. 22, Exton, Pa.

## 1984

**DEBORA BELL ESPOSITO**, Nov. 12, Sicklerville, N.J.

**BRIAN LUCIANI P'19, P'23**, Aug. 31, Hamden, Conn.

## 1986

**CYNTHIA KAROL CZAHO**, Nov. 5, Lanoka Harbor, N.J.

**MELISSA GARFFER**, July 28, New Braunfels, Texas

## 1987

**SCOTT SINGER**, Jan. 6, Westport, Conn.

## 1989

**MEG BRITTON CLARK**, Nov. 10, Montague, Mass.

## 1991

**BECKY CLEMENT**, Aug. 14, Kennett Square, Pa.

## 2008

**LIZA KABANOVA**, Oct. 17, West Hollywood, Calif.

## 2020

**MAXWELL PALMER**, Jan. 3, Houston

## 2027

**NEAL RAMASAMY**, Sept. 2, Livingston, N.J.

### MASTER'S

**BILL BAILEY M'66**, Sept. 14, Havertown, Pa.

**MOLLY MATTERN CRISWELL M'64**, Nov. 28, Mifflinburg, Pa.

**ROGER DAVIS M'65**, Nov. 14, Trout Run, Pa.

**EDWARD GLENNON M'64**, Aug. 30, Lewisburg, Pa.

**CRAIG HARTING M'03**, Nov. 30, Muncy Valley, Pa.

**RAYMOND KLINGER M'69**, Oct. 15, Thurmont, Md.

**DONNA HUTCHINSON MARTINO M'65**, Oct. 20, South Dennis, Mass.

**CHARLES NESBITT M'53**, Aug. 29, Lewisburg, Pa.

**JACK RININGER M'62**, May 14, Collegeville, Pa.

**FLOYD STAUFFER M'62**, Jan. 12, 2023, Lehartsville, Pa.

**ROBERT SWOPE M'78**, July 5, 2022, New Hope, Va.

**WILLIAM THOMAS M'66**, Dec. 25, Mifflinburg, Pa.

**RAY TYLER M'73**, July 18, Montoursville, Pa.

**ANNA HANLEY ULMAN M'60**, Dec. 8, North Scituate, R.I.

### FACULTY AND STAFF

**CANDACE BUCK**, Aug. 12, Watertown, Pa.

**BILL BURKHOLDER**, July 23, Watertown, Pa.

**JUDY HOCK**, Dec. 21, Watertown, Pa.

**TRAVIS JOY**, Nov. 30, Lewisburg, Pa.

**LLOYD KLINGER P'84**, Sept. 13, West Berlin, Vt.

**MICHAEL NOLL P'99**, Oct. 2, Danville, Pa.

**HERBERT PETERSON**, Dec. 25, Rumford, Maine

**CRAIG REYNOLDS**, July 27, Reno, Nev.

**JEREMY RUSSELL**, Nov. 25, Lewisburg, Pa.

**DONALD SCHOLVIN**, Oct. 19, Sunbury, Pa.

**JAMES SWAN**, Dec. 20, Lewisburg, Pa.

**ROBERT TAYLOR P'90**, Nov. 23, Independence, Va.

### FRIENDS

**FRANK BAZOS P'25**, July 19, Lexington, Mass.

**JAMES BIGGAR P'79, P'82, G'10**, Oct. 28, 2022, Cleveland, Ohio

**NORMAN ROBERTSON**, Sept. 1, Pittsburgh



# DO

## Write to Us

We love to hear from readers. Send your feedback, insights, compliments and complaints.

➞ Write to us at: [bmagazine@bucknell.edu](mailto:bmagazine@bucknell.edu) or  
Bucknell Magazine, One Dent Drive, Lewisburg, PA,  
17837

## NOMINATE A BUCKNELLIAN!

The Bucknell University Alumni Association is seeking nominations to join its board, a diverse group of passionate alumni who care about maintaining a strong bond between alumni, the University and its students.

➞ Learn more and make a nomination at [bucknell.edu/BUAA](http://bucknell.edu/BUAA)

## ANSWER THIS: WHAT SONG REMINDS YOU OF YOUR COLLEGE YEARS, AND WHY?

➞ Join our LinkedIn community to stay in touch, share feedback and respond to future prompts:  
[linkedin.com/school/bucknell-university](https://linkedin.com/school/bucknell-university)

### CROWDSOURCED

WE ASKED BUCKNELLIAN  
ON LINKEDIN:

WHAT IS  
SOMETHING  
AT BUCKNELL  
THAT YOU  
ABSOLUTELY  
LOVED BEING  
A PART OF?

*"The Russian studies department! It was small but so fun! The professors were so supportive, insightful and engaging. Also, choir! I met some great friends whom I otherwise probably wouldn't have gotten close to."*

Eleanor Gorman '89

*"BuckWild for Pre-Orientation! It was my first realization as a young person entering college that I really was capable on my own! I didn't appreciate it as much back then, but looking back, it was a truly incredible experience. I will always cherish that time and all of my years at Bucknell."*

Sarah Cosentino Henry '04



▲ BuckWild, a Bucknell Pre-Orientation program, enables incoming first-year students to bond while exploring wilderness areas in Pennsylvania.

Photo: Douglas Kilpatrick



# TUNE IN TO COMMENCEMENT

Bucknell's 174th Commencement, celebrating the Class of 2024, is scheduled for 10 a.m. Sunday, May 12, on Malesardi Quadrangle. The ceremony, which will feature **Nadia Sasso '11** as the keynote speaker (see P. 9), will be livestreamed.

➞ Watch the ceremony at [bucknell.edu/commencement](https://bucknell.edu/commencement) or [facebook.com/BucknellU](https://facebook.com/BucknellU)

## GET CAREER ADVICE

**SCHEDULE A FREE, CONFIDENTIAL MEETING WITH OUR ALUMNI CAREER COACH TO DEVELOP YOUR SEARCH STRATEGY.**

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## Mark your calendar!

Plan ahead to join us for our signature campus experiences this fall.

### BUCKNELL FAMILY WEEKEND

Sept. 20-22, 2024

### BUCKNELL HOMECOMING

Oct. 18-19, 2024

➞ More information at [go.bucknell.edu/familyweekend](https://go.bucknell.edu/familyweekend) and [go.bucknell.edu/homecoming](https://go.bucknell.edu/homecoming)

# CHECK OUT A 'BEST FEATURE' FILM

**Professor Coralynn Davis, women's & gender studies, is producer of the hybrid documentary film *Sama in the Forest*, which is based on her research. The film recently received the top award, "Best Feature," from the Society for Visual Anthropology and was screened at its film festival in Toronto. You can see it at Lewisburg's Campus Theatre Tuesday, April 16.**

➞ Learn about the film at [samaintheforest.bucknell.edu](https://samaintheforest.bucknell.edu)

"The Stadler Center. The welcoming environment that Andy, G.C., Kate and others built within that basement is unmatched. It took me a while after graduation to realize how privileged I was to spend so much time in such close proximity to accomplished literary figures."

Dan Brown '14

"I absolutely loved being a part of both the Symphonic Band and Bison Band. Music at Bucknell provided me with an incredibly supportive, encouraging, welcoming and fun University community as well as a strong support network. My involvement in Bucknell music was without a doubt one of the most uplifting and fulfilling parts of my college experience. 'ray for the orange and the blue!"

Morgan Thomas '23





**CAPTION  
CONTEST**

**BRING BACK  
MEMORIES?**

We'd love to learn the  
backstory of this image.  
Contact us to share at  
[bmagazine@bucknell.edu](mailto:bmagazine@bucknell.edu)



**SUBMIT YOUR CAPTION** [BMAGAZINE@BUCKNELL.EDU](mailto:BMAGAZINE@BUCKNELL.EDU)

Compose a clever caption. The five best sent by April 22 will win a cool Bucknell T-shirt.

**SUBMIT A PHOTO** HAVE A VINTAGE BUCKNELL IMAGE THAT DESERVES CAPTIONING?

Send high-resolution images to [bmagazine@bucknell.edu](mailto:bmagazine@bucknell.edu) for consideration.

# Witty Winners

Here are our favorite caption submissions from the last issue:



Front row: Chris Baker '86; middle row (L to R): Michael Gamboli '86; Reid Leslie '86, P'17; Trupe Ortlieb '86, P'19; back row (L to R): Scott Yeager '86, P'20; John Westrum '86, P'19, P'19 (photographer)

*"The unsinkable Bison water polo team reveals its secret for success."* Craig Butler '68

*"The 1993 outbreak of mumps was one of the worst seen in decades."* Mark Barbour '82

*"Who wants to play darts?"* Jen Walz Lapioli '89

*"HAPPY BUCKNELLIANs, BELIEVING THEY HAD INVENTED BUBBLE WRAP, FAIL TO SEE THE PROBLEM OF SCALE."* Steven Prasinis '75

*"THIS!!!! This was the moment I knew I was going to marry that boy!"* Jane Patzwall Gamboli '87  
(Indeed, Jane married Michael Gamboli '86, pictured middle row, far left.)

Submit your caption for the retro photo on the opposite page to [bmagazine@bucknell.edu](mailto:bmagazine@bucknell.edu) by April 22.

## THE BACKSTORY

Photographer John Westrum '86, P'19, P'19 gives us the juice.



**I TOOK THIS PHOTO** on Halloween 1985. We loved the photo so much that it became our house Christmas card that year — it still hangs on Reid Leslie '86, P'17's refrigerator, nearly 40 years later.

The six of us were Phi Kappa Psi brothers and the first student residents of 611 St. Catharine Street our senior year. One of our girlfriends was hosting a Halloween party. She and her roommates encouraged people to dress up so they could vote on the best costume.

So we decided to get creative. We came up with the idea to be the Fruit of the Loom "fruit guys," who were iconic characters from television ads in the 1980s. We didn't want to put in the effort of coming up with the apple and the leaf, so we focused on the grapes.

We went to the store the day of the party and bought our supplies: long underwear, boys' briefs, balloons, safety pins and clothing dye. We dyed the long underwear and the briefs and then blew up the balloons and pinned them on each other. We laughed the entire time. We thought we were hysterical.

I took this photo before we left for the night. Of course, we didn't have iPhones, so I used my film camera on a tripod with the self-timer.

We went to two or three parties and stopped by the Bull Run Tap House before we went to our ultimate destination. Making it through doorways took coordination. We'd have to enter in a single file and then group up. Going to the bathroom, as you might imagine, was also complicated.

We were a huge hit. Out on the streets in Lewisburg, we got lots of hoots and hollers. We felt so good about our costume. We were so confident, so pumped up. We knew we were going to win the contest.

But just before the judging occurred, a girl at the party thought it would be funny to take one of our pins and pop our balloons. Boom, boom, boom, boom! And with that, it was over. We went from grapes to raisins in a few seconds. It was deflating.

This picture brings back so many great memories of our time at Bucknell. And now, we're grape-ful that other generations of Bucknellians are enjoying it too!



# Host a Bison Gathering

Reviving a tradition that welcomes new students and brings the Bucknell community closer

by KATIE NEITZ

**THE TRANSITION** into University life can be an exciting yet daunting experience for first-year students and their families, who often grapple with questions and nerves. Fortunately, Bucknell's Center for Alumni & Family Engagement has a program designed to provide support and guidance.

Bison Gatherings, a cherished Bucknell tradition, are resuming this summer after a four-year pandemic-related hiatus. Bison Gatherings serve as a bridge for incoming first-year students and their families to connect with current students, parents and alumni who live in their area as well as University staff who are able to provide insights into life at Bucknell.

Gatherings unfold in various settings — in backyards, at community centers and around kitchen tables — across the country. They offer a warm and inviting environment where incoming students and families can pose questions, make connections and feel part of the Bucknell community. For many, it marks the first step toward forging friendships and creating a network that will extend far beyond their college years.

**Stacie Velisaris de la Parra '88, P'19, P'22**, associate director of alumni admissions & parent engagement, recalls attending a Bucknell welcome event as an incoming first-year student in July 1984.

"I remember that when I arrived on campus for my first semester, I ran into people I had met at the welcome event in Pittsburgh," she says. "It was a reassuring feeling to arrive feeling like I already knew some people."

As her own children, **Julia de la Parra '19** and **Jack de la Parra '22**, were preparing for their first semester on campus, de la Parra attended Bison Gatherings with them. The events were so beneficial to her and her children that she wanted to continue her involvement. In 2019, she hosted a gathering at her home for the Class of 2023.

Now, in her role at Bucknell, de la Parra is working to reignite the program by recruiting families who can host an event in their area for local Bucknellians who will be part of the Class of 2028. "It's a way to help guide a new generation of students through the transformative journey that awaits them at Bucknell," she says.

➔ Visit [bucknell.edu/parents-families/bison-gatherings](https://bucknell.edu/parents-families/bison-gatherings) or email Stacie Velisaris de la Parra '88, P'19, P'22 for more information: [svd1p001@bucknell.edu](mailto:svd1p001@bucknell.edu)



Members of the Class of 2023 gathered in July 2019 in Maryland.

"It's a way to help guide a new generation of students through the transformative journey that awaits them at Bucknell."

Stacie Velisaris de la Parra '88, P'19, P'22



Attendees receive branded swag so they can show off their Bucknell pride.

A gathering in Singapore brought together incoming Bucknellians and their families.





## INVEST IN OUR STUDENTS, TRANSFORM THE WORLD

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### BISON ATHLETICS FUND FOR EXCELLENCE

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*“Alumni and parent donations have gifted me the opportunity to further my passions while also exploring new diverse academic and social pursuits at Bucknell.”*

Vivian Kuang '25

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## Double Take

We were so inspired by the innovators featured in this issue, we decided to break from routine and create two distinct covers. Visit our digital magazine to see the alternative cover design, featuring Sam Nana-Sinkam '10.

photos by APRIL BARTHOLOMEW

