

BUCKNELL

FALL 2024

Plot Twist

The Unscripted Journey of a Hollywood Career



Chris Bender '93 runs Good Fear Content, a production company in Los Angeles.

BY WAY OF BUCKNELL



FALL FEELS

The Bertrand Library clock tower is beautifully framed by Bucknell's favorite hues.

photograph by EMILY PAINE

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PATHWAYS



FROM ROTC

to

THE SOUTH DAKOTA
NATIONAL GUARD

by **KATIE NEITZ**

photograph by **MATT GADE**

For **Nicole Vacas-English '19**, the sky's the limit. Her ambitious nature has taken her from competitive rowing (she even represented her native Ecuador in the 2016 Latin American Olympic Trials) to piloting Black Hawk helicopters.

Vacas-English arrived at Bucknell planning to study computer engineering but found her philosophy and political science classes so engaging that she decided to switch. As a double-major in those disciplines, she began plotting a course for law school.

Balancing the rigorous demands of rowing for a Division I athletic program and a double-major might deter others from taking on more commitments. Not Vacas-English. She signed up for ROTC, which enveloped her in a tight-knit community and revealed a new career path.

Upon graduation, Vacas-English secured a spot in Army Aviation's flight school in Fort Novosel, Ala. She emerged as a lieutenant and Black Hawk helicopter pilot focused on emergency medical evacuations and wildfire-fighting missions. "I spent two years fighting wildfires in Montana, Idaho, Nevada, California and Oregon," she says. "It was a schedule of 12 days on and two days off. It was intense, but I absolutely loved it."

That love didn't extinguish her law school aspirations. Today, she balances both passions. She lives in South Dakota, where she serves in the National Guard and works as a paralegal, conducting research to build defense cases. "I love being part of the justice system and helping people," says Vacas-English, who plans to attend law school next year.

"Where I live, a lot of people think I'm crazy — it seems odd to pursue multiple dreams at once," she says. "People ask, 'Isn't flying enough? Do you also have to be a lawyer?' And I'm like, 'Yes!'"

 [Read about other Bucknellians with interesting military-related careers, starting on P. 48.](#)





LETTERS

A TRADITION OF SERVICE

I READ WITH GREAT INTEREST the article about student volunteers at the William Cameron Engine Company and their service to the local community (“Called to SERV,” Summer 2024).

There was a reference to a former group from 1993. Well, Bucknell’s contribution to that group goes further back than that. A few of us were recruited back in 1968 to assist the all-volunteer company. There was a need to shuttle bedridden patients back and forth to doctors and the hospital, and the volunteer ambulance drivers were just taking too much time away from work. The pitch to us was that the fire department was a great place to study!

There were three of us who gave it a try and quickly learned that in order to drive the ambulance, we had to attend 12 weeks of nighttime EMT training (two nights a week, two-and-a-half-hour sessions). The chief at the time also encouraged us to become volunteer firemen.

We did not get a lot of studying done, but we felt a very close relationship with the other volunteers and with Lewisburg. We had a lot of fun and graduated with a lifetime of stories to tell regarding our service!

ERNIE ERNEST '70, P'99
Lake Forest, Ill.

THE STORIES THAT BIND US

AT A CAMPUS REUNION in May of the 1973–74 Bucknell cross country and track and field team, celebrating the 50th anniversary of a remarkable year in the history of the program, I was struck by how deeply our stories of competing for the University half a century ago still circulated within us. These stories defined our lives then and since. They were the stories of our team and of our University as our home, enduring despite the passage of time and the varied paths we took.

I offer this thought as I reflect on a comment Katie Neitz made about storytelling in a note to the alumni, her first as editor, in the Winter 2023 issue of *Bucknell*

Magazine (“New Year, New You!”). “Storytelling,” she wrote, “has the power to stimulate us intellectually and emotionally. It informs and educates while also deepening our connections with each other. I recognize that Bucknell is more than just an institution of excellence; it’s a forever home to a passionate community of people who have a special bond because of their shared experiences here.”

I write to commend Katie for her stories of home since coming on board as editor, stories about how our fleeting four years at Bucknell touched each of us in some way, maybe indiscernible in the moment but clearly indelible in the resonance, orienting

our lives. In the eight issues of the magazine she’s edited, we’ve read about collaborative opera composers (“Making Music Together,” Winter 2023) and interdisciplinary urban planners (“Urban Evolution,” Spring 2023), a transportation safety advocate (“An Explosive Revelation,” Fall 2023) and a sustainable farming entrepreneur (“Redefining Entrepreneurship,” Spring 2024) — alumni living remarkably eclectic lives, yet lives borne singularly of their shared experiences of Bucknell.

Thanks, Katie, for telling the stories of home in *Bucknell Magazine*.

ROBERT BRAILE '77
Durham, N.H.

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Chris Bender '93 in his Hollywood home with his dog, Shirley. Photo by Gregg Segal

FROM THE EDITOR

LONG BEFORE this unprecedented election season unfolded, our editorial team had planned a feature highlighting members of our Bucknell community who had served in the Secret Service. Little did we know that as we'd be putting this issue together this summer and fall, there would be heightened national attention on this organization.

Bucknell Magazine Senior Writer Matt Jones did an outstanding job tracing the history and evolution of the Secret Service in "Protecting POTUS," P. 24. We are grateful to the Bucknell alumni who shared their personal stories with us. Their experiences not only illuminate the demanding and critical nature

of this work but also underscore the strong tradition of service that runs deep within the Bucknell community.

With this issue being released just ahead of Veterans Day, we also wanted to honor the military connections within our alumni network. You'll find these stories on P. 2, P. 48, P. 51, P. 52 and P. 57.

We hope that these pieces, along with the rest of the content in this issue, continue to instill a sense of pride in your Bucknell ties.

KATIE NEITZ

Editor

k.neitz@bucknell.edu

KUDOS

NICE WORK on the magazine. I worked in publishing and communications myself, producing magazines for association clients in Washington, D.C., for more than 30 years with my company, Stratton Publishing & Marketing Inc. Earlier we also did some reader research for *Bucknell World*. From my career in publishing, I really appreciate all that goes into producing *Bucknell Magazine* and admire the work you do. The content is always interesting, design very fresh and inviting and the whole package very impressive. And it's so nice to still get a hard copy! Look forward to continued reading.

DEBBIE STRATTON MOTT '72, P'10

Wilmington, N.C.

PLEASE NOTE: The Winter 2025 issue of *Bucknell Magazine* will be a special "University Report" edition. As was done last year, this issue will deviate from our normal format to focus specifically on the people, programming and plans that are shaping the future of Bucknell. You will notice that there will be fewer pages, and the Class Notes section will not appear. Class Notes will resume in the Spring 2025 issue.

WRITE TO US

We love to hear from readers. Please send your feedback, insights, compliments and complaints.

Write to us at: bmagazine@bucknell.edu or
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VICE PRESIDENT FOR MARKETING & COMMUNICATIONS

Heather Johns P'27

EDITOR

Katie Neitz

CREATIVE DIRECTOR

Barbara Wise

DESIGNERS

Kory Kennedy Design

(features, cover)

Amy Wells

(Gateway, Class Notes)

PHOTOGRAPHY EDITOR

Emily Paine

ASSISTANT EDITOR

Matt Jones

CLASS NOTES EDITOR

Heidi Hormel

EDITORIAL ASSISTANT

Kim Faulk

CONTRIBUTORS

Dave Block, Sarah Downey '25, Shana Ebright, Mike Ferlazzo, James T. Giffen, Matt Hughes, Brooke Thames, Brad Tufts, Christina Masciere Wallace P'22, Kate Williard

WEBSITE

bucknell.edu/bmagazine

CONTACT

bmagazine@bucknell.edu

Class Notes:

classnotes@bucknell.edu

570-577-3611

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Insights and Inspiration

Acclaimed novelist and award-winning journalist address Bucknell community

by MATT JONES

COLSON WHITEHEAD, WEIS LECTURER

AN ILLUSTRIOUS WRITING CAREER often begins with rejection. For acclaimed authors like Colson Whitehead (above), setbacks can lead to self-doubt, but persistence can pave the way to success. Whitehead was named the 14th Janet Weis Fellow in Contemporary Letters at Bucknell University, a biennial award that honors top achievement in writing. During his Sept. 9 campus visit, he shared his journey with students in a session moderated by Professor Joe Scapellato, English, and during a public speech at the Weis Center for the Performing Arts.

Whitehead recounted how his first book's rejection inspired him to persevere. "I wanted to be a writer from an early age," he said. "But I really became a writer once my first book didn't sell." He stressed believing in one's work and drawing inspiration from diverse sources. His novel *The Underground Railroad*, conceived in 2000, was published in 2016, earning him both a National Book Award and a Pulitzer Prize. Whitehead is now working on a crime trilogy set in Harlem, showing his commitment to exploring new genres.



YAMICHE ALCINOR, FORUM SPEAKER

YAMICHE ALCINOR, NBC News Washington correspondent (above), kicked off Bucknell's 2024-25 Forum series, themed "World in Transition." In her address Sept. 24, Alcindor emphasized the essential qualities of a good journalist: courage, a commitment to truth, and, above all, a profound curiosity. Reflecting on her childhood, she recalled her favorite question: "Why?"—a simple inquiry that sparked a lifelong quest for understanding.

Alcindor's career includes roles as the White House correspondent for *PBS News-Hour* and anchor of PBS' *Washington Week*, as well as reporting for *The New York Times* and *USA Today*.

2024-25 BUCKNELL FORUM: "WORLD IN TRANSITION"

Oct. 22: comedian, TV host and producer W. Kamau Bell

Jan. 28: pioneering actor and activist George Takei

Feb. 18: investor and *Shark Tank* personality Kevin O'Leary*

*Presented in partnership with the Perricelli-Gegnag Center for Entrepreneurship & Innovation

NEWS TICKER

MEDIA SPOTLIGHT

On Sept. 5, President John Bravman moderated the seventh annual Presidents Dinner, an on-the-record conversation between national news media and 11 leaders of prestigious colleges and universities. The annual event at the National Press Club in Washington, D.C., has resulted in numerous media placements.

BAT-TLING EBOLA

Biology professors **DeeAnn Reeder P'16** and Ken Field were featured in *National Geographic's* August cover story for their research on how certain bats may carry the Ebola virus without succumbing to the disease. They are investigating how bats' physiology allows them to host deadly diseases that can transmit to humans.

COMMUNITY FOCUS

Bucknell launched the Center for Community Engaged Leadership, Learning & Research, transforming the former Office of Civic Engagement. The new center aims to enhance community engagement and support community-identified priorities.

'burg and Beyond

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

→ Lewisburg
2024 is the year of elections. With over 60 national elections occurring in the U.S., India, Taiwan, France and elsewhere, more than a billion people worldwide, including Bucknell students, are considering where and how to vote. “If you want to change things, the most tangible thing you can do is vote,” says Professor Michael James, political science. “But a lot of students don’t know how to register.” It’s a gap that several Bucknell students are working to address.

What They Are Doing
The Mauch Fellowship, funded by the League of Women Voters of the Lewisburg Area, provides Bucknell students a stipend to organize events that support student political engagement during federal election years. This fall, political science majors **Morgan Levy ’25**, **Zane Hensal ’26** and **Victoria Romero ’25** are leading voter registration information sessions in classrooms and at club meetings.

Their Goals
“I hope to increase the turnout rate for Bucknell as a whole,” Hensal says. “The decisions being made in these upcoming elections will impact college students’ lives for years to come.” The fellows are committed to providing unbiased, easily accessible voting information. “Election times are associated with political polarization,” Levy says. “It is my goal to urge students to unite, celebrate our right to vote and remember that before parties, we are Americans.”

Additional Efforts
The Student Voting Coalition is another initiative, started by **Juliana Fedorko ’25**, to educate students about the voting process. “It’s typical to say your vote doesn’t matter, but in Pennsylvania it really does,” Fedorko says. The group is dedicated to voter education and establishing lasting initiatives, including creating a voting manual to support current and future Bucknell students.
— Sarah Downey ’25



Morgan Levy '25 and Zane Hensal '26 are raising awareness about voter registration.

→ Milton, Pa.
Bucknell’s Small Business Development Center (SBDC) offers support to entrepreneurs and small businesses across six Pennsylvania counties, including Juniata, Montour, Northumberland, Perry, Snyder and Union. With the launch of StartUp Milton, it now has entrepreneurial incubators in three of them. Housed in the Milton Community Center on South Front Street, StartUp Milton became a reality through a partnership with The Improved Milton Experience and a U.S. Department of Agriculture Rural Business Development Grant.

Boots on the Ground
With three offices and a coworking space for new entrepreneurs, StartUp Milton mirrors the established incubators in Lewisburg and Danville while being uniquely positioned to serve the Milton community directly.
“Our team is meeting with community members, consulting

with entrepreneurs who want to start businesses and with local business owners,” says SBDC Director Steve Stumbris. “We’re helping to grow new businesses and keep them in the local region.”

Serving Community
SBDC Assistant Director Denny Hummer, the primary contact for StartUp Milton, emphasizes the importance of this initiative in fulfilling the SBDC’s mission as a steward of the entrepreneurial community.
“This truly allows us to be in community,”

Hummer says. “Beyond geography, we’re creating a shared identity. If you can figure out what the identity of the community is, you can serve it better. We’re just starting that process in Milton.”

Open for Business
StartUp Milton celebrated its grand opening in September. Student members of the SBDC consulting team began delivering services and support to the new businesses emerging from this initiative over the summer.
— Mike Ferlazzo



Denny Hummer (seated, second from left) is helping drive growth for Milton, Pa., business owners.



What's on the Menu?

A new dining provider means new culinary options. Chartwells Higher Education sources ingredients and inspiration both locally and abroad to craft exciting dishes on campus.

by **MATT JONES**
photography by **EMILY PAINE**

A **T A SUMMER TASTING EVENT**, Chartwells Higher Education debuted a selection of inventive cuisines — and fresh spins on familiar favorites — that previewed the vendor's approach to providing an authentic selection of diverse foods on campus. Inspired by a range of cultures and geographies, the dishes included a diverse range of appetizers, sides and main courses that exhibited Latin, Middle Eastern and American South flavors. Among the offerings were tostones with shredded brisket and chipotle cream; fried tortillas with carne asada, lemon cream and pico de gallo; chicken francese (bottom right); and slow-roasted short rib with smoked gouda mashed potatoes.



INTERDISCIPLINARY INVESTIGATIONS

Curiosity and intellectual inquiry drive Bucknellians year-round. These students from Bucknell’s three colleges spent their summer uncovering new insights.

by **MATT JONES**
photography by **EMILY PAINE**

Inside the Rankings

Max Wilson '27, business analytics, first explored the *NFL Top 100* voting methodology in a first-year foundation seminar. The *NFL Top 100* is an annual ranking of the best players, according to the athletes themselves. With support from Sam Gutekunst, the John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Professor of Data Science, and Professor of

Practice Joe Wilck, analytics & operations management, Wilson has created “data vignettes” to analyze what NFL players most value when ranking each other. Early findings indicate that factors like public perception and player legacy play key roles in elevating quarterbacks and wide receivers as the most prominent positions in the *Top 100*. In September, Wilson met with NFL professionals to share his findings. Wilson hopes to gain access to more refined data to continue his research.

Muscle Metrics

For **Madeline Lehker '26**, biomedical engineering, the “wall sit” is more than an exercise – it’s a way to study muscle fatigue. Working in Bucknell’s Mechanics and Modeling of Orthopaedic Tissues Laboratory with Professor Benjamin Wheatley, mechanical engineering, Lehker spent the summer

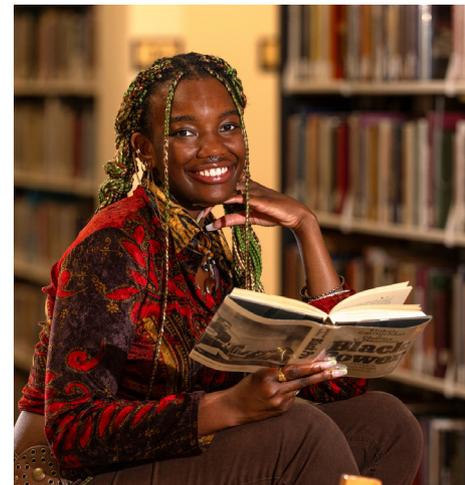


Madeline Lehker '26 (far right) studied muscle fatigue.

examining the relationship between knee wobble and hip fatigue. Using sensors, she tracked muscle signals and movements to measure wobble, aiming to correlate these findings to hip fatigue levels. “Hopefully, in the future, these measurements can then be correlated to a patient’s level of hip fatigue,” says Lehker. “I’ve learned a lot about picking the exact muscle location and then writing the protocols for how you are going to put the sensors on people.”

Cultural Conversations

For **Athaliah Elvis '26**, English – creative writing and political science, it was her critical Black studies minor that provided the perfect framework to explore her interests in creative writing, history and literature. With her adviser, Professor Meenakshi Ponnuswami, English, Elvis studied how historical movements have influenced Black women writers. Her work involves analyzing literature, art and films by Black creators, as



Athaliah Elvis '26 conducted a literature analysis.

well as a meticulous examination of the historical contexts in which those works were produced. Elvis also composed her own creative work in response to what she reads and watches, thereby putting her creative practice in conversation with the artists she studies. Her research revealed how inextricable and foundational Black culture is to American life and the English language. “It’s been very enlightening,” she says.



Max Wilson '27 analyzed NFL rankings.

*Bucknell athletes
shine at the US Olympic
Trials and Paralympics*

TRACK

Going the Distance

by **KATIE NEITZ**

EARNING A SPOT in the U.S. Olympic Trials for Track & Field felt like a gold-medal moment to **Evelyn Bliss '27**, who dreamed of just making it to the competition. But Bliss surpassed her own expectations, advancing to the finals, where she set a personal record and secured a sixth-place finish. Despite only taking up the sport four years ago, Bliss held her own against the nation's top throwers, many with more than a decade of experience.

Growing up in Rimersburg, Pa., Bliss played Little League Baseball before transitioning to swimming. She envisioned herself swimming at the collegiate level. After her sophomore swim season, she joined the track team as a way to stay in shape during her off-season and decided to try javelin throwing. "Because I played baseball, I figured I could throw," she says.

It was harder than she anticipated. Javelin throwing is a highly technical sport that requires precise form, shoulder mobility and synchronization of the body. It's a quick motion, starting with a walk that transitions into a jog and finishes with a powerful throw. "Any slight misstep can throw off the entire process," Bliss says.

With the guidance of her father, a former collegiate thrower, and countless hours of practice, she improved. Together, they watched YouTube videos and pieced together her technique. By her junior year, Bliss had a breakthrough, with three standout meets that earned her a spot at the Pennsylvania state meet. There, she finished in second place, throwing 140 feet.

As Bliss honed her technique and began qualifying for more prestigious competitions, she struggled with imposter syndrome. "Being pretty new to the sport, I didn't feel like I belonged," she says. She began working with a sports psychologist, who helped her build her confidence and embrace her identity as a skilled thrower.

Upon arriving at Bucknell in 2023, she and coach Ryan Protzman set their sights on three goals: winning the Patriot League Championships, qualifying for the NCAA National Championships, and qualifying for the 2024 U.S. Olympic Trials. She did all three.

At the Olympic Trials in June, Bliss was one of the top 24 javelin throwers in the country. "I was up against these high-caliber athletes who I knew from YouTube — I had learned how to throw by watching their videos," she says. "It was surreal."

On day two of the competition, Bliss set a new personal record and made it to the finals. In the final rounds, with her parents and coach there, Bliss delivered outstanding performances — throwing a career-best 183 feet, 2 inches — placing sixth.

Balancing her athletic life, which entails four to five hours of daily training, with her studies as a biology major isn't easy. But Bliss feels she has the support she needs at Bucknell. "Some of my first classes felt a little overwhelming," she says. "But I saw a tutor and I used office hours for calculus and chemistry, and I found that it made my learning experience so much better. I asked a lot of questions and got to know the professors better. I love having the Bucknell support system. It's amazing."

EVELYN BLISS

"I listen to music when I'm warming up. It helps block out the nerves by hyping me up and getting me ready to throw. I like 'Could Have Been Me' by The Struts."

In August, Evelyn Bliss '27 won the bronze medal in the javelin at the World Athletics U20 Championships in Peru.



Photo: James T. Giffen

STARS

RAYVEN SAMPLE

“The feeling of racing in front of thousands and thousands of people was incredible.”

Pushing the Pace

by MATT JONES

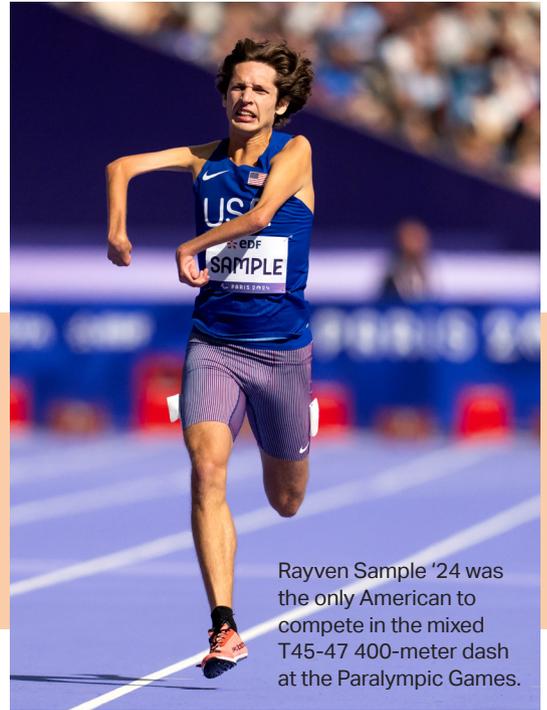
AS SOON as Rayven Sample '24, a psychology and education double-major from Jamestown, N.Y., arrived in Paris, he sensed the experience would be life-changing. “The moment that stands out is the opening ceremony,” says Sample, who came to compete in the 2024 Paralympic Games. While he had competed in Tokyo a few years prior, the energy in Paris was unmatched. Marching with Team USA along the Avenue des Champs-Élysées, the sounds of the crowd fully engulfed him. “For at least a mile down the road, on both sides, the crowd was five to 10 people thick the whole way, just screaming and cheering for all the different countries.”

Since graduation, he had trained harder than ever under the guidance of **Richard Alexander '03**, associate head coach, men's and women's track and field; and Darrin Shirk, assistant strength & conditioning coach. Sample embraced a schedule of having either single or double practices six days a week.

On Aug. 30, Sample competed in his first event in Paris, the mixed T45–47 100-meter preliminary race, a disability sport classification which encompasses competitors with upper limb impairments. “I've never claimed to be a 100-meter runner, so that event is an opportunity for me to get a sense of the stadium and check out the competition,” says Sample, a T45 athlete, who ran a time of 11.56, earning him 14th place. “I was really happy with my result.”

Going into his main event, the mixed T45–47 400-meter dash, Sample wanted to be able to reproduce his personal best of 49.16 seconds, which he ran during the 2022 Colonial Relays. In the small hours of the morning on Sept. 6, he ran a time of 50.33, earning him an overall rank of 12th. It wasn't his ideal result, but “the feeling of racing in front of thousands and thousands of people was incredible.”

Even though his race didn't turn out how he'd hoped, there was a silver lining. “One of the things about not making the finals was that it allowed me to spend more time with my family



Rayven Sample '24 was the only American to compete in the mixed T45-47 400-meter dash at the Paralympic Games.

in Paris,” he says. “Being able to explore the city with them was something I could never put a price on. It was raw happiness.”

Sample is already thinking about what comes next, with his experience in Paris serving as motivation to prepare himself for the next Paralympic Games in Los Angeles. His biggest question now is what his training will look like. During his time as a Division I athlete at Bucknell, his coaches, the track and the weight room were all in close proximity. “Everything is right there. There's so many resources that are just so abundantly available,” says Sample. “So really, the next four years, I'll be figuring out how to pay the bills, make ends meet, but also keep on chasing this dream at the same time.”

BUCKNELLIAN EARNS BRONZE

Bucknell University water polo head coach John McBride joined the Team USA coaching staff for the Paris 2024 Olympic Games, where Team USA bested Hungary to bring home a bronze medal. “Bringing home a bronze medal for my country, the greatest country in the world, is an indescribable feeling,” says McBride. “To this day, I'm still trying to wrap my head around it.”

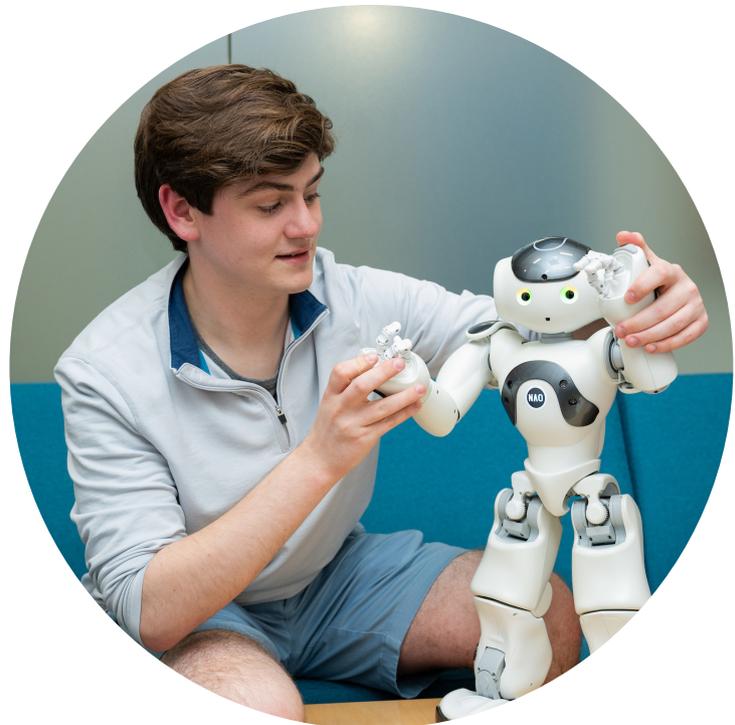
John McBride (center) was an assistant coach for the U.S. men's water polo team in Paris.



Robotics for Good

Sean O'Connor '26 is using his interest in robotics to fuel forward-thinking research and lead important conversations about the impact robots can have on society

by **KATE WILLIARD**
 photographs by **JAMES T. GIFFEN**



In the aftermath of the 9/11 terrorist attacks, first responders worked tirelessly for nine months to execute rescue and recovery efforts at Ground Zero. The World Trade Center Health Program reports that more first responders and survivors have died from toxic exposure at the crash site than were lost in the attacks. Still far more developed serious long-term health issues.

This reality profoundly impacted **Sean O'Connor '26**. His father was one of the first responders who helped evacuate buildings on the day of the attack. For three years following 9/11, he worked just half a block from the disaster site. He developed cancer from the exposure.

O'Connor's dad is now in remission, but the experience sparked the student's desire to develop a better way to handle such catastrophes. "Imagine sending in a robot

that could have detected remains or cleared wreckage — done the things that people were doing," says the computer science & engineering major from Miller Place, N.Y. "Robots have the potential to make a huge impact on society."

O'Connor carried his mission into his college search, sharing his interest with Professor Felipe Perrone, computer science, during an Admitted Student Day event. "He invited me to join his research lab the day I met him. I didn't think he was serious," says O'Connor. "But when I arrived on campus to start classes, he asked me to join a research meeting, and I've been working with him ever since."

The pair's work goes beyond designing and building robots; they are exploring the nuanced field of human-robot interaction (HRI). Perrone advocated for O'Connor to be able to take advanced courses usually reserved for juniors and

seniors so he could rapidly build an academic foundation to support his research (see "Technically Speaking," right).

But something was missing. They envisioned a broader opportunity for students interested in human-robot relationships — a space to exchange ideas, share theories and openly discuss the full scope, significance, function and potential of HRI.

RoboLab launched in spring 2023, bringing together a diverse group of curious students for weekly meetings. The lab has a simple goal: to cultivate discussion about the impact of robots on society.

As a multidisciplinary field, HRI covers a wide range of

topics, including philosophy, psychology, sociology, engineering, physics and computer science. It presents challenges and opportunities, from the ethical considerations of human-robot relationships to the technical aspects of designing and programming robots for specific tasks.

By creating RoboLab, Perrone and O'Connor identified a unique opportunity to combine the broad appeal of a niche topic with the potential for deep exploration.

They discovered that students from all corners of Bucknell's campus were drawn to RoboLab, united by just two prerequisites: "good

"It's been great to watch students step up and shine as they guide group engagement and connect with others."

Professor Felipe Perrone



Professor Felipe Perrone (center) and Sean O'Connor '26 (center, right) lead Bucknell's RoboLab.

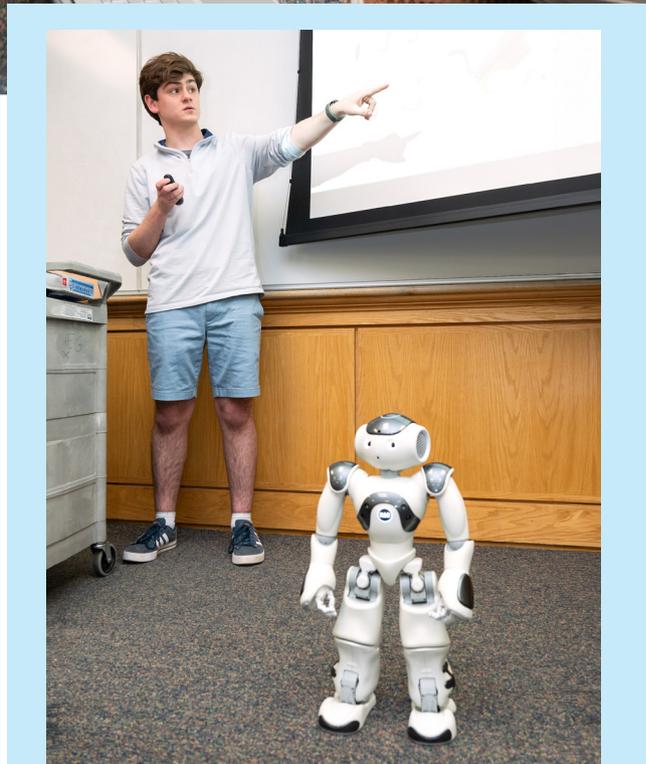
energy" and an interest in HRI. "It's tough to establish authentic community-building around nerdy academic topics like this," says Perrone. "It's been great to watch students step up and shine as they guide group engagement and connect with others."

Perrone provides academic articles and resources on various use-case examinations of HRI and encourages members to lead group discussions. They've tackled conversations spanning from the human-robot relationships in *Star Wars* to Japanese robot cafes to the limits of comfort with robotic forms. Each week, Perrone has watched as new leaders have emerged, engaged with topics that excite them. As the lab has grown, the group has discussed new software and technology, the ease of working with commercially available robotic machines and the role of programmers and designers in making robots more accessible — and this is where O'Connor

found the insights he had been seeking.

O'Connor's independent work is with NAO6, a programmable humanoid robot. "There has been a lot of great progress on designing and building robots that can take on tasks like search-and-rescue efforts," he says. "But when it comes to being able to program those robots — to be able to deliver them to, say, a fire station with an easy-to-use interface to get the work done — there is still so much ground that needs to be covered, both in terms of ethics and functionality."

Perrone acknowledges O'Connor's central role in RoboLab's growth and credits much of its success to his dedication and leadership. Together, they continue to explore the vast potential and challenges of HRI, driven by a shared commitment to harnessing technology for the greater good.



TECHNICALLY SPEAKING

In August, Sean O'Connor '26 and Professor Felipe Perrone presented their research in a "Late Breaking Reports" session at the IEEE International Conference on Robot and Human Interactive Communication, RO-MAN 2024, in Pasadena, Calif. Their novel, web-based platform, HRIStudio, simplifies the design, execution and analysis of experiments in human-robot interaction research, aiming to make it more accessible and scientifically rigorous.

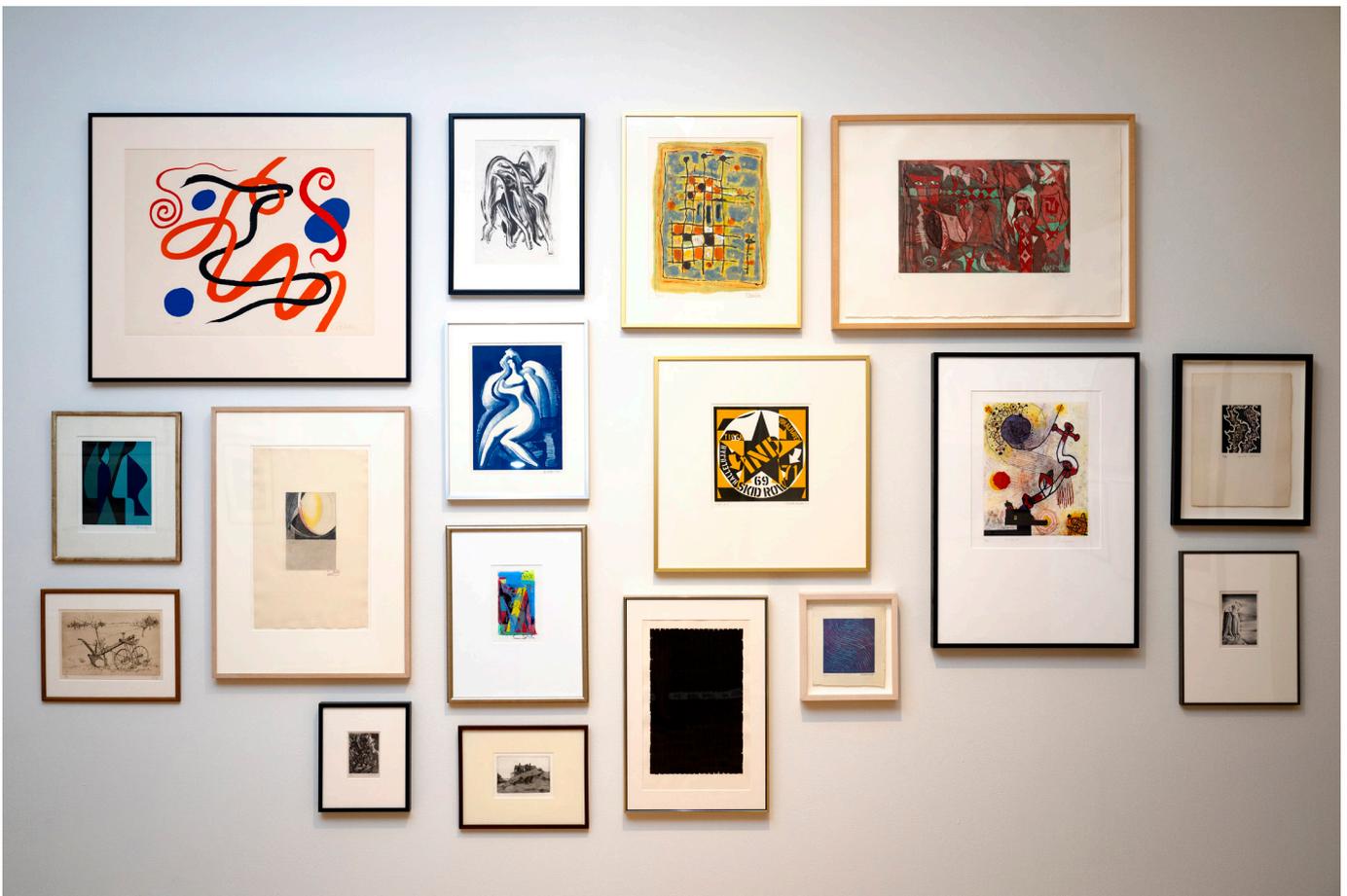
AN ARTISTIC SANCTUARY

In a new exhibit, the Samek Art Museum gives us 165 reasons to slow down and reflect

by KATIE NEITZ
photography by EMILY PAINE



Samek Director Rick Rinehart (left) created a living-room ambiance to encourage visitors to engage with an art collection gifted to the Samek by Stuart Coyne '48. The exhibit includes Coyne's hand-written notations (right).



DESPITE never amassing great wealth, **Stuart Coyne '48** amassed a treasured art collection.

Throughout his life, Coyne nurtured his passion for paintings, music, rare and antique books and printmaking by becoming an avid collector. With a modest income from a public relations career, he collected within his means, focusing on pieces that resonated with him personally rather than purely as investments, and supporting artists and art movements that reflected his experiences and values.

Later in life, Coyne's financial situation necessitated selling beloved pieces to pay bills. When he parted with a piece, he left an empty space on the walls of his San Francisco apartment.

Following his death in 2023, Coyne bequeathed 265 prints and a few paintings to Bucknell — 165 of them are now on display in the Samek

Art Museum. Curated by Samek Director Rick Rinehart, the exhibit *Slow Looking* aligns with movements like “slow food” and “slow travel,” which encourage a deep appreciation and thoughtful engagement with one's surroundings — in this case, with Coyne's art collection.

“The concept of ‘slow looking’ has some radical undertones in that it resists consumer culture,” Rinehart says. “It promotes empathy and thoughtful observation without immediate judgment. You observe while remaining open to experiencing the message that comes from someone else's lived perspective.”

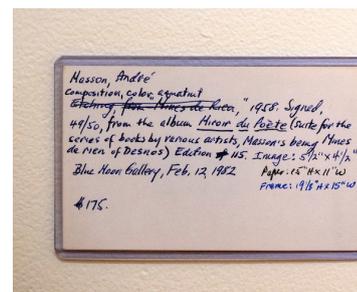
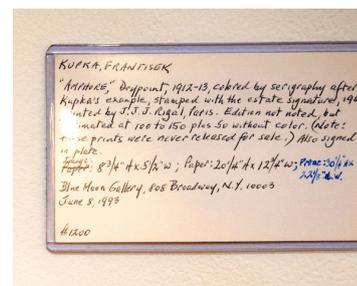
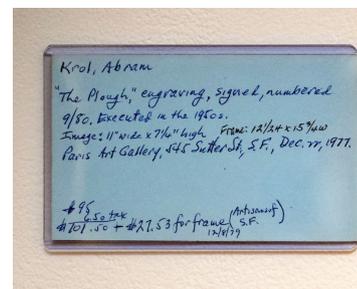
For the exhibit, Rinehart recreated Coyne's domestic environment, even modeling how he hung and arranged the pieces (and left empty spaces) on his apartment walls. Rinehart says his goal was to create a personal, intimate setting that prompts visitors to linger and reflect.

SLOW LOOKING

Samek Art Museum
Elaine Langone Center
Through Dec. 8, 2024

The collection is influenced by Coyne's interest in surrealism, South American art, Japanese art and under-represented women artists and includes pieces by William Blake, Andy Warhol and Jean Monro.

Rinehart added other details, including classical music and weekly tea sessions, featuring informal, topical discussions led by Bucknell faculty, to enhance the immersive feeling of the exhibit. Rinehart intends for the tea talks to reflect the slower pace of listening, looking and learning.



FEATURES

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PRODUCTION
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ALL THE
PRESIDENTS' MEN

30
JOY RIDE

DUTY CALLS ED CURRIE '94 SERVED ON THE PRESIDENTIAL DETAILS OF GEORGE W. BUSH AND BARACK OBAMA

photograph by **DANNY SANTOS II**



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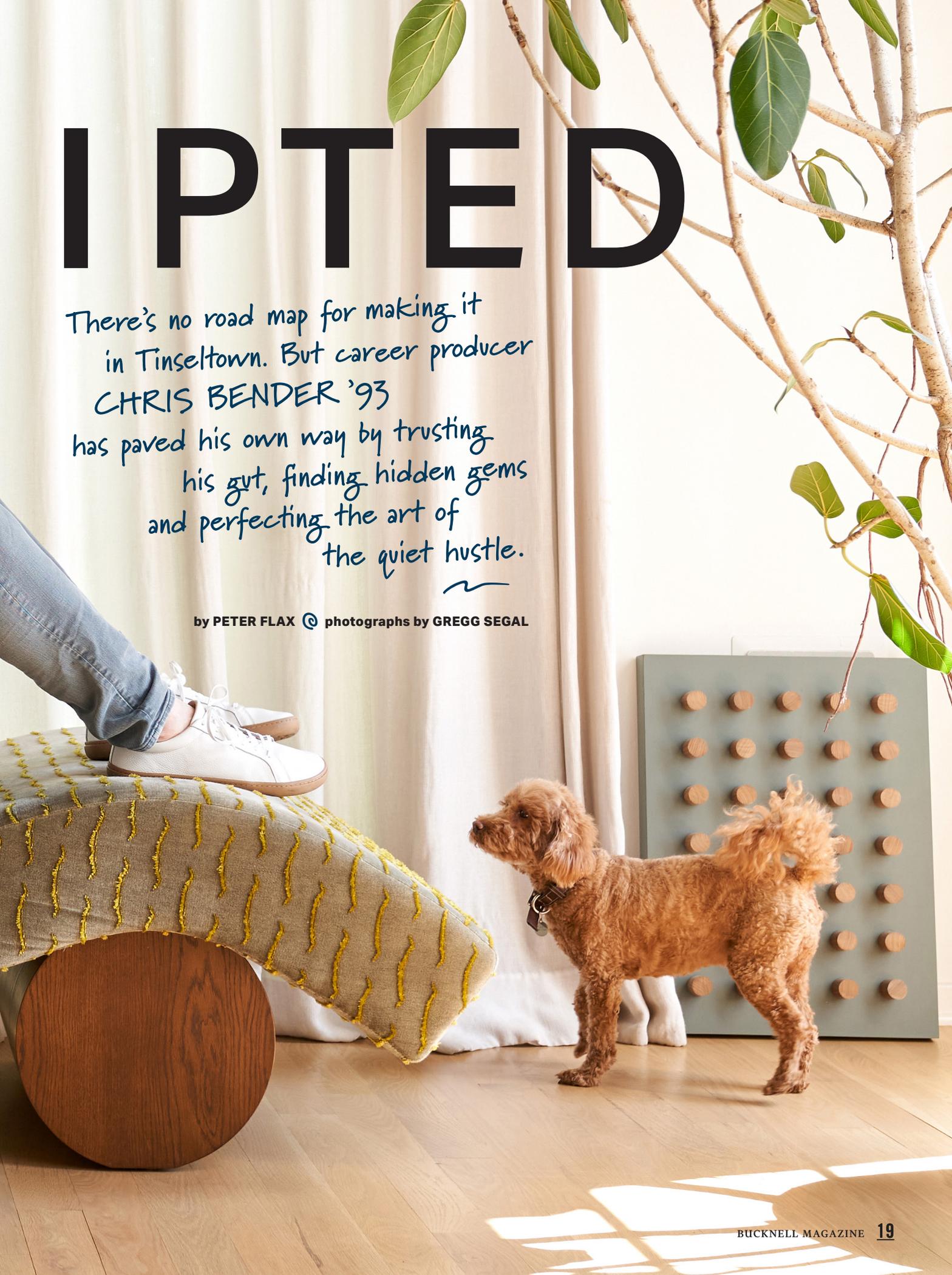


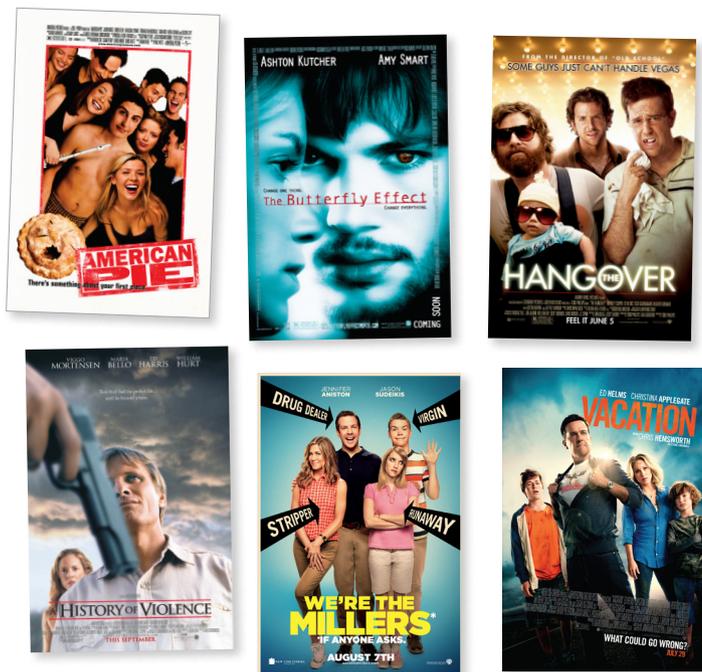
Chris Bender '93 immerses himself in every aspect of filmmaking — from developing ideas to managing budgets and guiding the creative process.

PIPTED

There's no road map for making it in Tinseltown. But career producer **CHRIS BENDER '93** has paved his own way by trusting his gut, finding hidden gems and perfecting the art of the quiet hustle.

by PETER FLAX @ photographs by GREGG SEGAL





Chris Bender '93 sits in his

understated corner office, gazing out the floor-to-ceiling glass. From his chair, he can see the Hollywood sign presiding over the hills to the north and Netflix headquarters looming a few blocks to the east. The room is unnaturally tidy if one overlooks a mountain of movie scripts that tumble over his coffee table. “There’s a romance to the paper,” Bender laughs. “And when you finish reading a stack, there’s a genuine sense of accomplishment.”

But Bender is the sort of movie producer who’s more animated talking about his passions than his accomplishments. He’s not in the Hollywood game to churn out blockbuster sequels or hit the party circuit to promote award nominees. He’d rather discuss writers he’s discovered and mentored, the problem-solving that defines film producing and the joys of telling stories.

Along the way, he’s launched two successful production companies and helped bring a raft of interesting movies to life, including *American Pie*, *The Butterfly Effect*, *The Hangover* and *A History of Violence*. He’s worked with legendary talents like David Cronenberg, Chevy Chase, James Gandolfini, Steve Carell, Jane Fonda, Ryan Reynolds, Greta Gerwig, Steve Buscemi and Jim Carrey.



Chris Bender '93 has forged a successful career in Hollywood. As a prolific producer, he has been instrumental in bringing numerous films to the big screen (above, left).



“When people ask me what my favorite film projects are, it has less to do with the success of the movies,” Bender says. “It has way more to do with the quality of the experiences and the satisfaction of seeing something through from an idea to a final product.”

Crafting a Career ~

It’s tough to pinpoint one break that catapulted Bender to sustained Hollywood success — mostly because it was a drawn-out campaign of quiet hustling and relationship-building — but there’s no doubt that the journey began at Bucknell. He double-majored in economics and art history and remembers taking classes on philosophy and visual narratives in art his senior year, analyzing the Pulitzer Prize-winning graphic novel *Maus* and contemplating the contours of human nature. “So when I look back on my Bucknell experience, I realize that I was drawn toward visual storytelling,” he says.

The journey from Lewisburg to Sunset Boulevard did not come easily. For every job he got, there were 20 rejections. But he was tenacious, securing a publicity internship at New Line Cinema in New York that would lead to an entry-level floater and distribution job at a company positioned in the thick of an independent film renaissance.

Eventually, he finagled a transfer to Los Angeles, and he ultimately took a job working for a former agent named Warren Zide, who had launched a small enterprise managing writers. “Our business philosophy was to find screenwriters with strong voices who were being ignored by the agencies, sign them and develop a script with them that could become their calling card,” says Bender, who tirelessly networked with young writers, read scripts and pitched ideas to studios. “I would read anything and everything,” he says.

Slowly, that groundwork began to bear fruit. He met a young writer with a script for an episode of *The X-Files* that Bender helped shape and pitch as a movie concept that would beget the *Final Destination* franchise — and his first associate producer credit.

Breaking Through ~

Soon after, Bender began collaborating with another writer named Adam Herz. After exploring a slew of TV ideas that went nowhere, Bender suggested he try to write a teen comedy. “I was a teenager in the ’80s during the dawn of the video rental stores, and so I was a product of movies like *Porky’s* and *Fast Times at Ridgemont High*,” he says. “As a teen, those movies all felt risqué and exciting, and there hadn’t been any definitive teen comedies in the ’90s yet.”

Inspired by a series of painfully funny memories from his high school experiences, Bender proposed they develop a comedy about a group of teenage boys desperate to lose their virginity. “I remember that feeling when one friend came back from summer camp and told us he’d had sex for the first

time,” Bender laughs. “Some of us had this palpable feeling that if we didn’t lose our virginity before college, we were going to die.”

After recounting an awkward conversation he had with his father about masturbation (“I can still remember sitting in the car at a hardware store sweating”), he rummages through a folder for the cover page of an old script entitled *East Great Falls High* and an even older treatment for the story that ultimately would become *American Pie*. With Bender’s source material and guidance, Herz sold that first screenplay for \$650,000, and Bender got his first A-to-Z producing experience — helping craft an idea, sell it, cast it and see it through production.

Around this time, Bender connected with another young talent who would alter his trajectory: **J.C. Spink ’94**, a gregarious hustler who became Bender’s intern and eventually, his roommate and business partner. “He was a complicated guy, but he was born for that moment in time in Hollywood,” Bender says. “He could speed read 100 scripts in a weekend and

pluck the two that were good. And above all, he was an incredibly fun person to be around.”

In 1998, the two Bucknellians launched a management production firm called Benderspink. They converted their West Hollywood apartment’s third bedroom into an office, hanging scripts on a shower rod over a photocopier. Bender says they represented about a dozen writers and quickly sold a few scripts before forging a first-look production deal with New Line that became enormously successful for all parties. “Looking back, it blows my mind what we turned our respective internships into,” he says.

Specializing in unsolicited “spec” scripts, Bender and Spink sold scores of screenplays, many of which became successful Hollywood films. Movies like *Cats & Dogs*, *Just Friends*, *A History of Violence*, *Monster-in-Law* and *We’re the Millers* all emerged from this collaboration. “We had an amazing run together,” Bender says with a bittersweet voice.

That run lasted nearly 20 years. But among other things, the hard-charging Spink struggled with



FROM SCRIPTS TO HITS

As a career producer, **Chris Bender '93** oversees the intricacies of film production while collaborating with top industry pros.



(1) Bender with actors Beverly D’Angelo and Chevy Chase on the set of *Vacation*. **(2)** Bender with actor Viggo Mortensen, director David Cronenberg, his wife Carolyn Zeifman and actor Maria Bello at the 2006 Golden Globe Awards. **(3)** Bender with producer Jake Weiner and director David Robert Mitchell on the set of *Under the Silver Lake*. **(4)** Producer Marc S. Fischer, actor Chris Hemsworth and Bender on the set of *Vacation*. **(5)** Actor Jennifer Aniston, Bender and producer Dave Neustadter on the set of *We’re the Millers*.

unhealthy substance use, so the pair decided to amicably dissolve Benderspink in May 2016. Less than a year later, Spink tragically died at his home.

Fear as Fuel ~

In 2016, Bender co-founded another production and management firm that he and his new partner, Jake Weiner, decided to call Good Fear Content. “There’s no doubt that after having gone through the dissolution of Benderspink, J.C.’s death and the prospect of starting something new, there was a lot of fear,” Bender admits. “We wanted the spirit of the company to be about viewing fear as a positive, an indicator to lean in, and not a negative. So many great movies or series wouldn’t exist if someone didn’t push past the fear. So we wanted to make that our ethos and have that ethos to share with the writers, directors and talent we work with.”

It seems to be working. In the past eight years, Bender and Good Fear have continued to crank out distinctive movies, including *Under the Silver Lake*, *My Spy*, *My Spy: The Eternal City* and *Mulan* (2020). Bender has worked on films as a so-called career producer — perfecting the kind of A-to-Z process he first tasted with *American Pie*. Unlike writers, actors or other people who might get a producer credit on a show or film, career producers originate ideas with writers, help select actors and directors, manage budgets and timelines for studios or streamers and otherwise supervise the very complicated process of making filmed content.

“Even if a film has four producers, there’s only one person who oversees every step of the way,” Bender explains. “The producer is the adult in the room and responsible party to both the artistic vision and the financing entity. Making movies is often represented as only fun and sexy, but someone has to be the grown-up, and that’s what the career producer does. And if the producer does their job well in prep and behind the scenes, the production process will go smoothly so that to an outsider, it may appear like the producer is just sitting on set behind a monitor drinking lattes.”

Among the projects that Bender and Good Fear have looming is a highly anticipated movie called *The Parenting*. To help bring that horror-comedy to life, Bender worked closely with a longtime *Saturday Night Live* head writer and developed a story about a gay couple that takes their parents on a weekend getaway at a rental house. The couple doesn’t know that the house is already inhabited by a 400-year-old demon who possesses one of the parents (played at full throttle by Brian Cox of *Succession* fame).

“A big part of developing a successful comedy is being fresh in concept, casting and execution,” says Bender, who expects the movie to begin streaming early in 2025 on Max. “The story has multiple layers about parental expectations — but then it descends into pure comedy as everyone has to come together to solve a much larger problem.”



“The producer is the adult in the room and responsible party to both the artistic vision and the financing entity.”

Reflecting on his career choices and why he’s never taken a secure studio job, Bender admits that the idea of stability, ironically, scares him a little bit. “I remember making movies as a kid with my brother — we had a giant VHS camera back then, and I loved to write, direct and edit little comedies often inspired by my favorite movies or *SNL* sketches. And I still love that feeling of being creatively close to what I’m working on. That’s producing. I’ll always love supporting the discovery of new talent and new ideas and working directly with the storytellers.”

Bender pauses when asked to identify the North Star that has guided his 25-year-long Hollywood career. “I’d like to amend the old cliché that you should do what you love,” he says. “What I’d say is ‘Pursue what most energizes you.’” ■

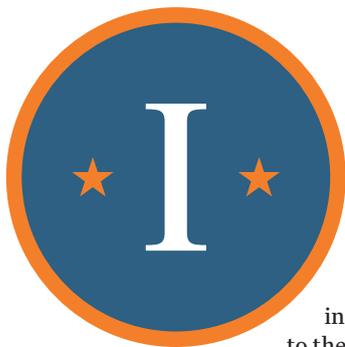




The United States Secret Service is an agency that is as recognizable as it is, well, secretive. These Bucknellians, both current and former special agents, shed light on the behind-the-scenes realities of one of the most selective and high-stakes careers in federal law enforcement.



Darryl Volpicelli '98, Ed Currie '94 and Rob Canestrari '88, P'27 (L to R) share more than an alma mater. Collectively, they've accumulated more than half a century of combined experience in one of the most elite law enforcement agencies in the country.



If you were to dress up as a United States Secret Service agent for Halloween, you'd need three accessories to complete the costume: a decent suit, a pair of mirrored sunglasses and the iconic, coiled earpiece. Couple these with a stoic stance and an indecipherable expression, likely due to the reflective shades, and you look like

you could stand imposingly next to the U.S. president.

However, the uniform — as well as the mission to protect the president — are only a fraction of the job.

“Our reputation for protection comes from the imagery of us with the sunglasses and the earpieces,” says **Darryl Volpicelli '98**, who served as the special agent in charge of the Presidential Protective Division during the Biden administration before transitioning into his current role as the deputy assistant director of the Office of Intergovernmental and Legislative Affairs. “The average person thinks we just do protection, but we weren't founded to protect anybody.”

In an ironic twist of fate, the Secret Service was created in 1865 by President Abraham Lincoln, hours before his assassination. Initially housed in the Department of the Treasury, the agency was tasked with investigating counterfeit currency and safeguarding the nation's financial institutions. It was only after President William McKinley's assassination in 1901 that the agency expanded to include presidential protection.

On the surface, Secret Service agents might appear to be all business — all the time. However, peel back the layers, and what becomes clear is that there's a strong network of personal relationships and connections bolstering the agency's mission.

Rarely in the spotlight but always operating in the wings and behind the scenes, the United States Secret Service, under the purview of the Department of Homeland Security since 2003, has been a fixture of federal law enforcement across 159 years and 30 presidencies. Throughout the latter half of the 20th century and into the modern day, Bucknellians have played an important role in helping the agency anticipate and meet the challenges of an ever-changing world.

★ PHASE ONE: Investigations

After graduating with an English degree and following a path that included stints in energy management, scriptwriting, marketing and tech, **Rob Canestrari '88, P'27** had a chance encounter with an old friend that got him thinking about a career change.

“I'd been in the private sector for 14 years, essentially behind a desk and in front of a computer,” says Canestrari, who wanted to do more to support his country after the Sept. 11 attacks. “I bumped into **Carl Agnelli '89** in an airport. He was carrying a bag, and when I asked, he opened it and showed me an M4 carbine assault rifle. That's when he said he

was in the Secret Service. Here I was in the software business, feeling like I have to do something different to contribute.”

So, just before his 37th birthday, Canestrari started the first phase of his new career. “In the Secret Service, we tend to talk about phases,” says Canestrari, who was hired as a special agent, a position so competitive that less than 1% of applicants are accepted. “You do phase one in the field, then you do phase two on a protective detail.”

Of the more than 130 field offices throughout the world, Canestrari found himself stationed in Seattle. It is in these field offices that the agency investigates everything from financial institution fraud and counterfeiting to cybercrime and credit card fraud. His new line of work offered an immediate and exhilarating change of pace. He worked investigations with the FBI’s Joint Terrorism Task Force and the Cyber Fraud Task Force, and Canestrari soon found himself executing search warrants and tailing suspects late into the night. “I was running around in the mud, kicking down doors and just having an absolute howl,” he says.

Jim Cawley ’82, P’17, who graduated from Bucknell with an economics degree, received his first assignment at the New York field office in the mid-1980s, right around the time that William Friedkin’s *To Live and Die in L.A.* was released in theaters. Starring William Petersen and Willem Dafoe, the gritty thriller follows two Secret Service agents who will stop at nothing to arrest an elusive counterfeiter. It’s a fictional portrayal, though Cawley says the job is “not unlike the movies.”

“You had to be street smart. You had to be able to work cases, do surveillance and work with confidential informants,” he says. Surveillance and late-night stakeouts could be regular parts of the job, and counterfeit schemes led him to people who were printing money in garages and basements. “It was not your typical nine-to-five job, that’s for sure.”

Even though Secret Service careers can be split into two phases — investigation and protection — there is not necessarily a hard line between the two. Cawley says that when hundreds of foreign dignitaries and their spouses converge on New York City for the United Nations General Assembly, “Everybody drops their cases and goes to work protection.”

Agnelli, who spent his first seven years in the New York field office, describes the U.N. General Assembly as a kind of informal reunion for agents from all over the country. “You’d see your buddies whom you haven’t seen for a year or two meandering around town with their protectees,” he says. After being assigned to protect the prime minister of Norway three years in a row, Agnelli even developed a close friendship with the Norwegian security team, often exchanging holiday cards and invites to each other’s home country.

The skills that an agent acquires through their investigative work, such as being able to build partnerships with outside agencies, foreign dignitaries and their families, are foundational to the next phase of protective duty.

On the surface, protection might look like standing near a head of state with an air of hypervigilance, but behind the scenes, agents must cultivate a network of strong relationships. “I always say the Secret Service is a contact sport, and the more contacts you make, the better,” says Canestrari. “Because as an agency, the Secret Service is constantly putting together small teams of agents to go support protective movements all over the world.”

Declassified Intel



Secret Service agents must always stay vigilant, but the role also offers access to some unique experiences. These six Bucknellians share special moments from their time as special agents.

Jim Cawley ’82, P’17

“We were flying home from Europe on Air Force One when the other agents and I decided to watch *Air Force One*. As we’re watching, President Clinton comes to the door to thank us for everything while Harrison Ford is on the screen playing the president. It was totally surreal.”

Carl Agnelli ’89

“I was introduced to Brazilian jiu-jitsu when I was on the Counter Assault Team. I fell in love with the sport and then just traveled everywhere to do it. Now I’m a black belt, and it’s one of my passions in life.”

Ed Currie ’94

“My mom was born in Estonia and left at 9. Growing up, my mom shared stories about it. She has two half-brothers there. Visiting in 2005 while on protective duty really resonated with me. During my off hours, I visited family and saw her stories come to life.”

Darryl Volpicelli ’98

“Queen Elizabeth’s funeral was unique, one of those unforgettable moments. There were thousands of world leaders there. By my estimation, there were only five Americans in attendance: the president, first lady, Meghan Markle, myself and our site agent. It was a pinch-yourself moment, standing in this beautiful church that I never envisioned being in.”

Rob Canestrari ’88, P’27

“Interacting with foreign counterparts was something I loved about the job. You quickly realize that people in this field, whether in the U.S., Italy or the U.K., are all very similar — patriotic, dedicated professionals focused on making the mission safe and secure. And of course, we had some laughs along the way too.”

Dave Beach ’88

“My team and I were staying at a safari lodge in Botswana. On my first morning, I woke up to a loud banging, so I peeked out onto the terrace. A monkey was throwing a patio chair against my door. He’s staring at me. I’m staring at him. All of a sudden, he drops the chair, jumps up and grabs hold of the sill above the door and starts kicking his feet against it like he’s trying to get in.”

★★ PHASE TWO: Protection

If protection is one of the core objectives of the Secret Service, then meticulous planning is the means by which that goal is achieved. “A large portion of our work is security preparation,” says **Ed Currie ’94**, who majored in political science while playing football for Bucknell. Currie began his investigative work at the Atlantic City residence office, a satellite of the Philadelphia field office, before serving on the presidential details of George W. Bush and Barack Obama. “The longest, most involved plans are foreign advances where the president goes overseas.”

Advance work typically requires agents to arrive at a location roughly two weeks before the president. That time is spent hashing out all of the operational concerns of a visit, including organizing a motorcade, conducting site visits, reviewing intelligence and coordinating with foreign counterparts. Depending on the country, some visits are more logistically complex than others.

“We took the president into Ukraine in the middle of a war zone via train,” says Volpicelli, referring to President Biden’s February 2023 trip to Kyiv — the first time a president visited an active war zone in which U.S. forces were not involved in the fighting. The trip was a success, though most of the

Overseas presidential visits are among the most complex protective tasks, but they represent only a small portion of the protection pie. Agents are responsible for protecting presidents and vice presidents, their immediate families, former presidents and their families, major presidential and vice presidential candidates, and visiting heads of state, 24/7. Agents work in shifts to ensure constant protection.

Agents also serve on the Counter Assault Team, a specialized unit devoted to providing support in the event of an attack. “The training for the Counter Assault Team was different from that for a normal agent,” says Agnelli, who was introduced to Brazilian jiu-jitsu on the job and trained alongside some of the best tactical units in the world to learn the art of close quarters combat and counter-ambush tactics.

Whether an agent is assigned to protective duty, the Counter Assault Team or the Uniformed Division, which protects the White House complex and various government buildings, a key function is assessing the “threat landscape.” “When we say ‘threat landscape,’ we’re talking about what threats are out there and what methodologies people are using to attack,” says **Dave Beach ’88**, whose career included roles as the special agent in charge of the Washington, D.C., field office and deputy assistant director in the Office of Protective Operations. “The backbone of the Secret Service’s methodology is to be prepared to stop something before it even happens or mitigate it before it gets into an environment.”



President George W. Bush and then-Secretary of Defense Donald Rumsfeld survey the damage of the Pentagon building after 9/11 alongside a young Carl Agnelli '89, who is clad in the prototypical black sunglasses, earpiece and a dark suit (left photo, far right). Darryl Volpicelli '98 accompanies President Joe Biden on a bike ride in Delaware (right).



details of how it was accomplished remain classified. “Nothing like that’s ever been accomplished,” he says. “It was a surreal experience. I don’t want to do it again, but it was certainly a monumental achievement for my workforce with how we pulled that off along with our support elements.”

Doing advance work for a presidential visit can be daunting, particularly if an agent doesn’t speak the host nation’s language. Amidst all the potential chaos that comes with safeguarding the commander-in-chief, these visits also offer opportunities for cultural exchange and developing a shared understanding of life beyond your own country’s borders.

“When you’re in a country for several weeks doing a protective advance, you’re embedded with locals 16 hours a day,” says Agnelli. “You hang out with them. You have dinner with their families. How can that not have an impact on you? How can that not change you? How can it not make you more intelligent in terms of how the world operates?”

By gaming through different counterfactuals and assessing what could or could not happen under various conditions, the Secret Service is able to lay the necessary groundwork for responding to potential scenarios. However, sometimes things happen that even special agents can’t predict.

“I was at my desk when the first plane hit. My cubicle at the time faced the North Tower,” Volpicelli says, recalling the events of Sept. 11, 2001. “I was able to crane my neck up and see a gaping hole in the North Tower. I had no vision of it being an aircraft at that point, but being in my line of work, my mind immediately went to some type of terrorist attack.”

Without a de facto plan, training kicked in, and Volpicelli and his fellow agents grabbed first-aid kits and headed down toward the street to search for the injured. “It made pretty much everybody that was there that day want to complete the mission of the Secret Service with all the effort and gusto possible to make sure that never happens again.”



Rob Canestrari '88, P'27, Darryl Volpicelli '98 and Ed Currie '94 (L to R) have charted different paths through the agency — from working with the Counter Assault Team and the Presidential Protective Division to overseeing field offices and highly complex investigations.

Agnelli, who was working on presidential detail at the time, remembers how the chaos following 9/11 impacted his protective mission. “I got a call at 3 a.m. on Sept. 12 telling me that the president was heading over to the Pentagon and that I needed to go over and make it safe,” he says. When he arrived on the scene, there were roughly 500 to 1,000 rescue workers, all firefighters and police officers dressed in the uniforms of the towns they hailed from. No one had received security clearance or been swept through magnetometers. “It was this sort of a nightmare of a scenario, but we did our best,” he says.

★★★ PHASE 3: Post-Secret Service

Serving as a special agent in the Presidential Protective Division might seem like the pinnacle of a Secret Service career. However, the end of phase two is really just another beginning.

“I finished my second phase on Obama, then I went to work in headquarters for a deputy assistant director in the Office of Investigations,” says Canestrari. “I got to see things from a different perspective, sort of behind the scenes, and get a broader perspective of how the agency works, how it’s funded and how large-scale investigations get approved.”

Phase three of an agent’s career can lead to various assignments, including D.C. headquarters, foreign field offices, specialized divisions or other agencies. Currie, who spent three and a half years in a senior role with the U.S. Treasury Inspector General for Tax Administration, eventually landed his current role as the deputy director of intelligence for the U.S. Capitol Police. “The U.S. Capitol Police mission closely resembles the Secret Service’s in protection and intelligence.”

Many agents find that the investigative skills and protection experience they acquired in the Secret Service are

highly transferable to other government roles. Volpicelli, who started his career in the New York field office in 2000, is now the Secret Service’s deputy assistant director of the Office of Intergovernmental and Legislative Affairs, where he’s responsible for responding to congressional inquiries and overseeing the Freedom of Information Act Office.

Another natural next step for former agents is the private sector. “The funny thing about the Secret Service is that all these guys now work for all these major corporations worldwide. One guy’s at Amazon, another guy’s at Google and another guy is at Facebook or PayPal,” says Agnelli, who runs security for a venture capital firm. After 24 years with the agency, Cawley is the director of security for Hearst.

Canestrari served as the Presidential Protective Division supervisor on the Trump and Biden details. His 20-year career culminated in being the special agent in charge at the Seattle field office — the place he launched his career — and he now runs executive protection for the Fortune 500 company Salesforce.

Even though careers have changed, some things about the post-Secret Service life remain the same. After all, running security for a CEO is not altogether different than protecting a head of state. “Because that’s what security is,” says Cawley. “It’s buildings, it’s people, it’s access, it’s control, it’s reputation, it’s investigations — it’s all the things you’re already familiar with.”

Now, instead of bumping into old friends during the United Nations General Assembly, it’s the World Economic Forum, held in the picturesque, Alpine resort town of Davos, that serves as a hub for former agents. “You’re just meandering down the snowy street of Davos in Switzerland in January, and all of a sudden, there are all your old buddies,” says Agnelli. “It’s the coolest thing ever.” These kinds of encounters lend credence to Canestrari’s maxim that the Secret Service really is a contact sport, though what’s funny now, at least for Beach, is how those contacts were first initiated decades ago on Bucknell’s campus. “Rob, Carl and I all played football together. Carl and I were even roommates. Jim and I were squadmates in the New York field office,” he says. “It’s not really what you envision someone from Bucknell going on to do, so it was always interesting how we all found that line of work.” ■



Learn more about the Bucknellian who charted his path through the Secret Service alongside John F. Kennedy Jr. at magazine.bucknell.edu

Elite mountain biker

Kelly Desharnais Catale '12

spent decades chasing — and winning — medals and titles, yet true contentment with the sport eluded her. Now, as a coach and mentor, she's found a more meaningful and fulfilling kind of success, redefining what it means to be at the top of her game.

by KELLY DESHARNAIS CATALE '12

photography by APRIL BARTHOLOMEW



Riding Down a Dream

Kelly Desharnais Catale '12, photographed hours before winning the single-speed event at the 2024 USA Cycling Cross-Country Mountain Bike National Championships.



On a blustery October day in 2022, I stood on a sloped patch of grass in Lewisburg between the Bucknell Farm and the campus water tower, hoisting my mountain bike overhead with a wide smile while a photographer captured the moment. He asserted that this pose made me look strong and victorious, as if I were celebrating a remarkable achievement.

Knowing that one of these photos would eventually make its way into the Winter 2023 issue of *Bucknell Magazine*, I did indeed feel like I was achieving something grand. I was concluding my fifth year as a professional endurance mountain bike athlete with a race resume that included many wins, multiple world championship appearances, and several top-10 performances at USA National Championship races. From an outsider's view, I was living the dream — balancing a life as an elite athlete and biomedical engineer. And now, every *Bucknell Magazine* reader would know it.

While the photographer focused on capturing my strength, he inadvertently captured another characteristic of my life as I stood alone atop that sloped patch of grass: loneliness.



The world of elite sports is one of singularity, precision and commitment. Athletes at the pinnacle of their sport are celebrated. At the same time, most spend their lives in obscurity, dreaming of sitting at the top while sacrificing in nearly every area of life unrelated to athletics. Adhering to a strict and precise training routine and an equally strict and precise diet helped me melt away pounds from my

Bottom photo: Douglas Kilpatrick

body and minutes from my race times. But it also helped me disintegrate friendships, weaken family connections and nearly eliminate all joy in my life. I believed these sacrifices were worth the glory of being seen as a real professional athlete, worth the honor of representing my country and several supporting sponsors.

Despite a social media presence that suggested popularity, my elite athletic journey was more isolation than connection. I believed that to pursue greatness, I needed to separate myself from “normal people” and typical daily life. I trained for hours alone and struggled with a lack of meaning and purpose. In my experience, female elite athletes face so much adversity that we often keep ourselves guarded, offering trust and friendship sparingly for fear of sacrificing our hard-earned achievements and success. Fighting the loneliness of elite athletics usually led me to chase increasingly ambitious goals. While each goal motivated me to push my limits further, I was always left with a sense of emptiness and the feeling that I might be missing something.

That something, I’d soon learn, was a team.

Strength in Numbers

In 2022, the parents of a 13-year-old mountain bike racer approached me for advice on managing their daughter’s race anxiety. They lived a few miles from my home in Pepperell, Mass., and had been following my athletic pursuits. They were intrigued by my social media posts about how cycling helped me manage anxiety and depression. When they asked for recommendations on resources to share with their daughter, I realized I could do more. I offered to meet her and share my personal experiences.

Giving my time in this way was something I had not done before. I would have dismissed it as too time-consuming or not an investment in my own racing. However, the request sparked a memory of the young, anxious athlete I was at 13 — a girl who could have benefited from a mentor who understood the mental demands of an individual endurance sport. I decided to open the door to an unofficial mentorship, perhaps driven partly by the sense that my isolated focus wasn’t benefiting me anymore.

What started as a few fun mountain bike rides and dinner chats with the young athlete and her family transformed into something profoundly meaningful. Our mentoring relationship gave me a purpose far greater than anything I could achieve alone — it bloomed into an idea to create something bigger and more impactful.

In early 2023, I founded Team KellCat Development (KellCat Devo), an all-girls junior development mountain race team focused on the whole athlete, including mental health and wellness. Our core goal is to foster and support a “more-than-fast” mentality that values process, variety, education



Kelly Desharnais Catale '12 took first place — in a tutu — in the single-speed category at the 2023 National Cross-Country Mountain Bike Championships.

first time in my professional athletic career, I was pouring my heart, soul and savings into something not directly tied to my individual racing pursuits.

Together, the team and I participated in local mountain bike races while implementing different tools, techniques and lessons we learned from team resources, such as a sports dietitian and sports psychologist. After each event, we reflected on what went well and set goals for the future. In parallel, I continued my professional racing pursuits, traveling to Europe for World Cup racing and training for the UCI Mountain Bike Marathon World Championships — while juggling a career as an engineering program manager.

KELLCAT DEVO

Team KellCat Development, a Massachusetts nonprofit, is a junior development mountain bike race team for girls. The KellCat Devo mission is “to promote the sport of mountain biking and empower women of all ages to become healthy, lifelong cyclists.” The team includes six racers, ages 15-17, all of whom live in New England. Learn more about KellCat Devo at teamkellcat.com. Follow our adventures on Instagram at [@TeamKellCat](https://www.instagram.com/TeamKellCat) and [@kelly.catale](https://www.instagram.com/kelly.catale). — K.D.C.



Kelly Desharnais Catale '12 (center), with members of her junior race team, is redefining athlete development by empowering young women to balance education, other interests and personal growth to foster a love for racing that lasts.

Forming KellCat Devo was an inflection point in my athletic career. After years of safeguarding my resources and secrets as a singular athlete, I discovered that sharing and giving back to my community actually expanded my opportunities. I had feared that divulging my strategies and coping techniques would make me weaker and less significant, but the reality was quite the opposite. Sponsors who had previously dismissed me were now eager to support me and my team, media attention grew and donors emerged willingly. All of it brought a fulfilling richness to my life.

Embodying “More Than Fast”

In the summer of 2023, I hit a wall. Literally. I crashed into a rock wall and sustained a concussion – without realizing it right away. Because my symptoms were delayed, I continued to train and race, even winning a national championship, all while unknowingly hindering my recovery. Like always, I put my head down, focused and pushed on.

Then, two months later, another crash, another concussion. With worsening symptoms, I could no longer deny my need for rest and a focused recovery period. But that only amplified my anxiety. The bike was my primary tool for managing my mental health, so its inaccessibility felt paralyzing. I struggled with focus, memory, sleep and, worst of all, the uncertainty of my athletic future.

During my nine-month recovery, I couldn't train or function as I normally would. Winter was particularly challenging, bringing harsh weather and time for harsh reflections. Elite athletics had cost me a great deal, and I began to evaluate the role bicycles would play in my future. In the dark spaces of reflection and recovery, my relationship with elite mountain biking started to transform, reshaping my idea of living “the dream” as a professional athlete.

Luckily, throughout that process, I had KellCat Devo, which kept me engaged in cycling, mentorship and community. While my team continued



Kelly Desharnais
Catale '12 leads
KellCat Devo members
Schuyler Hagge and
Tessa Avery (L to R).

KellCat Devo's
race “kit”
(uniform) gives
its members a
cohesive
team identity.

to train, race and host community events, I found purpose in leadership. By 2024, KellCat Devo had grown to six girls, each on her own journey with the sport. Witnessing their learning and development was incredibly rewarding, and I saw my relationship with cycling evolve. I no longer prioritized my own journey but instead embraced a collective pursuit. Inadvertently, as I found purpose and progress through mentorship and sport-adjacent pursuits, I embodied KellCat Devo's “more than fast” mindset.

Redefining “The Dream”

It took more than three decades, but I now realize my definition of “the dream” had been wrong all along. It isn't an invisible threshold to cross after a certain number of race wins or mentorship interactions, nor is it a rank or a job title. It isn't a destination at which to arrive, nor something I can force into existence. The idea that success equates to achieving a dream is fundamentally misaligned with my experience.

“The dream” is having the opportunity to leverage all the experiences I have gained through my engineering career, personal athletic pursuits, nonprofit endeavors, mentorship, coaching and mental health advocacy. It's about embracing future challenges with those experiences in hand. It's recognizing that I have the chance to become a trusted leader while still refining my leadership skills. It's using all of my abilities to give back to my community in meaningful ways and helping others to do the same.





#MENTALHEALTHMONDAY

In early 2022, with no concrete motivation other than wanting to use my social media platform for something more meaningful than sharing action shots and sponsor advertisements, I started publishing a reflection on my social media accounts called “Mental Health Monday.” This weekly ritual is one I have come to love because it has made me more mindful in my day-to-day experience, while also helping my followers reflect about their own lives. These posts, tagged #MentalHealthMonday, serve as a vehicle to share a wide variety of topics relevant to mental health, specifically as they relate to my own. I have shared lessons — big and small — using anecdotes from recent experiences or authentic reflections about how I feel — good and bad. — K.D.C.

Sidebar photos: Joe Catala

In March 2024, I was presented with the incredible opportunity to become executive director of New England Youth Cycling (NEYC), a nonprofit with nearly 1,400 members dedicated to getting more kids on bikes. Despite some uncertainty, trepidation and acknowledgment of risk, I left my engineering profession to take the job.

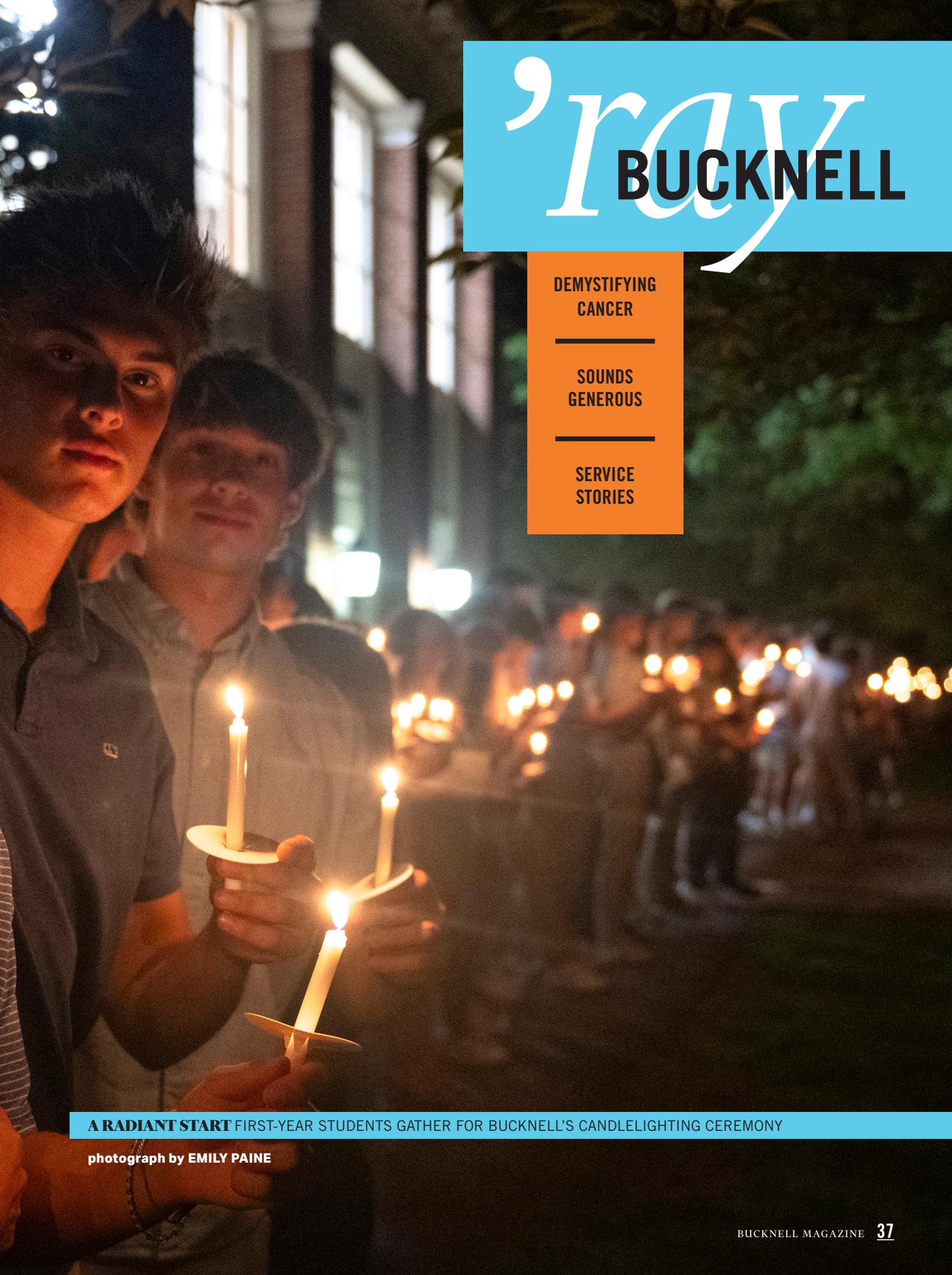
The transition proved more challenging than I expected, with many road bumps. However, many of the lessons from my previous pursuits transcended their domains, proving to be directly applicable in my new role. The race-day jitters from my start-line experiences helped me connect with the hundreds of student-athletes. My entrepreneurial experience founding KellCat Devo prepared me to lead, and my engineering career taught me to find solace in well-defined meeting agendas, requirements and action items.

As with mountain biking, the obstacles and bumps in the path are relentless. But the work I am doing has the potential to make an immense impact on countless young athletes’ lives, which is more meaningful than I could have ever dreamed.

I have stood atop podiums and represented the U.S. in many countries, and for a long time, that honor was satisfying enough. However, my new relationship with elite sports has helped me realize that the ultimate honor is helping others reach their potential in a supportive community, something NEYC and KellCat Devo both offer in abundance.

Here I am at 34, living the dream in a very different way — and now, every *Bucknell Magazine* reader knows it too. ■





'ray BUCKNELL

DEMYSTIFYING
CANCER

SOUNDS
GENEROUS

SERVICE
STORIES

A RADIANT START FIRST-YEAR STUDENTS GATHER FOR BUCKNELL'S CANDLELIGHTING CEREMONY

photograph by EMILY PAINE



The Power of the Written Word

IN AN ERA of rapid technological change and fleeting digital content, the written word continues to stand as one of the most enduring pillars of human expression and learning. For centuries, literature has been the medium through which we engage with complex ideas, reflect on society and develop our understanding of the world around us. At Bucknell, this belief in the power of language remains central to our mission.

In my own experience, the joy of reading has been a constant source of connection, both personally and within my family. Just as my father introduced me to great books, I now find that sharing

literature with my sons has deepened our conversations and expanded our perspectives. Books have a unique way of sparking dialogue that transcends generations, and in our household, discussions about what we're reading often lead to meaningful reflections on life and society. This is much like the dialogue we foster at Bucknell through our first-year Common Reading program, which introduces incoming students to literature that challenges their thinking and encourages community-wide conversations. This year, our Class of 2028 is reflecting on Colson Whitehead's *Sag Harbor*, a novel that not only immerses

them in literary exploration but also sets the tone for their academic and personal growth at Bucknell.

Mr. Whitehead — a two-time winner of the Pulitzer Prize and author of bestsellers including *The Underground Railroad* and *The Nickel Boys* — is also the 2024 recipient of the University's prestigious Janet Weis Fellowship in Contemporary Letters, a biennial award that recognizes the highest level of achievement in the craft of fiction, nonfiction or biography writing. The series is funded by a gift made in honor of the late author, civic leader, philanthropist and trustee emerita. Past honorees represent a wide variety of literary genres and include such luminaries as Toni Morrison, Edward Albee, Robert Caro, Joyce Carol Oates, Salman Rushdie, Rita Dove and **Peter Balakian '73, P'10**, to name just a few.

In September, we welcomed Mr. Whitehead to campus to accept the Weis Fellowship (see P. 6). It was a wonderful opportunity for the Bucknell community to hear from such an internationally esteemed writer — particularly for the Class of 2028. What an extraordinary introduction to Bucknell for our newest students, and what a brilliant example of the enduring power of literature to expand our worldview and connect us at every stage of our lives.

The world has changed dramatically since Bucknell's

founding, but we have never wavered in our belief in the written word as the bedrock of the liberal arts. We teach our students to read and write well across all academic disciplines, from engineering and management to the social and natural sciences and beyond. We stress the importance of storytelling as a way we can begin to understand unfamiliar perspectives and strengthen our campus community. The Bucknell University Press and the Stadler Center for Poetry & Literary Arts, both rarities among schools of our size, underscore our institutional commitment to the art of writing.

Bucknell remains committed to nurturing a deep appreciation for the written word across all disciplines. Whether through our rich academic offerings or our vibrant literary traditions, we strive to ensure that students not only read and write with precision but also understand the importance of storytelling in shaping the world. No matter how the world and society evolve, I am confident that Bucknell will continue to make literature a priority for generations of students to come.

John C. Bravman
President



EDITOR'S NOTE: Like last year, the Winter 2025 issue of *Bucknell Magazine* will be a special "University Report" edition. This issue's content will specifically focus on reporting on key initiatives and programs that are taking place across the University to help Bucknell achieve its strategic goals. The format of the magazine will be adjusted accordingly, and Class Notes will not appear. We value Class Notes and recognize the important role this section plays in keeping our alumni community connected. Class Notes will resume in the magazine's Spring 2025 issue.

EMERITI

**NICOLE CONNOR
TAYLOR '01**
[nicole_connor1979@
yahoo.com](mailto:nicole_connor1979@yahoo.com)

AMY MEDELL POE '89
amyb.poe@gmail.com

1950

**HOLLY HINCHMAN
REIGNER '96**
hehreigner1@gmail.com

1951

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

1952

CAROLYN KNIES ERDLIE
liberty384@comcast.net

1953

**CHRISTINE HILL
KILLOUGH**
chkillough@gmail.com
JOHN MANBECK
manbeckj7@yahoo.com

TAKEO SHIINA, who served as honorary adviser to IBM Japan and vice representative secretary of the Japan Association of Corporate Executives, passed away in April 2023. After graduating from Keio University in Tokyo with an engineering degree, he came to Bucknell during our senior year and earned his bachelor's in mechanical engineering. He was the first in the world to commercialize an online newspaper production system and was also involved in the development of a production management system for the steel industry. He became president of IBM Japan in 1975 at the age of 45. In 1993, he moved to chairman and worked to improve the status of foreign companies in Japan. In 2000, the emperor awarded Takeo the Grand Cordon of the Order of the Sacred Treasure, Japan's highest decoration. Not many of us knew Takeo, but in 2008 he won the Alumni Association's Outstanding Achievement in a Chosen Profession Award at our 55th Reunion. Those of us who attended enjoyed becoming reacquainted with him. At that Reunion, we also

celebrated our energetic and enthusiastic **WALT MCCONNELL**, who received his well-deserved Loyalty To Bucknell Award. What a celebratory time for the Class of 1953.

BENJAMIN MCKEEL passed away in December. He was one of the fortunate ones who met the love of his life at Bucknell, **JANET SHRECK MCKEEL '54**. After graduation, he joined the Army and served two years in Korea and Thailand. Ben located to Baltimore, where Janet lived, and was employed by Glenn L. Martin Company. The couple married in 1956. Several years later, he turned from engineering to sales in radio and television. As his career progressed, the couple moved to various cities before settling in Richmond, Va. Ben retired as vice president of the television division of Nationwide Communications. He also served as chairman of the Television Board of the National Association of Broadcasters. After Ben retired in 1994, he and Janet enjoyed many years of golf, world travel and very rewarding involvement at Salisbury Presbyterian Church, with Ben serving for 25 years including one term as an elder. He is survived by Janet, his son and three granddaughters.

JAMES "SAM" SPEERS died May 19. He earned an MBA at Drexel

University and then worked for RCA in New Jersey. Sam was also an adjunct professor at Temple University and Camden County College. He was a longtime member of The Presbyterian Church at Woodbury, N.J., and member of the Woodbury Breakfast Rotary Club. He was a runner and enjoyed the New Jersey beaches. Predeceased by his wife and a son, Sam is survived by four children, along with stepchildren, grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

DIANE SLIFER SCOTT '54 died March 5. She was a sixth generation Bucknellian, the daughter of **KEN 1926, H'64** and **CARYL DUTTON SLIFER CLASS OF 1927**. During freshman registration, Diane met future husband **VICTOR '54**, who shared her values and a deep commitment to civil rights. Soon after they married, they purchased a 300-acre farm in New Jersey where they raised and wholesaled trees, evergreens and flowering shrubs for 45 years. The couple founded the Habitat for Humanity of Salem County, N.J., and was very involved in church activities. Diane volunteered her prodigious writing skills for Habitat for Humanity and other nonprofit causes. She also created a charming book in which she compiled her parents' college correspondence with delightful graphics

that her father included with every letter. She was predeceased by Victor and brother **DAVID SLIFER '60**. She is survived by three children, including **ELLEN SCOTT FUQUA '79**, who is married to **RICHARD '78**, and a granddaughter. — C.H.K. and J.M.

1954

**BONNIE MACKIE
ASPINWALL**
bmaspinwall@gmail.com

By now, all of us are in our 90s, and some live independently and others have assistance. When our *Bucknell Magazine* arrives in the mail, most of us first read the Class Notes. We are still interested in reading about our classmates. Any news interests us; we like to read about where you are living, how big your family is and anything about your life. Some families have become smaller, and others have grown. How about yours? We'd sure like to hear from you. — B.M.A.

1955

**ELEANOR MACKIE
PIGMAN**
empigman@gmail.com

1956

JOSEPH EBERHART
jdocyardley@aol.com



Richard J. Jones '74, P'04 and T. Michael McCormick '72, M'80 (L to R) co-wrote *Rogue Cells: A Conversation on the Myths and Mysteries of Cancer*.

The C Word

by MATT JONES

"CANCER" IS GENERALLY PERCEIVED as a scary word, so much so that it is sometimes referred to simply as the "C word," as if refusing to utter its full name somehow deprives it of the all-too-real power that it exerts over so many lives. However, there is also power in naming something. In fact, when it comes to cancer, **Richard J. Jones '74, P'04** and **T. Michael McCormick '72, M'80** go a couple of steps further. Speaking with equal parts candor and humor, the duo has published *Rogue Cells: A Conversation on the Myths and Mysteries of Cancer*, a book that seeks "to make cancer as comprehensible as possible" and, in doing so, give patients and their families the knowledge to confront the disease head on.

"I want my patients to be as knowledgeable about this disease as I am," says Jones, a professor of oncology at Johns Hopkins University who also serves as the director of the Bone Marrow Transplant Program and the co-director of the Hematologic Malignancies and Bone Marrow Transplant Program at Sidney Kimmel Comprehensive Cancer Center. "I think the topic is complicated, and so one of the things I've tried to do in my career is to come up with analogies that sort of make a complex issue more understandable to the layperson."

That's where McCormick came in. With degrees in religion and education and a long career in information technology management, McCormick didn't have medical training. However, his background as the proverbial layperson

made him an ideal candidate to co-write the book with Jones.

"I knew little about the subject to start with, so if I could understand it enough to get it down on paper accurately, then there is a good chance that others would understand it as well," says McCormick. "The writing is largely in my voice, and the narrative is a conversation between us, so I'm learning things and questioning things along the way."

Both Jones and McCormick have been personally affected by cancer, which was another motivating factor for writing the book. "Both my parents and Rick's parents died of cancer," says McCormick. "This book is very much a celebration of the breakthroughs in cancer treatments that people like Rick have helped advance, but it's also an acknowledgment of the fact that cancer is still impacting so many lives."

Over the course of 11 chapters, Jones and McCormick cover everything from cancer diagnosis and treatment to disease prevention, the basic biology behind cancer cells and what it means to live with cancer. The resultant *Rogue Cells* is a true collaboration between the pair and strikes a pleasing balance between the scientific and the personal while navigating weighty topics with a compelling blend of humor and dignity that ultimately makes cancer seem much less scary.

Rogue Cells: A Conversation on the Myths and Mysteries of Cancer was released by Johns Hopkins University Press in 2024 and can be found at press.jhu.edu.

Alumni Books

Robert A. Scott '61

Letters to Students: What It Means to Be a College Graduate

(Rowman & Littlefield, 2024)

Letters to Students is a new book by Scott, president emeritus and professor emeritus of Adelphi University. Having worked on Bucknell's admissions staff from 1965 until 1968 and then as a lifelong faculty member and administrator, Scott offers guidance to college students. The book serves as a resource for first-year seminar classes, as well as a gift for recent high school graduates. Structured as a series of letters from two former university presidents, Scott and his co-author, Drew Bogner, the book explores the purposes of college and its role in preparing individuals for a successful life. It provides advice on navigating college, career development, creativity, leadership, citizenship, compassion and the importance of leaving a legacy. Scott, who served as president of the Bucknell Alumni Association and as a member of the Board of Trustees, is the author, editor or contributor of 19 books. In 1991, he received Bucknell's Alumni Association Award for Outstanding Achievement in a Chosen Profession.

Doug Nelson '85

Diminishing (Your) Worry and Stress: Authentic Stories from Real Life
(ACTA Publications, 2024)

In *Diminishing (Your) Worry and Stress*, Nelson offers a personal exploration of managing life's anxieties and pressures. Drawing on real-life stories from his experiences and those of others, Nelson uses his training and education as a counselor to share practical lessons on recognizing and coping with stress. His narrative is rooted in his journey as a student at Bucknell, where he was an active leader in the Fellowship of Christian Athletes. Nelson reflects on how his role as a counselor has allowed him to engage with clients on issues of faith and spirituality. Through his book, Nelson aims to help readers find their own path to managing stress and understanding personal challenges, while also addressing the broader themes of acceptance and self-discovery.

1957

CAROLYN "CALLIE" MEYER

meyerwrite@comcast.net

CAROL WANAMAKER LENKER

caroldalelenker@gmail.com

KAY SMELTZER EWER

attended Reunion with her daughter, **DEBORAH EWER FINLEY '83**, but there was just one problem: Kay was the only person from the '50s at the luncheon, so she was photographed by herself at a long empty table. She also had a picture taken with a sculpture of a very large bison and had a great time seeing all of the new dorms and education buildings.

Kay moved to Brittany Pointe Estates in Lansdale, Pa., 10 years ago after her husband passed away. She teaches line dancing, sings with The Songsters, plays the steel drum in the drum band, serves on the entertainment committee and is president of the Questers (antique hounds). And, in case there's a lull, Kay attends the activities planning meetings. This is *retirement?*

It's with a heavy heart that **B.J. BOYER MAUL** reported the death of her freshman roommate,

BARBARA "BOBBIE" FOLK MYNOTT '56

in May. "My lifelong connection with Bobbie began the summer of 1953, just two

months before entering Bucknell. She was in Ocean City [N.J.] and came with her then-boyfriend to meet me. I was not home, but out with my then-boyfriend. After the guys were out of the way, Bobbie and her mom met me and my mom in Philadelphia for lunch and to get 'decorations' for our room at 6th Street.

"I remember the joyous times we spent together, although not so joyous was the placement of a formaldehyde-soaked crawfish on my pillow one night. We went separate ways after freshman year, but we always kept in touch."

Learn more about Bobbie on P. 58.

I, **CAROLYN**, am pleased to report that I managed to perform my solo show, *Motherhood. What A Bitch!*, three times here in Albuquerque, N.M., including on Mother's Day, without noticeable memory lapses, and four more performances were scheduled in other cities. There's a lot of Bucknell in the show, including my unrequited crush on the late **PHILIP ROTH '54, H'79** when he was playing in *Death of a Salesman* and I was on the costume committee, assigned to put together his outfit. That part always gets a laugh. — C.M. and C.W.L.

1958

ROBERTA BAYER SCHLACKS

schlacksr@aol.com

JANE SCHEIFELE

FRASSENEI wrote that a group of six friends from Bucknell Class of 1958 sailed on a Holland America cruise April 6–13. Included in the group were five Phi Mu sisters, **PEGGY FAULK MYRBACK, MARIE MASTORAKIS, JUDY DANIEL MORRISON, JANET BULL BORDEN** and **SHIRLEY COOK HATCH**, and one DZ, Jane. The cruise departed from Fort Lauderdale, Fla., and visited three ports in the Caribbean. The first was Grand Turk, Turks and Caicos Islands, then on to San Juan, Puerto Rico, and third was St. Thomas, U.S. Virgin Islands. These ladies have had many special get-togethers over the years. This was their third cruise. They have also stayed in Judy's various abodes in Florida; with Marie (over 20 years for a pre-Christmas overnight) in her Cranford, N.J., home; at Jane's in Ocean City, N.J., and in Pennsylvania; at Peggy's in Ann Arbor, Mich., Lancaster, Pa., and Arizona; at Shirley's in Annapolis, Md.; at the late **LORIAN RODI DEUEL**'s in Frostburg, Md., and with the late **ADELE IRVING** in Berkeley Heights, N.J. Their favorite trips together, aside from the cruises, were to bed-and-

breakfasts in Boston; Maryland; Williamsburg, Va.; St. Simons Island, Ga.; Blackwater Falls, W.Va., and Hilton Head Island, S.C.

A few years ago, I was playing bridge with a gal named Carol Saunders. We chatted away and somehow discussed our college experiences. She mentioned she had a great Bucknell neighbor named Jane but wasn't sure of her graduation date or her last name. I said, 'Well, I know a couple of Janes from my class' and started with Jane Scheifele Frassenei and, bingo, picked the right one. Since that time, Carol and I have become very good friends.

I'm off on a Yankee Seaports cruise with stops in New York City, Port Jefferson, N.Y., Sag Harbor, N.Y., Old Saybrook, Conn., New London/Mystic, Conn., Plymouth, Mass., and Boston."

Hoping to hear from more of you in the future. — 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.

1960

PETE FRITTS

petefrittsr@att.net

CHUCK BRYDEN, enjoying his twilight years, writes, "The best news I have is that I just turned 86 last week, and it keeps getting easier to shoot my age at golf. I just did it last week for the 315th time. I tried out for almost every sport at Bucknell and didn't make any of them but did play pretty much all the fraternity sports. They were fun times."

JOE LOGRIPPO, who said he never remembered writing in previously, reports, "My wife, Carol, and I are still independent and living in Port Chester, N.Y. We had one daughter, Valerie, who lives in Vermont. She has two children: Andrew, who graduated from Marist College and is working at a TV station in Burlington, Vt., and Marjorie, who finished her junior year at Champlain College. She had five As in her last semester — slightly better than her grandfather did at Bucknell.

"I got involved in the theater my last couple of years at Bucknell and in 1964 decided to take a shot at a career in show biz. I was still single, so why not? Grandson Andrew created a video about his grandfather's 'career.' It's only 10 minutes long and can be seen on YouTube. Search for "Joe LoGrippo" and

there is a photo of me (when I still had hair) and Al Pacino playing chess on the set of *Godfather II*. I had some success on the stage, and I also was in the LA premiere of *Sly Fox* with George C. Scott. I toured one year in *Arsenic and Old Lace* with John Carradine and Sylvia Sidney and was Murray the Cop in a production of *The Odd Couple* with Dan Dailey as Oscar. Dan was a wonderful fellow to act with, and it was the most satisfying gig I ever had.

"I had eight good years when I could pay the rent and didn't have to work a part-time job. Eventually, the work dried up, and I packed my bags and came back to New York. I landed a decent job at Avon and ended up as their standards coordinator — several levels below vice president, but it paid the rent. I think quite often of my college days with great affection."

DENMAN SWEETMAN, 85, died of a basilar artery stroke on Jan. 30. He earned a bachelor's in electrical engineering at Bucknell, followed by an MBA at Harvard. He married Beverly Anne Yarroll April 1, 1961, with whom he raised two boys, Den and Bert. He also had a long and successful career as an electrical engineer.

JANE LYDMAN EMSBO writes, "My year is split between the Block Island [R.I.] house where we retired and a retirement

place in Lexington, Mass. My husband, Jorgen, died five years ago. After many years as a learning specialist for kids and teachers needing help, I have been a painter, poet and music advocate. My three children and eight grandchildren are blessings."

Before I wind things up, I will add a few lines concerning my life over the past 64 years. Immediately following graduation, I entered the Army as a second lieutenant and spent the succeeding 20 years on active duty with tours in Hawaii, Vietnam, Iran and Washington, D.C., among others. While on my first assignment with the 82nd Airborne Division at Fort Bragg, N.C., I courted and eventually married Page Tindle Fritts, whom I first met during spring break in Fort Lauderdale, Fla., in 1960. Page and I were blessed with two children, Deborah and Peter, who produced our two grandchildren, Teagan and Hayden. After 61 years of wedded bliss, my wife passed away in August 2022.

Best wishes to all our classmates! — P.F.

1961
JAN POWERS
jpowers0135@earthlink.net

It's always good to hear from classmates, one of whom checks in: "My name is Mike Elliot;

however, it was **MICHAEL ELLIOT GOLDSTEIN** when we were Bucknellians. I never made it into my senior year. I should never have picked engineering as my major.

"I was a Sammie, and I was a member of the Bison football team and was Bucknell's intramural heavyweight boxing champ in our freshman year.

"My granddaughter, **CHLOE CRAVEN '27**, loves Bucknell and is doing quite well. My son, **JON ELLIOT '91**, graduated from Bucknell. Two out of three ain't bad."

I also have sad news from **LEONE "LONI" RUSSELL YERKES '60**, who wrote that her husband, John B. Yerkes Jr., passed away Feb 19, 2023.

Please send me your doings and happenings, both happy and sad, so the Class of '61 can keep in touch. There is still life to be lived at 85 and thoughts to be shared. — J.P.

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.

1963
PENNY WEST SURITZ
pennysuritz@gmail.com

I'm sorry to report the death of **ROBERT G. SMITH '62**, husband of **BARBARA "BOBBIE" BRUNS SMITH**, on their wedding anniversary June 15. The couple has additional Bucknell ties, including son **MARK '87** and daughter-in-law **BETH WORMANN SMITH '89**; daughter **KAREN SMITH MCGRATH '91**, a professor of finance at Bucknell; grandson **RYAN '25**; and granddaughter **MEGAN SMITH WELLINGTON '15** and her husband, **IAN "DUKE" '15**. — P.W.S.

1964
BETH WEHRLE SMITH
bethdonsm@aol.com

JOHN HARKAVY writes, "Last March, **LARRY KASH, MACK DAY M'64, DICK SUMNER, MIKE ANDREWS** and myself bonded in Florida. Mack was Larry's guest at his home in Palm Beach, and Dick stayed with me at my beachfront condo on South Hutchinson Island. Larry and I have visited with Mike at least annually for 20 years or so after Mike was in a horrendous automobile accident while vacationing in Mexico as part of a cruise. **SYLVESTER "FERGIE" FERGUSON** joined us in the past, but he fell just before our 2024 reunion and

fractured his skull. Fergie and **CURT DEVEREUX '65** visited **JIM HICKS** in North Carolina, where they reside, to give him some brotherly love in an Alzheimer's facility where he lives. I have stayed in touch with **LAWRENCE "BUD" DAVIS**, who along with his bride, **SUE MAURER DAVIS**, are enjoying retirement just south of Philly. **ED BOWER M'66** continues to practice medicine in Charlotte, N.C., and operates a wound treatment center there. As far as I know, **BERT BULLINGTON** still practices dentistry in Pittsburgh.

"I retired Sept. 30, 2022, after 55 years of practicing law in the San Francisco Bay area, specializing in complex business transactions with lots of mergers and acquisitions work. I celebrated my 55th wedding anniversary with Lynne. I had a two-level spinal fusion surgery last July, which was the root cause for my decision to retire."

ELIOT RISKIN writes, "The 2024 Elder Sammie dinner season kicked off on the rooftop of New York City's Bryant Park Grill in May. Present were one cane, 11 fratres and seven hearing aids (there should have been 22). Attendees were **SETH KAMINSKY '62, MIKE TRAGER '63, M'68**, me, **JEFF NEMEROV, RICK AMDUR '65, STEVE OESTREICH '65, RICH**

HIRSCH '65, RON BARON '65, MIKE WEINSTEIN '65, JACK POSNER '65 and BOB SIEGEL '66.

"Offering the flimsiest of excuses, notable regulars not present were **BARRY GARDINER '62, ED REISS '62, FRED ANSIS '63, LEON WEISS '63 and MURRAY UFBERG.** It should be noted that not one was missed a whit.

"The conversation was sorta brisk, and as no one napped off for more than five minutes, the gathering was considered a great success by all. As always, I remind all fratres of that era that

there is always room at the table; we would love to include you in the sorta festivities."

BONNIE CULLEN RISKIN, my first-ever roommate, and I had a wonderful 64th personal reunion in New Canaan, Conn., where I was visiting for my grandson's high school graduation. (**EDWARD "NED" SMITH '28** was matriculating in the fall and playing water polo.) Bonnie and I still share that amazing bond formed at Edwards House where 17 of us were counseled well by **EDIE LORD SEGREE '62** and the

late **CAMIE SCHWIEGER HUMPHREYS '62.** Still in touch from those Edwards House days are Bonnie, **PHYLLIS HECKROTH TRAGER, NANCY NICHOLSON YODER, CHARLOTTE EDWARDS MINICH** and me. — B.W.S.

1965
JACKIE HORNOR PLUMEZ
Plumez.dr@gmail.com

SCOTT LUTTMANN saw **FORREST** and **VALERIE SILBERNAGEL CHILTON** and **BOB GATSKI** while he

attended wife **PEGGY OSBORN LUTTMANN '64's** 60th Reunion. The Luttmanns enjoy hiking and being with their three grandkids.

TOBY DECKER mourned the loss of **ROSS "SKIP" BOULDIN**, noting that Skip organized his church and community to supply an orphanage in Vietnam.

ELISSA RICHARDS KARN and daughter Liz went to Indianapolis to see the Olympic swimming tryouts. Indianapolis turned its stadium into an indoor pool. They also went to the Final Four during March Madness and cheered for North Carolina State.

Forrest was the grand marshal of his town's Memorial Day parade in full patriotic regalia and his aunt, who is only one year older than him, was at the event, too. Ask him about his aunt's age when we gather at our Reunion next June. — J.H.P.

1966
JACKIE PEARSON WEIDENFELLER
theweids@verizon.net

After reading of Bucknell veterans' issues due to the Vietnam War, Trudy Bouldin, wife of **ROSS "SKIP" BOULDIN '65**, wrote to inform us that he'd passed away April 7 from a service-related disease, progressive supranuclear palsy. He was in Vietnam 1966–67

in the Mekong Delta. Skip loved his FIJI brothers, always bringing a smile and a chuckle to their faces. He was also proud of his work helping a local orphanage gather an overwhelming number of donations for its program. Trudy writes, "He and I were married 55 years, and I have so many great memories and great friends. Our 47-year-old twin daughters are brokenhearted, but we're strong together."

BOB PARKS M'73 noted with interest the suggestion that we pay tribute to our veterans, and he reminds us, "For our 50th Reunion, at the dinner hosted by **DICK PACE** and me, we recognized my fellow Vietnam veterans by having them stand and be applauded, and then all veterans from our class joined them to be recognized. Dick and I thought it was the right thing to do. Following our example, the Class of '68 then recognized Vietnam veterans and all veterans at their Friday dinner, which was hosted by my wife, **MARILYN OLSON PARKS '68.** Marilyn and I have lived on the Chesapeake Bay for 23 years. We were lucky to find four acres with 180-degree frontage on the bay. As I have said many times, it's so beautiful, I can't believe I live here. We've continued to travel extensively and have visited 116 countries. We'll continue to travel as long as we are

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*Cornerstone Society members, as well as donors of \$25 or more since Jan. 1, 2024, will receive a calendar.

able." Bob also praised **STEVE PATTERSON'S** highly decorated service, although he himself was a Purple Heart and Bronze Star recipient. He also has VA disability for Agent Orange exposure as a result of his service in Vietnam.

TERRY HARTZELL and **JOHN EMBREE** reported the loss of Sigma Phi Epsilon brother **JOHN CARPENTER**, 79, April 24. John had dual majors in biology and chemistry at Bucknell while also playing football and baseball. He continued his education at Baylor College of Medicine in Houston, and during this time, he met wife Nell, who shared John's passion for microbiology and sports. After his work at Baylor, he completed a residency in internal

medicine with a fellowship in infectious disease at Walter Reed. Four children later, another move took the family to Brooke Army Medical Center in San Antonio, Texas, where John was chief of infectious diseases. After retiring from the military as a colonel, John joined the faculty at the University of Texas Southwestern Medical School where he was named "favorite professor" for 10 straight years.

PAMELA SCHOLL STEWART '67 has been in touch to commiserate over our concurrent surgery experiences, hers for hip and mine for knee. While icing together hundreds of miles apart, we've had a lot of laughs about shared Bucknell events and times since.

Pam and **ALLAN '64** live in Mount Pleasant, S.C., near Charleston.

Other spring reunions included **JANE CHIDESTER FIORAVANTI '69** visiting **LINDA PECHEUR DONOHUE '67**. I was able to join them for a day, and though we were representing three different classes, we had much in common with our Tri-Delt connection and so many stories to share. Although Linda and I are retired, Jane continues to run a church preschool in Pennsylvania. Days later, we had a second Tri-Delt threesome when **ELLA WEEKS MITCHELL ALEXANDER '67** visited Linda and they came my way for a shared lunch. Linda lives up the road from me in Bonita Springs, Fla., and Ella winters in Stuart, Fla., with

husband Dave. Ella's daughter, **CHRISTINA MITCHELL SCHIANO '90**, is married to **GREG '88**, a former Bucknell football star who has been head coach at Rutgers and for the Tampa Bay Bucs.

Continue to be physically active in your twilight years, if possible — I'm told that's the best way to stay healthy. Oh, and don't forget to eat well, get a lot of sleep, share associations with others, seek learning and above all, look happily on each new day. — J.P.W.

1967
CHUCK GILLILAND
cdgilliland45@gmail.com

BOB BAKER lives in Belmont, Mass., after having lived in Connecticut for a large part of his

career. He is married to **MARTI TRAUB BAKER '69**, whom he met in the marching band at Bucknell where he played the trumpet and she played the clarinet. He was a lubrication engineer and has been retired for six years, but he remains active in the professional association. The couple moved to the Boston area to be closer to their daughter, **LISA '94**, and grandchildren. They moved recently enough that they still enjoy exploring the area. Bob said he has no exciting hobbies but is an accomplished sports spectator. An interesting side note is that his mother, **HELEN "HONEY" RHINESMITH BAKER**, was the Class Reporter for the Class of '44 until her death in 2013.

JOHN DEERMOUNT is retired from the business that his grandfather started in Manhattan, which was sold just before new technology ended the need for it. He's at his family's cabin on Lake Hopatcong in New Jersey, where he has spent summers for many years. Winters are spent in St. Petersburg, Fla. He has reconnected with **GEORGE WILEY**. One of his life highlights is that after going to Naval Officer Candidate School after graduation, he was in the enviable position of spending his Vietnam War years teaching sailing in Annapolis, Md. We spent some time thinking about the classmates who went to Vietnam, not all of whom returned.

BOB FISHER and I were in the same freshman hall group in Kress and probably haven't had any contact since then. He worked at IBM for 23 years and then attended seminary. He served several small Baptist congregations in New England as a "bivocational minister," which meant that the churches were so small that he needed a second job to support his family. He worked with young adults with developmental disabilities and as a caregiver for older adults. He also taught computer programming at a high school. He has six children and is widowed. His hobbies are pickleball and bowling. He occa-

sionally visits the Bucknell campus, most recently in May.

DEBORA SHOLL

HUMPHREYS lives in Avila Beach, Calif., after living in the Cleveland area for most of her married life. I'd forgotten she married one of my DU brothers, **DAVE '66, M'69**. Her career has been in teaching, and she worked as a dean. She got her Ph.D. in organization planning and has worked with returning veterans to help them apply their military skills to civilian jobs. Some of this work involved those in the aerospace industry. The couple has a daughter who lives nearby and has two young children. Deb's hobbies include yoga, walking, Rotary events and dealing with people. There is a strong connection of the Sholl and Humphreys' families to Bucknell: her great-grandmother was in the first class of females at the University. There have been 34 people who have attended Bucknell between the two families. Dave and I spoke at some length just to reminisce. He said there is a large contingent of DUs in his area, and they get together with some frequency, including **PETE ZSCHIESCHE '65, CHRIS PECHIN '64, BILL LEBOV '66, CHRIS ROJAHN '66** and **JEFF SCHAEFFER '64**. Others who do not live there have joined them as well: **MARV GOLDBERG '66** and **DAVE MYLER '64**. — C.G.

1968

GEORGE VINCE
gvince@madriver.com

We lost another classmate when **MARY JONES MILLER** passed away in April. She married her high school sweetheart, Jerry, after graduation, and he predeceased her several years ago. Mary was a Tri-Delt and president of her sorority. She received a degree in education and taught school for several years before becoming a full-time mom to her two daughters. I spoke with **MARTI LEE HORN**, one of her sorority sisters, and learned about the mini reunions the Tri-Delts (and others) had, especially after Sept. 11. One such adventure was at **SUE WEINGARTNER ELKO**'s vacation home on Long Beach, N.Y., which included **SUE CASSIDY LANKFORD**, Marti, Mary, **LENORE MARIANI MILNER**, **JUDY TAMM MORTON**, **ALICE "PENNY" FLAHERTY '69**, **JANE CHIDESTER FIORAVANTI '69**, **NANCY MCGOURY KEBER** and **BARBARA MATTICK BEAVER**. I'm told there were four or five such mini reunions, hosted at different locations.

I had a call from **RON VILLANI**, who shared the news of the passing of Lambda Chi brother **BILL WOODS**, who was doing God's work in pediatric oncology and was awarded the Alumni

Association's Outstanding Achievement in a Chosen Profession Award in 2013. This little column can't begin to list his accomplishments and achievements, let alone the awards he received. Bill's obituary is at siop-online.org/news/in-memoriam-dr-william-g-bill-woods/.

Ron and **PEGGY JAMES VILLANI '69** are a Bucknell Cinderella couple. Both of their daughters, **MEGAN VILLANI SHIELDS '97** and **LORI VILLANI '01**, also attended Bucknell. Ron is in touch with several of his fraternity brothers including **AL BILANIN**, **JAMES "JAY" COYNE**, **MIKE VULPIO**, **BRUCE CAWLEY** and **BILL OVERDORF**.

Several Theta Chi's gathered in mid-June on a Zoom call initiated by **JIM VARGA '69**: **GORDIE SKADBERG '67, M'67, BOB BARTUNEK**, **JIM MORGAN**, **STEVE YEATMAN**, myself, **PETE D'ORSI '69**, **JIM REESE '69**, **LARRY CARLSON '69**, **JOSEPH "CHIP" WILLIAMS '69**, **DAN LUPFER '69**, **CURT TREDENNICK '69**, **MIKE BRENNAN '69**, **BOB MARTUZA '69** and **SCOTT NICHOLS '70**. Needless to say, it was a lively event with plenty of reminiscing, in large part recalling how we put on the best house parties ever. — G.V.

1969

PETER E. D'ORSI
pdcpa@hopetechpartners.com

1970

LYDIA HALLER DODD
lydiadodd@yahoo.com

1971

LOU KISSLING
L_KISSLING@msn.com

1972

ANNE SMITH BENBOW
anne@benbow.net

MIKE MCCORMICK M'80 and **RICHARD JONES '74** co-authored *Rogue Cells: A Conversation on the Myths and Mysteries of Cancer* (see P. 40).

Richard is a professor of oncology, medicine and pathobiology at Sidney Kimmel Comprehensive Cancer Center at Johns Hopkins. Mike has retired from an information technology career. Using stories and analogies and a dose of humor, they hope their book will help readers to better understand the science around cancer's biology, prevention, diagnosis and treatment. Mike and Rick have been friends since boyhood, which is part of what made their collaboration successful.

Our longtime group of Bucknell friends, who often get together

FOR LOVE OF MUSIC

A MUSICAL GIFT

Richard Berggren '57 spent his career in music. Now, he's passing on his passion to Bucknell.

by **KATE WILLIARD**

THE SOUND OF A TRUMPET commands attention. From Haydn's classical compositions to Sousa's rousing marches to Louis Armstrong wailing through a jazz solo, the trumpet has a wide range of expressions that can stir emotions, energize a crowd or soothe a soul. It is, in short, an indispensable instrument. Thanks to the generosity of **Richard Berggren '57**, the halls of Bucknell's music department will resonate with that bright, familiar sound from some extraordinary trumpets for years to come.

A passionate musician and music educator, Berggren donated three of his cherished, artist-quality instruments to Bucknell: a Bach Stradivarius B flat trumpet, a Benge C trumpet (most commonly heard in symphony orchestras) and a Bach piccolo four-valve trumpet (famously heard a minute into The Beatles' "Penny Lane").

"Most musicians come to Bucknell with the trumpets they played in high school, which are invariably B flat instruments," says Professor William Kenny, music. "They likely haven't experienced playing a C trumpet or, especially, a piccolo trumpet."

In private lessons taught by Dale Orris, artist affiliate in music and director of the Bucknell University Jazz Band, these instruments will contribute to the rich, multi-disciplinary ethos that underlies the student experience at Bucknell. "For the most part,



Richard Berggren '57 (left) presented three special trumpets to Professor William Kenny, music, at the Bucknell band's spring concert at the Weis Center for the Performing Arts.

our trumpet students are not music majors," says Kenny. "They might be studying biology, engineering or marketing, but they don't want to disconnect from their love of music." Berggren's trumpets allow students to explore a broader spectrum of musical tones and textures.

Berggren hand-delivered his horns to campus — a gesture Kenny found added a profound weight to the gift. "These trumpets meant the world to him. He has entrusted us with them and wants them in the hands of students," Kenny says. "It is truly a moving gift, and we are so grateful."

state-side, shared a river cruise in the Netherlands and Belgium in April to see the beautiful tulips. The group included **DEBBIE STRATTON MOTT** (NC), **NICKI DREW CAMPBELL** (SC), **PAM SCHWARTZ DICKSON** (NJ), and **ROBIN BITTERLICH MOLL** (PA) and spouses. **ELLEN PERCY KRALY** (NY) and **SUSAN CONN RIPPLE** (VA) were unable to join us. The nine-day cruise gave us a chance to catch up, explore new vistas, learn more about the history of the area and relive fun times from our Bucknell days. Despite

the cold and windy weather, we all had a wonderful time. — A.S.B.

1973
SUSAN LATIMER CURLETT
slcurlett@aol.com

1974
NORBERT W. CHURCH JR.
churchandchurch@yahoo.com

REUNION

1975
NANCY QUAY BRADLEY
nancy.bradley6@gmail.com

Florida was the destination for a group of friends who used to gather every 10 years and realized last year that annual gatherings (at our age) made a lot more sense. This year, nine Bucknell friends gathered in Clearwater

Beach: **SHARON LITCHFIELD SPENCER, WENDY SAVILLE, SUZANNE STOREY KANZLEITER, JO-ANN BARR TITLEY, PEGGY SAMMON, GEORGIA YOUNG FOOTE, SARAH GEST BAUER, ADRIANE WODEY** and **DOTTY SCHNURE**. They had a great time and enjoyed beautiful sunny Florida beaches and a tornado warning, not to mention plenty of great food and fun. They were looking forward to the 50th Reunion next year and reconnecting with other Bucknell classmates. In May, I had the

pleasure of reconnecting with my 4th Harris gals who were freshmen when I was their RA as a junior. Our reunion took place in a cabin at Weikert, Pa., (owned by **CATHY GAMMON BASTIAN '77**) and included **BARB MORISON GOMEZ '77, BETH KROSSE '77** and **SUSAN HUNSICKER '77**. Our tour of campus brought back many fond memories. Perhaps our most startling discovery was that all our match-box-sized doubles have now been turned into singles on 4th Harris. I look forward to seeing

many classmates at our 50th Reunion in 2025. Until then, stay well. — N.Q.B.

1976

GAIL WATERBURY FERRI
waterburyferri@gmail.com

MARY LOU KUPFER
maryloukpf6@gmail.com

NANCY WILLIAMS had the pleasant surprise of meeting up with one of her Delta Zeta sisters after 48 years. **LINDA COVIEO CHARLES '75** was in Nancy's area visiting her mother-in-law, and they met for a three-hour lunch. Linda and husband **RAY '74** are retired and have a small ranch in Wyoming with an assortment of animals, including alpacas. The two women reminisced about their experiences at Bucknell and their Delta Zeta shenanigans; it was non-stop laughter. Nancy was looking forward to the Class of '76's 50th Reunion in 2026 and seeing many classmates. — M.L.K and G.W.F.

1977

SUSAN HUNSICKER
8elsiemarie@gmail.com
BRIAN KNAPP
cbknapp@charter.net

CATHY GAMMON BASTIAN and husband **DOUG '76** hosted a few freshman-year 4th Harris hallmates for a mini-re-

union at her family's cabin in Weikert, Pa. The group included **BARB MORISON GOMEZ, BETH KROSSE, SUSAN HUNSICKER** and our RA from that year, **NANCY QUAY BRADLEY '75**. We took walks every day, compared notes on our elderly parents, did a craft project together and spent an afternoon wandering around the Bucknell campus and its bookstore. Most of all, we talked and laughed, and we promised to meet again in three years for our 50th Reunion.

JOHN and **KAREN DIEGIDIO YEIGH** moved to New Hampshire in 2022, ostensibly to be near their two children, but the move also helped them flee hot mid-Atlantic summers and state income taxes. John has published 60 articles on a variety of financial and retirement issues (humbledollar.com/author/john-yeigh/). While John has an MBA and worked in finance, Humble Dollar's vibe is regular folks relating personal finance experiences. It's edited by *The Wall Street Journal's* former personal finance editor, and like Bogleheads, is one of the rare sites having no commercial agenda.

PEGGY MATHIESON CONVER writes, "I'm well, busy and still in the suburbs of Philadelphia." Her husband passed away two years ago, prior to our 45th Reunion, and she has slowly started

going through the piles of stuff accumulated in the past almost 50 years. "I get consistent concerns from my daughter, Caroline, who wants *everything* saved for her." Peggy hopes to settle into a new community in the next few years, so "stay tuned and please do not hesitate to call if you and/or your offspring need anything. I'm sure it's around here somewhere."

For the third time in the past nine years, **JEFF KWALL** was elected Professor of the Year by the Loyola University Chicago School of Law graduating class. He has completed his 40th year on the faculty and hopes to reach 50. He and his wife have five grandchildren with number six on the way and are fortunate that all live in a neighboring suburb. Jeff loves teaching and is happy to have found his calling.

BARB SCHEFFLER and husband David Mernan went to Ithaca, N.Y., to celebrate Barb's 40th reunion from the New York State College of Veterinary Medicine at Cornell University. Forty-four years ago, in late August 1980, Barb and **DAVE KEARNEY**, a fellow Bucknell biology major, were both very surprised to see each other on the first day of vet-school orientation.

Barb writes, "I retired after 39 years of small-animal veterinary practice July 31, 2023. I spent the first 20 years

working with my father at his practice in Buffalo, N.Y., and the last 19 years at a busy, rural small-animal practice in Corfu, N.Y. I'm thoroughly enjoying retirement — as its first anniversary is fast approaching."

On a personal note, she and David celebrated their 34th wedding anniversary in August. They have three sons and an almost-2-year-old grandson. "Unfortunately, our only grandchild lives in Raleigh, N.C., so we don't get to see him as much as we would like. Hopefully, our visits to North Carolina will become more frequent after David retires."

DONNA HEWES ROBERTS and husband Cliff relocated from the Philadelphia area to Sedona, Ariz., in 1995. "After 26 years of an increasing number of tourists and diminishing resident services, we moved to an active-adult community north of Wickenburg, Ariz. It was time to downsize from the big house and even bigger property. We love that at Wickenburg Ranch we have every amenity we could possibly want at our doorstep — tennis, golf, restaurants, pool, pickleball, etc. **JAN JOHNSON, CATHY PARKER LYNCH, MARGIE SCRIPSEMA MCINERNEY, NANCY MORROW, LIBBY WEINHEIMER REICHLEN** and **CAROL GILLILAND WARREN** made the long trek from the East Coast

to experience life in the desert. Their time together included a boat tour of Lake Pleasant, a visit to Wickenburg's Desert Caballeros Western Museum, morning walks and a day hanging out by the pool, venues all chosen because they provided an adequate amount of time for gabbing. "Every time we get together, it feels like no time has passed. Only the number of grandchildren and a few gray hairs give our ages away." — S.H. and B.K.

1978

KATHY McDONALD ADELBERGER
tedkathy@comcast.net

1979

ALAN SCHRIGER
altam@netvision.net.il

Just before my deadline, I had absolutely no news, and considering we had our 45th Reunion, I felt terrible about not handing in a column. Well, **JOHN WEITZ** came through in the clutch and sent me a lot of news about our Reunion and the alumni who attended. In addition, **IRA LEFF** provided details to make this a very newsy column.

JIM BAISH, whose photo appears in the *Illustrated Freshman Directory*, had a nice conversation with John at the Reunion's Saturday night dinner. Both had roomed on the Swartz

PROFILE

IN COMMAND

Major General Chris Norrie '92 is shaping the future of military training

by **NICOLE MCGULL MCELLROY '00**

When Army Major General **Chris Norrie '92** was a student at Bucknell, he found camaraderie and a sense of family among his friends on campus, including fellow rowers (he was captain of the crew team) and ROTC cadets (he was the cadet battalion commander). "I have deployed to conflict areas in Iraq and Bosnia, and during those times especially, I've reflected back on the friendships I formed at Bucknell," Norrie says. "I stay in touch with my Bucknell friends, and we still check in with each other. Bucknell is one of the most steady places in the world for me."

Stationed at Fort Stewart outside Savannah, Ga., Norrie is the commanding general of the 3rd Infantry Division. It is the second-oldest division in the Army and accounts for 16,500 soldiers, as well as more than 30,000 dependents and civilian family members. Over his 32-year career, Norrie has accumulated many awards and decorations, including the Legion of Merit, Bronze Star Medal with valor (the fourth-highest award for valor in the military), Meritorious Service Medal, Iraq Campaign Medal, NATO Medal and Combat Action Badge.

In his current role, Norrie focuses on developing innovative solutions for combat and war training. The 3rd Infantry Division is part of the Army's XVIII Airborne Corps, also known as America's Contingency Corps, which is well known for its ability to rapidly deploy troops across the world by land, air or sea. "It's an active duty division that is always thinking about what the future might look like," he says. "At my level, our shared purpose is to ensure that no unit or soldier goes untrained into combat."



Major General Chris Norrie '92's mission is to ensure soldier safety and readiness.

With the integration of new combat technology, such as drones, electromagnetic spectrums, algorithms and advanced fire systems, Norrie's unit continually adapts to enhance the safety of soldiers and civilians.

"I did not intend to make the Army a career," says Norrie, who is married to **Kathy Kolasheski Norrie '92**. "But what I found in the Army was a sense of family, and it reminded me of the sense of family I felt at Bucknell. In many ways, it started at Bucknell — with that sense of belonging and teamwork. I continue to identify with it. Also, the rigor. You can't get away with a lazy thought at Bucknell; there's an intellectual grit needed to get by there that continues to benefit me today."

co-ed hall sophomore year.

BILL PARRY '80, who joined our Reunion, attended the same Ohio high school as John.

BOB and **MARLISE REINHOLD BICKEL** attended Reunion. John spoke to Bob at the Friday social at La Primavera Italiano restaurant. Bob founded RunSignup/ GiveSignup, and his company is the national industry leader for an all-in-one customer relationship management platform for fundraising

and endurance events. Bob reminisced about some of the runners on the late legendary Art Gulden's Bucknell track and cross-country teams including **GEORGE**

BUCKHEIT, **LEE EDMONDS**, **KARNIK SEFERIAN** and **DON WARE**.

STEVE SUNDERHAUF left his 40-year career in public utility electric-rate regulations and now uses his law degree to prepare legal briefs for the Washington, D.C., government. His older daughter, **SKYE '25**, is

captain of the women's swim team and double-majoring in animal behavior and environmental studies. Steve gets to visit Bucknell frequently to attend her swim meets.

Ann and **DICK WERTHER** drove from Novi, Mich., to attend Reunion. Dick has retired and uses his free time to research and write historical essays on the American Revolution. Dick, a big hockey advocate, helps mentor high school hockey players, some of whom

have been drafted by the NHL.

JEFF BROWN retired from the insurance business and reflected to John on being our very first Class Reporter, followed by **MARK MARRON** and subsequently yours truly. As many of you know, Jeff's late mother, **JOANN GOLIGHTLY BROWN '48**, was the long-time Class Reporter for the Class of '48, and Jeff's sister, **JILL BROWN WATERS '82**, is married to **JACK WATERS**. Their daughter, **JENNY '21**,

continued the tradition of attending and graduating from Bucknell. Jeff reminded John that his parents set up a scholarship for highly qualified and needy students so they could attend Bucknell. Thank you, Jeff, for your and your parents' active participation in making Bucknell such a strong university.

TOM KENNEDY was unable to attend Reunion, but John visited with him and said Tom sent his regards.

SCOTT STEVENS is a frequent attendee of Reunion, and this year was no exception. He is longtime head of the English as a second language program at the University of Delaware. When Scott finally retires, his dream is to settle at beautiful Lake Winola, Pa.

Also mentioned by John as attending Reunion were **JOHN FREY, GREG GREGO, HARRIET MUTH PARKER, DAN NORTH, BILL BIGGAR, JOHN O'RIOR-DAN** and **DICK ELLIS**.

Ira wrote that during

Reunion, he stayed at McDonnell Hall, built about 20 years after we graduated. He spent time with Jeff, John Weitz, Jack, Dick Werther, Steve and Scott. Ira also saw **RON STARR, HARRY AUSTIN** and **JEFF PODRAZA**, who were 3rd Trax floormates our freshman year.

I'd love to hear more news about our Reunion, so don't hesitate to write me. — A.S.



1980
DEBORAH L. HENNEL
dhennel@aol.com

DEBBIE GREENAWALD reached out with a life update: She graduated with a degree in music education, lives in Reading, Pa., and retired as the chair of the nursing department at Alvernia University. (Yes, there were some significant career changes at one or

more points in her life.) Debbie had a delightful and unexpected "reunion" with **HAROLD "CHIP" '81** and **LORI MOGLIA AMOS '81** while Debbie was attending the Friends of the Creche convention at the Washington National Cathedral. On the event program, she noticed Lori and Chip's names. They gave a musical performance that brought Debbie's mind back to Chapel Choir and Bucknell Chorale. As it turns out, Lori is the director and curator of the Creche Exhibit at the cathedral.

Debbie highly recommends the holiday event.

Lori and Chip were college sweethearts and are still happily married after four decades. Although Debbie had lived in the Washington area from 1980–88 while she was with the U.S. Navy Band, her path didn't cross with the Amoses back then. Debbie espouses not only their passionate leadership work with the creche display, but reports that Lori and Chip have had fascinating careers and are active volunteers in

THE ELLEN CLARKE BERTRAND SOCIETY

Bucknell appreciates the many alumni, parents, friends and staff who have included the University in their estate, tax or financial planning.
The gifts of Bertrand Society members strengthen every facet of the University.

We welcome the following new members this year:

Jamie Diaferia '94
Mimi McCloskey Dow '73, M'78
Jack Duff '68
Mitch Farbstein '73, M'78
Mark '78, P'12, P'16 and Connie Figgie P'12, P'16
Tracey '99 and Beth Corbet Gray '98
Maggie Haines '09
Helen Kebabian '75, P'10
Carolyn Speer Miles '83
Mark '74, P'03 and Jo Ann Reifsnnyder P'03

Harold '58 and Sheila Richman
Gene '68 and Janet Sabo
Jason Snyder '95, M'98
Rajkumar Thangavelu '98
Kecia Thomas '88
Doug Warman '72
Anonymous gift

We celebrate the legacy gifts made by members no longer with us:

Owen T. Anderson P'84
Elise Mueller Bruno '55, G'09
Robert William Evans '80

Arthur D. Kinney '56, P'81
Helen E. Koons '71
Margaret Witt McMahon-Hickey '62
Bill Moyer '57
Donald W. Myers '61, P'89
Barbara Folk Mynott '56, P'83, G'17
Brian A. O'Leary '60
Scott R. Singer '87
Mary Jane Brokaw Swanson '52
Doris Green Teter '42
Gandasari A. Win
June Chapman Wood '44
Anonymous gift

If you have a plan that qualifies you for membership or you would like additional information about the Bertrand Society, please contact the Office of Gift Planning at 570-577-3271 or giftplanning@bucknell.edu.

the community. Hopefully, we will hear from them soon with more details.

Debbie has more than one alma mater that she keeps in touch with. After her 19-year career in higher education, she's particularly interested reading about Bucknell's innovative new programs and how faculty are supported in their scholarship and teaching in *Bucknell Magazine*. Debbie is at dgreenawald58@gmail.com.

Here's another reminder about our Reunion May 30–June 1, 2025: It's not too early to talk it up with your best Bucknell pals as well as reserve your lodging if you don't plan on reliving your undergrad years in the dorms.

Keep in touch with me or on the Facebook group. — D.L.H.

1981

CAROL CHRISTIE ROSNER
ccrosner@aol.com

I'm seeing lots of Facebook posts from classmates about retirement, Medicare birthdays and great travel. The most fun posts are the myriad that pop up showing classmates staying connected to each other. We're all a bit freer to spend time with friends now that families are launched and careers have been completed. Some of us continue to have (happily) the

challenge of caring for our parents, but most still find time to do fun things.

One classmate who gave retirement a go and then pivoted back to part-time work is **JOHN DIFFENDERFER**. Many of you know that he spent the bulk of his career (after a few years in Rochester, N.Y., working for Kodak) with Philip Morris Companies in posts around the globe — Ivory Coast, Kuwait, Indonesia and Colombia, to name a few. He retired a few years ago and bought a beautiful condo in Miami Beach, Fla., but continued to travel the world visiting the friends and former colleagues that he worked hard to stay connected to. Then a dream consulting job dropped in his lap, and John jumped at the chance to get back to Asia while creating a perfect arrangement for himself.

He became the interim CEO of East Timor Trading Group, a \$27 million distribution company for Diageo, Philip Morris, Casella wines and Fonterra, as well as owning and operating two Burger Kings, two Gloria Jean's Coffees and three bottle shops. John lived in a fabulous colonial villa in Dili, Timor-Leste, with a beautiful garden and swimming pool that was very reminiscent of his days in French-colonial Africa. John was back at what he does best:

motivating salesmen, riding in sales vans, doing whisky shots with wholesalers and living where the language is Bahasa Indonesia, which he speaks fluently.

While we all march to different drummers, John was in his dream situation: back in Southeast Asia in a country where he could use his language skills and where, to renew his visa, he had to go spend a weekend in Bali every four weeks. However, the country is devastatingly poor with constant electricity cuts and the fourth-slowest internet in the world (after Afghanistan, Syria and Yemen); where 80% of children are malnourished, 80% of the population suffers from stunted growth due to malnutrition, and garbage and plastics are everywhere; and where diseases like malaria, dengue and chikungunya thrive.

As CEO of the largest non-oil and non-gas private company in a city of 330,000, you can imagine the big-fish, small-pond syndrome John benefited from. He was an A-list invitee at all embassy parties with everyone begging him to sponsor their events and provide free booze, etc. He met the president, prime minister and at least one-third of the parliament. I can only think of one word: wild. But it's not for everyone.

John built in lots of

business-class flights back to New Jersey over the course of his two-year stint to be able to spend time with his mom. His plan was to return from Timor-Leste in late October and rejoice retired life. When it comes to John and changing plans, I say, "Stay tuned." We love you, John, and feel lucky to have your energy, friendship and laugh still infecting our class. I do hope you're saving a chunk of time in early June 2026 to spend at our 45th Reunion.

— C.C.R.

1982

BECKY GOODWIN KANGOS
rgkang@aol.com

1983

TRACEY TRUSK EICK
tteick@bellsouth.net

My inbox was full this time around. I heard from

MICHAEL MAITLAND, who "retired after 40 years in sales and marketing in the pharmaceutical industry. I'm fortunate during that time to have amassed over 3 million airline miles as I visited all 50 states and worked in Switzerland. I have lived in Hoboken, N.J., Seattle, Switzerland and now Mission Viejo, Calif., near the beach. I treasured my time at Bucknell as a [Sigma Phi Epsilon] for four years. Rock Lobster Night, The Colonial Crest Disco bar, Ho-Hum Diner

and crew team are all great memories. I brought my girlfriend to see the campus three summers ago, and we got into Trax Hall. She said the room looked like a prison and was shocked that two people had to live there. She wasn't impressed with the Mods — she thought it was a trailer park. Times change and the campus is much better, in my opinion. Keep in touch via Facebook and LinkedIn if you want to connect or grab a beer in SoCal."

In early April, I received a text with a fabulous picture of new grandparents **DAVE** and **CAROLINE DILLON MARREN**. They welcomed Macrae "Mac" Thomas Martin April 2, who is the firstborn son of Katie and Peter Martin. Mac has many Bucknell connections including aunts **MOLLY '15** and **MEG '17** and Uncle **PETER '21**. Congratulations to the whole family.

BILL BERTHOUD emails, "Things are good here in Lunenburg, Mass., where I've lived for the past three years with my wife, Lisa (we got married Nov. 5, 2022). She has four kids and I have two, so we sort of have the Brady Bunch thing going on (though no Alice). Five of the six are on their own; the youngest (my son, Noah, almost 17) has a couple of years left in the nest.

"Our Kappa Sigma brothers have kept in touch over the years and

PROFILE

CHARTING NEW COURSES

Greg Manz '01 turned his quest for adventure into a distinguished Navy legal career

by **NICOLE GULL MCELROY '00**

Greg Manz '01 is an attorney and senior strategist in the Office of the Judge Advocate General (JAG Corps) of the Navy, the legal branch of the military responsible for providing legal advice, defending service members, advising on the law of war and international law and handling various legal matters within the military.

It's a career path he didn't anticipate. At Bucknell, Manz majored in chemistry, and when he began considering law school, patent law emerged as a way he could leverage his scientific background. He pictured a conventional trajectory for himself, perhaps spending years at a firm, living in one or maybe two different cities.

But upon graduation from Fordham School of Law, "I decided I wanted a bit of adventure, and the Navy seemed like a way to find it," he says.

Indeed, his Navy career has enabled him to live in four countries, including a seven-month deployment to Iraq. He has held diverse roles: advising on Iraqi detainee operations, working with a four-star admiral, serving as senior defense counsel for the Middle East region and acting as senior attorney on an aircraft carrier and defense attorney in the Navy-Marine Corps Court of Criminal Appeals.

These roles haven't only enhanced Manz's career, but have also provided him with tremendous life experiences. In 2020, he and his family were relocated to Italy, where he became the senior attorney at a naval air station in Sicily. "My team was responsible for advising on the complex array of Department



"I didn't expect to stay 20 years," says Navy attorney Greg Manz '01. "You take it tour by tour, and each opportunity opens a new door."

of Defense and Navy COVID-19 policies and their intersection with Italian laws and directives, including travel, masking and vaccination," he says. The following year, he helped oversee the evacuation of 3,000 people from Afghanistan to Europe and then to safety in the U.S.

"It's been a rewarding career," he says. "I've enjoyed being part of a team and contributing to something bigger than myself. The Navy JAG Corps offers varied opportunities, all supporting the American people and the national security interests of the United States."

Although his career veered from his major, Manz credits his liberal arts education with giving him a strong foundation. "The most surprising thing has been the diversity of the legal landscape that I've been able to support," he says. "It underscores how well my Bucknell education prepared me for the twists and turns of my career."

periodically get together for adventures and dinners. Our April dinner was at a place in the Ironbound district of Newark, N.J., which is our typical geography for gatherings. This was probably the most well-attended such gathering we've ever had. Kudos to **CHRIS KEEFER** and **DAN FITZPATRICK** for being the organizational forces behind this and other times that we've gotten together. It's remarkable because of how well it came out given that it was set up in less

than a minute."

Others attending were **JOHN SHEHADI '84, JOHN BLOCK, TOM QUIGLEY, "WILD BILL" THOMAS, MARK SAJER '80, CRAIG PRINDLE '82, RICH SCHROEDER, MARC ELLIOTT '82, BRUCE POWERS '84, CHRIS MARCH '84, RICHARD JOHNSON '84, DOUG CARPENTER, JEFF BARDOS, RICH SCHREIBER, ALAN SIGLER '81, BRAD WILDAUER, RAY MERRITT** and **RAMON RUIZ '86** (a Sigma Chi friend of Richard Johnson's). Keep those Bucknell

gatherings and updates coming. — T.T.E.

1984
ALLISON ABOUCHAR CROSS
14380th@gmail.com

Reunion 2024 is just a memory but what an outstanding one. With perfect weather as a backdrop, returning classmates enjoyed a plethora of festivities to celebrate our 40th.

Standout events included recognition of **BOB GAMGORT** as the

recipient of the Bucknell University Alumni Association's award for Outstanding Achievement in a Chosen Profession. Bob's speech was humble and inspiring. He credited wife **SUE DEMENT GAMGORT** as his champion. Highlights were the Friday night party under the stars at the home of **BOB '85** and **SHERRY BOHNER SCOTT** and a leisurely Sunday morning brunch at the magnificent church-turned-home of Tim and **GABRIELLE DORLAND TAYLOR**. In between we

enjoyed lectures on diverse topics, such as artificial intelligence, beer and entrepreneurship; had trolley tours of the expanded Bucknell campus; and picnicked and had dinner in a "transformed" Bison, complete with a nostalgic slide show compiled by **JEFF LECHLEITER WADE**. A souped-up tent party with special effects and a fireworks show capped the evening. Socializing in the lounge of MacDonnell Hall after hours had some of us feeling like we were 21 again (almost).

PROFILE

SLEEP FOR STRENGTH

Army psychiatrist Connie Barko Thomas '08 is helping soldiers rest to perform their best

by NICOLE GULL MCELROY '00

As a psychiatrist in the Army, Lieutenant Colonel **Connie Barko Thomas '08** says one of the most gaping holes she sees in her patients' care is sleep. While it might seem mundane, Thomas emphasizes that sleep is a foundational element for ensuring military members are healthy and prepared for their daily duties.

"One of the things I learned as a division psychiatrist is that it's a basic need that impacts everything in your life: your physical health but also your mental health," she says. "So many soldiers underestimate the power of a good night's sleep." Without it, she says, a unit can end up sacrificing its performance and ability to do the mission successfully.

Thomas' expertise in sleep medicine was honed during a fellowship at Walter Reed National Military Medical Center in Bethesda, Md. This training provided her with the tools and vocabulary to help service members understand and prioritize healthy sleep habits. "Not all leaders are fully aware of it," she says. "Often, sleep is the last thing my patients think about when they're working to improve their mental or physical health."

Thomas is focused on changing the narrative around sleep within military units and teams. With a group of neuroscientists, she tackles issues such as revising sleep policies across the military, teaching soldiers how to adapt to different time zones, testing and developing sleep technology innovations and managing sleep in extreme weather conditions.

The foundation of Thomas' work as a psychiatrist in the Army is building trust and relationships. "Psychiatrists are stigmatized to a certain degree," she says, noting a common hesitancy to seek mental health support. "You have to earn trust and build relationships, be embedded with the unit, spend time with folks. It's important just to be where the soldiers are." This approach



Connie Barko Thomas '08 is working to improve military health care — one night at a time.

helps her get to know soldiers, their personalities, their jobs and how they spend time when they aren't working, she says. Then, when a person needs support, it becomes easier for them to seek her help.

Thomas helps her patients manage a wide range of issues, including depression, anxiety, sleep difficulties, trauma, suicidality and relationship problems. By addressing those concerns with a holistic approach, her goal is to ensure soldiers are equipped to meet the demands of their service with resilience and strength.

"One of the things I valued most about my Bucknell education was the ability to engage with professors one-on-one," says Thomas, who double-majored in biology and sociology with a minor in classics. "I had the opportunity to be a teaching assistant for and perform research under Professor **Carl Milofsky P'93, P'04** [sociology], who helped me realize the importance of community in health. I've thought about this throughout my military career because improving mental health is more than just performing therapy or medical management with a single patient. You have to understand the military community, how the institution establishes values, and the importance of the relational influence of leaders who can shape mental health in units."

For those who attended, you helped us break attendance records for our class. We sincerely hope you came away inspired to keep nurturing your Bucknell connections. For those unable to attend, we missed you. For as many of you as possible, we hope to see you in 2029.

We also say a sincere thanks to all who contributed to our class gift. Today's students rely

on the generosity of alumni, just as we benefited from the kindness of those who came before us back in the fall of 1980. Every gift makes a difference, and overall participation, no matter what level, matters.

In other news, **ROBBIE WEAVER** was unable to attend Reunion but wrote with an update. She lives in Naples, Fla., near her mother and is a member

and leader in several area clubs, including Welcome to Florida International Club, where she is digital communications director, and the Naples Newcomers Club North, where she leads many activities, such as dance and cultural learning. This past year, she took up ballroom dancing and entered competitions for salsa, bachata, merengue, rumba, hustle, salsa and tango. Robbie works in

the management of and modeling for a lady's clothing and accessories boutique. She is also a volunteer interpreter for the Neighborhood Health Clinic, which has many Spanish-speaking patients and not many Spanish-speaking doctors. As such, she traveled to Ecuador and Costa Rica last summer for a month to increase her medical Spanish knowledge. She wel-

comes friends to connect with her on Facebook.

SUE CHIAVETTA PERUN is a counselor working for Catholic Charities in the Lehigh Valley. She was sad to miss Reunion but happy to share that all five of her boys are grown up and off the payroll. Sue is the proud grandmother to two with one more on the way at this writing. She and her husband downsized to a 55-plus

community and were enjoying their new home. — A.A.C.



REUNION

1985
CAROL RHEAM TEVIS
rheamtev@ptd.net

1986
JOAN DAUGHEN CADIGAN
jcadigan@mac.com

PATTY FITZGERALD writes, “After nearly 30 years as editor of the award-winning *School Nutrition* magazine, the flagship publication of the School Nutrition Association, I made the decision to step down, and my last issue was published in the spring. Being a magazine editor was my dream job since high school, and immersing myself in supporting unsung school-lunch heroes has been immensely satisfying.

“But times are changing, and with greater interest by the powers-that-be (and those who buy advertising) in generating content rather than in the care and calibration required to assemble a quality magazine, it was time to pass the baton. In addition, my last five years as editor have been as a contractor, operating

my own business with other clients and subject areas. I’m eager to continue to diversify those lists through different writing and editorial projects. (Need editorial assistance? I’m at PFitzCommunications@gmail.com.) Maybe I’ll have more time this fall to visit my niece, **KATIE FITZGERALD ‘26.**”

In January, **DEVON LINK BAKUM** and her husband moved to Conshohocken, Pa., after 29 years in western Massachusetts. She retired way earlier than expected, closed her business and downsized. “After Borys’ stroke in 2022, I needed to be closer to family. We bought a one-floor condo that is wheelchair accessible and that we could add pull bars wherever needed. Our eldest is 15 minutes away, and our youngest is just a train ride away when he’s in NYC. He’s a working actor, and that has taken him all over the world. When he’s stateside, this will be easier. We’re making friends and getting established in our new community. At Bucknell, when I introduced myself as Devon, the most common response was, ‘Like the horse show?’ And, now, a few towns over from Devon, Pa., I’m getting the same response.”

DAVID STRAUSS writes from Michigan, “I hope everyone reading this is well. It’s fun and makes

me proud seeing our city of Detroit in the national spotlight with the NFL draft and the reopening of our historic Michigan Central Station. Working in higher education, I frequently reflect on my Bucknell experience. I’m still dean of students at Wayne State University in Detroit and have had the opportunity to serve as an adjunct lecturer of economics where I teach each semester a section of the introductory principles class. While I was far from a star economics major, what has guided and inspired me in my teaching are the excellent professors we were so fortunate to have at Bucknell. I know that in each of our majors we still remember fondly our teachers — in my case, History of Economic Thought with Jean Shackelford and Trade Unions with Adrienne Birecree. I tell my students how these professors challenged me to think, question and write. They cared about us as students inside and outside the classroom and truly loved working with us. I try to carry them, and many others, into my classroom.”

In a small Bucknell-world way, **RAY** and **MEGAN BROTT SULLIVAN** ran into **DON ‘87** and **HELEN YIALAMAS KRAFT**, who were celebrating their 35th wedding anniversary at the Old Yarmouth Inn on Cape Cod, Mass.

Let me know if you have a “small Bucknell-world” story, too. — J.D.C.

1987
LAUREN SLAVIN WROBEL
laurenwr@optimum.net

1988
STACIE VELISARIS DE LA PARRA
svdelaparra@yahoo.com

As you know, I’m employed at Bucknell, and I connected with someone I was so excited to see: former Bucknell president **GARY SOJKA H’09**. He looked terrific for someone in his mid-80s. It was crazy to think we first knew him in his 40s. I shared with him that I was Class of 1988 and that our class arrived on campus the same year he did. In fact, his arrival was the subject of a true-false question on a trivia quiz I developed for our last Reunion. I also confessed that no one in attendance at Reunion — besides me — knew the words to the Alma Mater. He started to sing it, and I joined in for a beautiful duet.

MEL BLOUNT wrote about the annual FIJI Pig Dinner that had extra meaning with the dedication of a memorial plaque to FIJI brother **ROBERT “BIG BOB” SCHEURER** on the Rooke Chapel Memorial Monument. Bob’s wife, Sheila, and his three sons joined them for the

dedication, along with **KAREN BAILEY BLOUNT**, **STACIE VELISARIS DE LA PARRA** and **HEATHER MCBRIDE LEEF**.

He adds, “A cloud hung over the dinner this year as one of our undergraduate brothers, **CHRISTIAN SAMAY ‘24**, passed away two weeks earlier. The evening was dedicated to Samay’s memory with several poignant moments, including a special invocation from **JON LEEF**, an update from current FIJI President **EVAN AYCOCK ‘25** and keynote speech by **JIM MCCLOY ‘89.**”

FIJI alums back in town for the weekend included **CHRIS TRATE ‘82**, **DAN WILLCOXON ‘83**, **ED ROBINSON ‘86**, **BOB MAUTE ‘86**, **JOE SHUPP ‘86**, **MIKE HUTTON ‘86**, **ANDY MURRAY**, **MONTGOMERY DONALDSON ‘87**, **MARK SERRIAN ‘87**, **STU FRANK**, **H.J. WILLCOX**, **TOM HUNTZINGER**, **MATT DELOCA**, **DREW LEWING**, **LEE EBERDING ‘89**, **STEVE WEISS ‘89**, **DAN MEENAN ‘89**, **M’91**, **BRANDON COHEN ‘89**, **MIKE MIGNANO ‘89**, **BOB BERNARDUCI ‘89**, **BILL BERNARDUCCI ‘89**, **JOSH TRAGER ‘90**, **DAVE VITUCCIO ‘91**, **JOE DE PIRO ‘90**, **KEVIN CLINE ‘91**, **MICHAEL “TY” MOORE ‘92** and **ERIC SPARKENBAUGH ‘90**.

In late April, Karen and Mel went to a double-header where home team Dartmouth women’s lacrosse played Penn.

Bucknell parents on the Dartmouth side included **BOB NESSELBUSH '86** and **KRISTINA HAAS DESMOND '91**. The men's game was Cornell vs. Dartmouth with Cornell parent **LESLIE NORTHRUP LONG '87** attending. The Blounts stayed with **SUE BAILEY THOMSON '86** in Quechee, Vt., and had a chance for a brief hello with **RICH MAUCH '86**.

Mel writes, "In early May, we gathered with Karen's Bucknell best friend group for the wedding of **LINDA FLEMING ZOLPER's** daughter Natalie. Bucknellians in attendance included **PAUL** and **CINDY PHILLIPS FREUD**, **DAVE FEHNEL** and **ANDE GABRIEL** (and their children, **STEVE FEHNEL '18** and **ALEX FEHNEL '23**), **KAREN DETWILER BASCOM**, **NANCY PAYNE BRUNS**, **SUSAN ORTH CLEARY** and **KATIE SIMPSON CASTE**.

"An unexpected golf invitation came from **TOM ROOKE '06** to Rolling Green Golf Club near Philadelphia. He is the great-grandson of [the late] **ROBERT ROOKE CLASS OF 1913**, the benefactor of iconic Rooke Chapel. A little history: Robert Rooke announced the gift at his 50th Reunion in 1963, and it opened in October 1964."

Mel caught up with **BOBBY LE BLANC** at a NCAA women's lacrosse first-round game between Fairfield and Johns

Hopkins at Yale University. Bobby's daughter Megan, who attends Fairfield, played her last collegiate game that day.

In mid-May, Mel crossed paths with **ANNIE SEIBOLD DRAPEAU** at the John Hancock Tower cafe in Boston. Annie is the Bucknell Board of Trustees chair. "She has done our class extremely proud, and we're lucky to have her at the Bison helm."

Karen and Mel attended a New Jersey shore pre-Memorial Day dinner with **JOHN BYREN '87** and **BOB COSGROVE '87** and their wives at Bahrs Landing, which is owned by Bob's father, **RAY COSGROVE '62**. Mel played golf with John the following week at Rockaway River Country Club, hosted by **MARK STANISCI '86**, with **ROB RYAN** as their fourth. —S.V.P.

1989

RENEE LEAVITT BARLOW
reneebarlow999@gmail.com

Our 35th Reunion was an outstanding success, due in part to the amazing organizers, attendees and others supporting from afar. Reunion co-chair **TAMARA FARROW GREENSPAN** reports, "Thank you to all our classmates who attended our Reunion. It was a fantastic weekend of

connecting and bonding. We had 102 classmates registered, and 22.67% of our class participated in our class gift for a total of \$527,962.

She gave a special shoutout to the Reunion Committee, which coordinated the last several Reunions: **MIKE CATTANO**, co-chair; **BRYAN APRAHAMIAN**, program chair; **SHELLY AYRES OSTERBERG**, outreach co-chair; **MARIA ESPOSITO SMITH**, outreach co-chair; **MARY ANN SIGLER STANTON**, outreach committee; and **MONICA BAECKSTROM TOOMEY**, outreach co-chair.

The weekend kicked off "with the golf tournament. Then we held our class-opening cocktail party in downtown Lewisburg at Brasserie Louis. Our Class Dinner was on campus, and we had the opportunity to celebrate classmates who were inducted into the Bucknell Athletics Hall of Fame: **TED ACETO**, **MIKE BUTTS**, **DAVE DOMSOHN**, **GARRIN KAPECKI**, **SUSAN ROWLAND MILLER**, **LYNNE WALSHAW**, **JEN WALZ LAPIOLI** and **JILL WISE SMITH**. We also celebrated the retirement of Lt. Gen. **JOHN KOLASHESKI** after 35 years of distinguished service with the U.S. Army. We have some amazing Bucknellians in the Class of 1989.

"Sororities and fraternities had happy

hours and took pictures of all the class years at Reunion. Bucknell offered kayak trips, trolley tours and lots of other fun activities to help explore the area. We ended the weekend with the farewell breakfast and made plans to meet before the next Reunion." —R.L.B.



1990

LAURA MICHALEC OLSZEWSKI
laura.michalec@gmail.com

Make your hotel reservations now for our 35th Reunion, which is right around the corner. I cannot believe it's been 35 years.

LESLIE TINDALL MORGAN got together with **HEATHER HARRISON MORAN**, **MARCIA MORGAN MURPHY** and **SONYA KRAWCZEL MATZA** in Philadelphia. They picked up right where they'd left off and laughed the weekend away.

Yours truly got together with **ASHBY JONES MCDONALD** and husband Kevin while I was in the D.C. area for work. It was terrific catching up.

ELIZABETH BESCHEN LIDDELL is in her 20th year of acupuncture practice with husband Dave Leitch. They purchased a 100-year-old

building that was formerly a greenhouse in Philadelphia (greenhousestairy.com).

Remember to mark your calendars for our 35th Reunion next spring. Stay safe and be well. —L.M.O.

1991

LISA DuBUSC MILLER
lisa@dubusc.com

A warm and sunny reunion of a tight-knit group, who refer to themselves as 4th Harris (in reference to where their friendship began during their freshman hall days in 1987), was held on Figure 8 Island, N.C., in mid-April at a house owned by **CHARLIE PARKER '90**, **M'92** and **MICHELLE ULMER-PARKER**.

The following nine friends attended. **KIRSTEN MCAULIFFE RALEIGH**, who is the wife of **GEORGE '92** and mom of **CARTER '25** and Jackson, is a partner and co-chair of the Health Care Department at the law firm Stevens & Lee in Philadelphia. **ELLEN HOGAN ELLEN** is a library media specialist at the Dobbs Ferry, N.Y., middle and high schools. She is married to Jon, and they have three children, Maggie, Ben and Becca. **ANDREA APUZZI MORTATI** lives in Chappaqua, N.Y., and works as a grief counselor and school psychologist in Westchester County. She is the wife of

BUCKNELL REUNION weekend

MAY 30–JUNE 1, 2025

Celebrating class years ending in 0 and 5 and all emeritus classes

Rediscover the magic of the past and forge new memories during Reunion Weekend — an unforgettable celebration of friendship, nostalgia and the enduring Bucknell spirit. Save the date to return to campus in 2025!

Learn more at bucknell.edu/reunion

ROBERT, and they are the parents of **DANIEL '21** and Elizabeth. **JEAN ROBINSON BREY** has worked at the Wilton, Conn., high school as an English literature teacher for 29 years. She and husband Lewis have two children, Daniel and Will. **JOANNA WALKER BRADFORD**, mom of Blake, Myles and Emmett, left Disney to run her own financial and strategic consulting business in Orlando, Fla., and climbed an active volcano in Guatemala. Michelle runs a successful flower business called Lake Bloomer out of their home and gardens in Boynton, Va. She and Charlie are the parents of **LILY '21** and Pierce. **KELLEY NICHOLSON-FLYNN** was installed as the new head of school at the Princeton

(N.J.) Day School in the fall of 2023. She, **GREGORY FLYNN '92** and children Mira and Jillian reside on campus. **KELLY COWLES**, mom of Claire and Matthew, works as an executive assistant for a private equity firm and lives in McLean, Va. **LISA DUBUSC MILLER**, mom of Emily, Jeffrey and Audrey, splits her time between Montauk, N.Y., and Rincon, Puerto Rico, where she surfs, writes and keeps young in body, mind and spirit. She's also deeply honored and thrilled to be the new Class Notes Reporter. 'ray Bucknell!
— L.D.M.

1992
LISA BLOCKUS BROWN
lisa.blockus.brown@gmail.com

LINDA MASSA SAFFLE
lindaoncapecod@gmail.com

1993
CHRIS ZACHARDA
chris.zacharda@gmail.com

1994
SARAH A. SMITH
ssmith4321@yahoo.com

↓
REUNION

1995
JENNIFER BLOB BONER
jenboner@gmail.com

It may be hard to believe, but our 30th Reunion is May 30–June 1, 2025. Make your reservations now. I hope to see all of you on campus as we make up for lost time celebrating our class in person for the first time in 10 years — Zoom Reunion just wasn't the same. The Bucknell Class of 1995 Facebook page is updated, and we'll be posting information there as things pop up and we get closer to the date. If there is anything you'd like to see in our programming, feel free to let me know. — J.B.B.

1996
BRIAN TIMMS
bibliomane74@gmail.com

1997
SARA BLOOM BRUCE
sarabloombruce@gmail.com

1998
HEATHER MURPHY LOUDON
heather_loudon@yahoo.com

1999
STACEY MACKES
stacey.mackes@gmail.com

↓
REUNION

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

2003
PAIGE NICOLE WIEDERSPIEL BASKWILL
pnjacobson@gmail.com

2004
JENNIFER BUNCH WEBLER
jen.webler@gmail.com



REUNION

2005

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

2006

JULIA SARGEAUNT
julia.sargeaunt@gmail.com

2007

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

2008

LAURA LEVISKI HYDE
lauraleviski@gmail.com

2009

NIKKI SEAMAN ISELIN
Nseaman006@gmail.com

JORDY SNYDER and husband Josh Nason welcomed baby Maya Avital March 27. **BRITTANY SUGARMAN** and **COREY TEITZ** had daughter Leila Penelope April 27. I hope you all had a wonderful summer. It was great to catch up with so many classmates at our 15-year Reunion in June. — N.S.I.

2010

DAVID ISELIN
dtiselin@gmail.com

It's always fun to hear from the Class of 2010 with life updates, additions to families and recent moves.

GREG HART shared that he and wife Katie moved to Atlanta in 2021 with daughter McKenna (now 3). The family welcomed baby boy Tyler in March. Greg is an executive search consultant for Carter-Baldwin and started Alpha Wrestling Club for youth wrestlers.

NOOR WHITE CARREIRO and husband Matthew had their first child, son Theodore "Teddy" Hazen Carreiro, June 16. The happy little family lives in Bowie, Md.

DANIELLE COOPER moved with husband Matthew Hedberg and their golden retriever, Toulou, to the Los Angeles area. She is a clinical psychologist with her own private practice specializing in OCD, PTSD and anxiety-related disorders. Danielle hoped to connect with fellow Bucknellians in their new home state of sunny California.

DANIELLE LYNCH M'10 completed her doctorate from Penn State University in lifelong learning and adult education. She and husband Tony celebrated their 15th wedding anniversary.

PAT and CAROLYN BAKER SELWOOD relocated from outside Baltimore to Potomac, Md., for Pat's new job at Holland & Knight. — D.I.

2011

LINDSAY MACHEN
lindsay.machen@gmail.com

2012

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.

2013

MASHA ZHDANOVA
mz008@bucknell.edu

Summer was in full swing as I wrote this from (unusually) hot and sunny New Hampshire where **GREG EPREMIAN '12** and I are visiting family for the week. Summer in Amsterdam has been rather mild so far, but I was very curious to see how hot it would get as we completed our first year in that wonderful city.

KAT KLEIN ECKSTEIN M'17 and her husband welcomed baby boy Roy Samuel to their family in January.

The next issue of *Bucknell Magazine* (winter 2025) will be a special University Report edition without Class Notes. I'll

reach out to you to collect news for spring 2025 later in the year. If you're not receiving the occasional emails from me (mz008@bucknell.edu), then please send me your email address and I'll include you going forward. I hope to hear from you all soon. — M.Z.

2014

KAITLIN MARSH
kaitlinmarsh@gmail.com



REUNION

2015

COLIN HASSELL
cmh027@bucknell.edu

2016

REBECCA MOORE
rebecca.moore016@gmail.com

2017

AVID KHORRAMIAN
avidkhorramian@gmail.com

2018

ANNA MILLAR
aemillar3@gmail.com

2019

ELLA RI
ella@alum.bucknell.edu

JACK LOGANSMITH graduated from Grand Canyon University in 2023 with a master's in

secondary education and was hired by Norfolk (Va.) Public Schools. He was going into his third year teaching Advanced Placement calculus, along with other courses. Additionally, Jack is both singing and playing handbells with ensembles local to the Hampton Roads area. **ANDREW GRAY** married partner Layne Baker June 22. **JENNIFER LOBELLO** relocated from Bozeman, Mont., to Milan for her MBA program at SDA Bocconi School of Management.

MAGGIE FISCHER got engaged to James Langlois. **LUCY HERRING** was headed to Tuck School of Business at Dartmouth this August for her MBA. **JORDY ELARDO** was awarded Commercial Observer's Top Young Professionals 30 Under 30 award for his work in commercial real estate in NYC, specializing in office leasing. Previously, he was an associate vice president at Colliers and is now a director at Cushman and Wakefield. **BRIANNA BJORDAHL** completed her master's in tropical biology and conservation at James Cook University in Cairns, Australia, this December. In March, she started work as the northwest conservation biologist for the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission in Tallahassee, Fla. — E.R.

↓
REUNION

2021
MACKENZIE GROSS
mag052@bucknell.edu

2023
KATELYN COLLINS
kec019@bucknell.edu

2024
MEGAN COLLINS
mlc048@bucknell.edu

2020
CHANDLER HOULDIN
cwh021@bucknell.edu

2022
JASMINE MINHAS
jkm030@bucknell.edu

ELIZABETH "ELLIE"
NOCERA and **EMMA**
KELLY started at the
Lewis Katz School of

Medicine at Temple
University as M.D.
students in August. **SOLO**
MARYNOVYCH was
studying at the Sidney
Kimmel Medical College
at Jefferson University as
an M.D. student starting in
July. — K.C.

PROFILE

IN SERVICE OF HEALING

Psychologist Melissa Fuller Woods '11 elevates mental well-being in the Air Force

by **NICOLE GULL MCELROY '00**

When she chose to pursue a career in psychology, **Melissa Fuller Woods '11** never expected it would lead her to the Air Force. Her doctoral program required an internship, and in her research, she discovered a military opportunity that intrigued her.

"I wanted to push myself to learn as much as I could," she says. "I associated the military with trauma work and knew it would be a challenge. I knew that military service members and veterans face unique challenges that pose a threat to their well-being, and I wanted to learn targeted interventions to assist individuals in overcoming traumatic experiences."

Woods credits her ambition and drive for excellence to Professor **Sue Ellen Henry P'22**, education. "She made me feel like I could do great things," she says. "Sue Ellen planted the seed that I could be a subject matter expert and that I should push for it."

Woods was commissioned as an Air Force officer and completed a yearlong internship at a major military ambulatory surgical center. With a scientific practitioner approach to clinical psychology, Woods was formally trained in the areas of outpatient mental health, health psychology, psychological assessment and crisis management.

Today, she is a military psychologist in Oklahoma City, Okla., where she oversees two programs. The first, the Family Advocacy Program (FAP), handles all allegations of adult and child maltreatment. FAP offers a range of services, including therapeutic interventions for victims and abusers, victim advocacy, prevention-based nursing for families with young children and classes focused on healthy relationships, interpersonal skills and parenting. The second, the Alcohol and Drug Abuse Prevention and Treatment Program, manages referrals for substance



Military psychologist Melissa Fuller Woods '11 focuses on the mental wellness and readiness of service members.

use-related concerns and provides tailored treatment and coordinating prevention services.

"We are patient centered in providing therapeutic services to our service members to promote wellness and well-being," she says. "We ensure medical readiness, which means ensuring service members are mentally fit to perform their duties."

When she isn't running these programs, Woods works as an embedded psychologist on the Operational Support Team, working alongside a physical therapist, athletic trainer and strength and conditioning coach. Together, they take a holistic approach to supporting service members' mental and physical well-being. Woods focuses on creating regimens to improve group cohesion, cultivate strong health habits and enhance the ability to manage stress, conflict, adversity and personal challenges.

"Our goal is to address issues early before they develop into more long-term problems," she says. "It is an honor serving the military community and having the opportunity to be a part of and see the difference that medical specialties make in real time."

IN MEMORIAM

BARBARA "BOBBIE" FOLK MYNOTT '56, P'83, G'17



Barbara "Bobbie" Folk Mynott '56, P'83, G'17, a devoted Bucknellian whose commitment to her alma mater was evident throughout her life, passed away on May 2.

At Bucknell, Mynott excelled academically, graduating in just three years. At Homecoming 1953, she met her future husband, Trustee Emeritus **Geoffrey P. Mynott '54, P'83, G'17**. This marked the beginning of a lifelong partnership of 67 years, rooted in a shared love for Bucknell.

Mynott's dedication to the University was recognized by the Bucknell University Alumni Association with its award for out-

standing loyalty and service to Bucknell. University President John Bravman and former president **Gary Sojka H'09** spoke at her memorial service in June, which was standing room only, to share her lasting impact on the Bucknell community.

Beyond her ties to Bucknell, Mynott lived a life full of diverse interests and accomplishments. She worked as a medical secretary and was an avid golfer, playing on the Merion Golf Club women's team. She was also deeply involved in charitable events and organizations, co-founding Tyler Hedges Day in Devon, Pa., and serving as operations co-chair of the USGA's 1989 U.S. Amateur.

Mynott had an adventurous spirit and loved to travel the world and explore new cultures with her husband. At home, she was known for her culinary skills, love of gardening and devotion to her family and beloved dogs.

Mynott is survived by her husband; two children, including **John A. Mynott '83, P'17**; and two grandchildren, including **James G. Mynott '17**.

IN MEMORIAM

Remember your friends, family, classmates and others by posting a comment on our online Book of Remembrance. Go to bucknell.edu/bmagazine.

1944

EMILY SEERS PARKIN, April 19, Narberth, Pa.

1946

PAT WHITTAM HILL G'11, May 8, Birmingham, Mich.

1948

EVELYN LUTHER

FARRELL, March 16, Columbia, S.C.

HAROLD "BUD" NEFF, May 1, Sunbury, Pa.

ELIZABETH WINKEL, May 26, Columbus, N.C.

1950

ROBERT BAKER, Oct. 10, 2022, Aiken, S.C.

GORDON BECHTEL, June 15, Gainesville, Fla.

NANCY HITCHCOCK

LANGE, April 22, Fort Washington, Pa.

SHIRLEY WEISS SPROLE, April 29, Warminster, Pa.

1951

MARGERY HOOD

HOFFMAN, May 13, Greenwood, S.C.

FREDERIC STAUFFER

M'52, March 31, Bartlett, Tenn.

1952

JAYNE ROTHSCHILD

STALEY P'81, G'03, May 24, Saint Simons Island, Ga.

BILL TAYLOR G'04, G'05, G'07, May 2, Ellington, Conn.

1953

WILLENE EDWARDS

BROWN, April 17, Barrington, Ill.

HELEN LOEWISCH

SARNO, May 7, Hudson, Wisc.

TAKEO SHIINA, April 19,

Tokyo, Japan

JAMES "SAM" SPEERS,

May 19, Moorestown, N.J.

EDWARD WILLIAMS P'84,

June 4, Pleasant Hills, Pa.

1954

GEORGE BLADES, March 22, Cincinnati, Ohio

DIANE SILFER SCOTT

P'79, March 5, Asheville, N.C.

1955

HELEN NICKEL KASCHAK, June 3, Greenwood, Ind.

RON KEITH, May 9,

Hebron, Conn.

BETTY KRABER KOPF,

June 19, New Providence, N.J.

MARGARET DIXON

MICHELSEN P'82, March 19, Blacksburg, Va.

1956

BOBBIE FOLK MYNOTT

P'83, G'17, May 2, Newtown Square, Pa.

RICHARD SALZMAN,

June 6, Westfield, N.J.

DOTTIE DALE TRUMBOW-

ER, April 28, Hunlock Creek, Pa.

1958

FRED MACDONALD, April 18, Paoli, Pa.

WILLIAM SPEARE, May

20, Clarks Summit, Pa.

1959

ANN CARSON GIES,

March 31, Merritt Island, Fla.

HUGH STANLEY, May 10,

Hudson, Fla.

1960

PATRICK DELLER, June

12, York, Pa.

DOUG NECKERS, Nov. 22,

2022, Perrysburg, Ohio

1961

DEE FLODMAN

HEATHORN, April 19,

Danville, Calif.

MARY FRANTZ

MCLAUGHLIN P'96, June 29, Lansdale, Pa.

DON MYERS P'89, May 2,

Coal Township, Pa.

1962

ELIZABETH DAFFRON,

May 23, Lafayette Hill, Pa.

BOB SMITH P'87, P'91,

G'15, G'25, June 15,

Audubon, Pa.

BILL WEYDEMEYER P'02,

May 31, Lakeville, Mass.

1963

DIANE "DEE" BASSETT

BERTINE, June 17,

Germantown, N.Y.

JIM YODER, May 8, Hilton

Head Island, S.C.

1964

ELIZABETH MOOD

BARRON P'90, May 13,

Telford, Pa.

LENORE REID, Feb. 12,

Washington, D.C.

BOB REINER G'22, June 1,

Tucson, Ariz.

1965

ROSS "SKIP" BOULDIN,

April 7, Long Branch, N.J.

TOM SHAFFNER, May 30,

Chesapeake City, Md.

1966

JOHN CARPENTER, April

24, Woodway, Texas

BARBARA LINDSEY, April

24, Lancaster, Pa.

JOHN WAGNER, June 3,
Raleigh, N.C.

**MERIDEL BEROLA
WESLEY**, May 10,
Hinsdale, Ill.

1967

**JOAN SCHOEMMELL
NEVILLE**, April 14, St.
Augustine, Fla.

THOMAS WOLFF, April 5,
Cincinnati, Ohio

1968

MARY JONES MILLER,
April 26, Lansdale, Pa.

BILL WOODS, April 18,
Atlanta, Ga.

1969

DOUGLAS CHAMBERLIN,
April 29, Concord, N.H.

1970

PETER BROWN, April 1,
Auburndale, Mass.

THOMAS JOLDERSMA,
April 23, Inlet Beach, Fla.

JOHN KOLAYA, April 24,
Normandy Beach, N.J.

1971

DAVID HARRIS, May 20,
Loveland, Colo.

**TARRAS ONISCHENKO
M'75**, April 9, Charlotte,
N.C.

1974

**MARK MCCONNAUGH-
HAY**, April 16, Phoenix-
ville, Pa.

1984

PETER STEVENSON, May
13, Cleveland, Tenn.

1989

**MYKOLA "MICK"
MOHUCHY**, May 26,
Redondo Beach, Calif.

1996

BRIAN SULLIVAN, May 28,
Darien, Conn.

2002

KATE DURTAN ALLEN,
April 5, Charlottesville, Va.

JAN PEARSON P'94, Jan.
22, Lewisburg, Pa.

MASTER'S

NICKY CASALE M'61, April
26, Montoursville, Pa.

MARY DOYLE M'94, June
19, Muncy, Pa.

GENE FINK M'57, June 6,
Berwick, Pa.

BOB GEORGE M'60, April
28, Lewisburg, Pa.

**BILL YEOMANS M'70,
P'83**, May 20, West
Pittston, Pa.

FACULTY AND STAFF

KENNETH BEAVER, June
1, Lewisburg, Pa.

JOHN GALE P'99,
December 20, Yardley, Pa.

GEORGE GRITZER P'08,
April 16, Lewisburg, Pa.

ROBERT ZARTMAN, May
5, New Columbia, Pa.

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We love to hear from readers. Send your feedback, insights, compliments and complaints.

➔ Write to us at: bmagazine@bucknell.edu or *Bucknell Magazine*, One Dent Drive, Lewisburg, PA 17837

REMEMBER AN ICON

Bucknell will celebrate MLK Week in January with a series of events honoring the legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., including a keynote address by civil rights activist Judy Richardson on Monday, Jan. 27.

➔ See the full schedule of events at bucknell.edu/MLKWeek

ANSWER THIS:

WHICH CLASS OR PROJECT CHALLENGED YOU THE MOST AS A BUCKNELL STUDENT?

➔ Join our LinkedIn community to stay in touch, share feedback and respond to future prompts: linkedin.com/school/bucknell-university

CROWDSOURCED

IF YOU COULD GO BACK IN TIME AND CHANGE YOUR MAJOR, WHAT WOULD YOU STUDY INSTEAD, AND WHY?

“Maybe environmental sciences, biology or electrical engineering. When I look at climate change, I wish I was better equipped to do something useful.”

Zak Marsh '10

“Psychology — because I’ve discovered that I love interacting with and helping people.”

John Messina '94

“I think I would have been a physics major. I generally preferred the open-endedness of my physics courses and how the professors genuinely encouraged you to be curious.”

Jethro Tannis '08

Bucknell UNIVERSITY | 30 UNDER 30

MEET YOUR '30 UNDER 30'

Bucknell is excited to announce the launch of its first-ever "30 Under 30," an initiative that honors the achievements of our most remarkable young alumni and students. This new program shines the spotlight on 30 Bucknellians under the age of 30 who have demonstrated exceptional success and leadership in their respective fields. The inaugural class of honorees was announced and celebrated at a special event during Bucknell's Homecoming in October.

 Visit go.bucknell.edu/30under30 to learn about the honorees.

"I double-majored in mathematics and music. If you had asked me this 10 years ago when I was getting a master's in education, I might have wished I had taken some education classes. Five years ago, when I was looking for a more sustainable career than teaching, I might have wished I studied engineering. But now that I'm a software consultant, I'm glad I chose majors that felt right for me!"

Drew Stonesifer '12

"I wouldn't change my political science major or even my Latin minor. I am in an entirely different field, which I love. But I'm a huge supporter of a liberal arts education. I learned to listen to understand, not listen to reply at Bucknell."

Rachel Skovronsky Bandarenko '88, P'15

Photo: Emily Paine

HONOR A REMARKABLE BUCKNELLIAN

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ENJOY A HOLIDAY TRADITION

Tickets for Bucknell's Christmas Candlelight Service are available through the Campus Box Office. Admission is free, but tickets are required. A collaboration between the Office of Religious & Spiritual Life and the music department, this beautiful Bucknell tradition is modeled on the King's College Christmas Eve Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols service. The services are Dec. 6, 8 and 10 at 7:30 p.m. at Rooke Chapel.

 [Get your tickets at bucknell.edu/boxoffice](http://bucknell.edu/boxoffice)

**CAPTION
CONTEST**

Recognize yourself or the Bucknellians in this photo? We'd love to hear from you. Share your nostalgic story with us at bmagazine@bucknell.edu



SUBMIT YOUR CAPTION BMAGAZINE@BUCKNELL.EDU

Compose a clever caption. The five best 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 for consideration.

STAY INFORMED

This fall, Bucknell released annual reports for the Freeman College of Management and the College of Engineering to show how each college is providing a premier educational experience for students. Each report details distinctive initiatives and innovative programs that support Bucknell's strategic goals.

 Read them at go.bucknell.edu/ManagementReport and go.bucknell.edu/EngineeringReport

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Witty Winners

Here are our favorite caption submissions from the last issue:



“There were some subtle clues that Raylean may have smuggled her dog into the dorm.” [Craig Butler '68](#)

“Sorry we couldn't afford the meal plan, sweetheart, but this should hold you over until you get a job.”
[Ned Hall '72](#)

“Freshman student misunderstands what's required for the animal behavior program.”
[Heather Abetz O'Meara '96](#)

“HANK AND BEVERLY STRETCHED TO GIVE TIMMY A TOP-TIER EDUCATION AT BUCKNELL. BUT SACRIFICES WERE MADE.” [Rich Polt '94](#)

“When I encouraged you to make new friends at college, I wasn't talking about a four-legged one.”

[Ellen Smith P'16, P'19](#)

 Submit your caption for the retro photo on the opposite page to bmazine@bucknell.edu.



The Wayne E. Manning Herbarium



“It’s a treasure trove of biodiversity, a snapshot of the natural world at different points in time.”

Rebecca Beneroff '25 examines a plant specimen with Professor Chris Martine in Bucknell's Manning Herbarium.

by **CHRIS MARTINE, DAVID BURPEE PROFESSOR IN PLANT GENETICS & RESEARCH and DIRECTOR OF THE MANNING HERBARIUM**
photograph by **EMILY PAINE**

Walking into the Wayne E. Manning Herbarium is like stepping into a living museum. Each specimen in this collection is a dried, pressed record of plant life, some dating back to the 19th century. The herbarium was founded in 1945 by **Wayne Manning P'51**, one of the world's leading experts on walnuts. Manning spent more than two decades at Bucknell, teaching courses in botany, forestry and taxonomy, and his collection of more than 1,500 walnut specimens has attracted visitors from all over the world.

Over those nearly 80 years, Bucknell faculty and students have added to the collection — and also incorporated the collections of other local enthusiasts (including students) whose specimens reach back as far as the mid-1800s. Today, the herbarium holds around 25,000 specimens, a significant number from Central Pennsylvania. But it also includes collections from far beyond, including specimens of new bush tomato species from Australia my lab group has described. It's a treasure trove of biodiversity, a snapshot of the natural world at different points in time.

Something I'm particularly excited about is our ongoing project to digitize these records. This new database will allow people from anywhere to search for specimens and explore their history. For instance, our efforts will let people trace

the historical roots of our plant collections, including those gathered by past students. This could help uncover information about alumni from generations ago who contributed to the collection.

Students involved in the herbarium get hands-on experience with specimen curation. But it's not just about maintaining a collection. It's about connecting with the past and contributing to future research. For example, **Rebecca Beneroff '25** is conducting a research project aimed at uncovering more information about women botanists. Her research shines a light on the often-overlooked contributions of female researchers who collected specimens. By meticulously cataloging these plants and their histories, Rebecca is helping to restore the voices and contributions of these important figures to the scientific record.

The herbarium isn't just a storehouse of plants but a dynamic record of the natural world and the people who have studied it. Being here, I'm reminded of the rich history and ongoing importance of this incredible resource.

The Wayne E. Manning Herbarium is located in Bucknell's Rooke Science Center. Interested in a tour or learning more about the collection? Contact Professor Chris Martine at ctm015@bucknell.edu.

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IMPACT.
our
THANKS.

Photo: Emily Paime



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Lewisburg, PA 17837

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Christy Mathewson-Memorial Stadium
turns 100 in 2024, marking a century as
the home of the Bucknell Bison.

photograph by JAMES T. GIFFEN

