

BY WAY OF BUCKNELL

LIGHT SHOW

On October 10, 2024, the aurora borealis illuminated the skies above Bertrand Library with a magical glow.

photograph by EMILY PAINE

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PATHWAYS



FROM
ANIMAL LOVER

to

DOG TRAINER

by SARAH DOWNEY '25
photograph by EMILY PAINE

As a high schooler in New York City, **Emma Feld '26** discovered her passion for animals as a volunteer at a local animal shelter. After arriving at Bucknell, the early childhood education major and member of the women's swimming & diving team decided to prioritize academics and athletics and put volunteer work on hold.

That changed after she met Megan Leavy, a Bucknell chemical engineering academic assistant who raises dogs for Susquehanna Service Dogs (SSD). Inspired by Leavy's impactful work, Feld felt compelled to contribute while still honoring her academic and athletic commitments.

She founded the SSD Club at Bucknell and became certified to raise service dogs in training. Under her leadership, the club trains puppies to assist people who need support. This year, Feld and three other students are sharing the responsibility of raising two Labrador retrievers on campus. The brothers, SSD Douglas (pictured) and SSD Martin, are learning to navigate crowded places, retrieve dropped items and turn lights on and off.

"I picked my major because I love helping people," Feld says. "Training service dogs is an extension of that. SSD assistance dogs give people the confidence to live more independently — they really change lives."





GATEWAY



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PLASTIC FOR GOOD?

It revolutionized our world. Now its lasting impact is forcing us to reconsider its future.

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THEY'RE GOING THE DISTANCE

Taylan Stulting '16 is about to row 2,800 miles from California to Hawaii.

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Discarded plastic seems inescapable. But Bucknellians are working on smart solutions.

Photograph by David Gilliver

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FROM THE
EDITOR

CONVENIENCES AND CONSEQUENCES

PLASTIC IS EVERYWHERE, yet we hardly give it a second thought — until it hits home. After a rear-end collision in December, I saw my Subaru's crumpled plastic bumper and realized just how much impact it absorbed, keeping me and my son safe. From the laptop I use for work, to the smoke detector in my home, to the container that keeps my medicine secure, plastic makes life easier and safer.

That said, I'm also mindful of the environmental challenges plastic brings, especially single-use plastic and its lasting effects. This issue dives into that dilemma. In "The Plastic Paradox" (P. 20), Assistant Editor Matt Jones highlights how Bucknell faculty and students are exploring more sustainable plastics. He also spotlights Bucknell alumni rethinking how we use plastic.

As part of Bucknell's commitment to sustainability and our mission to enhance the reader experience, we're launching a new digital partnership. Beginning with the summer issue, we'll be working with eMagazines — a platform used by *Sports Illustrated*, *Time* and *Fortune* — to offer a more engaging

digital edition. This will provide an improved reading experience, including a new audio feature that will allow you to listen to stories.

Additionally, we will have a robust online archive to make past issues more accessible, and Class Notes will now be available online for easy desktop viewing.

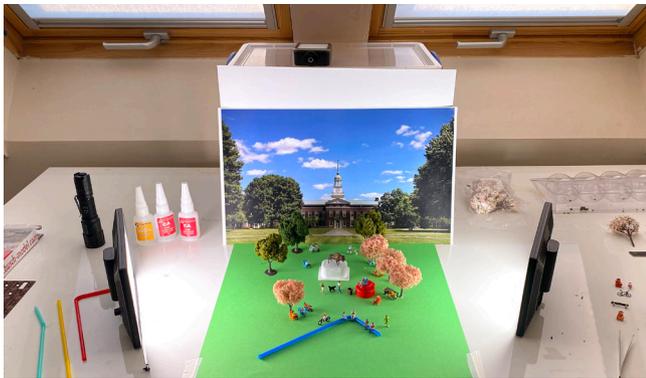
We are excited about this change and will share more details in the summer issue.

Thank you for being part of our *Bucknell Magazine* readership as we continue finding new ways to share stories that inform and inspire.

KATIE NEITZ

Editor / k.neitz@bucknell.edu

Scan to see our
digital edition!



Behind the Scenes

For this issue's cover, photographer David Gilliver aimed to convey the ever-growing presence of discarded plastic in our daily lives. Using HO gauge model railroad props, he reimagined Malesardi Quadrangle,

creating a striking contrast between nature and plastic waste. The result? A miniature scene with a big message. Check out our digital edition for a short time-lapse video of Gilliver's intricate setup coming to life.

Photo: David Gilliver

BUCKNELL

magazine

Volume 18, Issue 2

**VICE PRESIDENT FOR
MARKETING &
COMMUNICATIONS**

Heather Johns P'27

EDITOR

Katie Neitz

CREATIVE DIRECTOR

Barbara Wise

DESIGNERS

Erin Benner

Ashley M. Freeby '15

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, 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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Big Ideas, Big Moments at the Bucknell Forum

by KATIE NEITZ

BUCKNELL UNIVERSITY'S 2024-25 Forum series, themed “World in Transition,” continued during the spring semester, bringing high-profile speakers to campus who shared insights into business, technology and society.

Actor and activist George Takei opened the semester’s events on Jan. 28, recounting his childhood experience in a World War II internment camp. On Feb. 18, the series featured Kevin O’Leary, chairman of O’Shares Investments and Beanstox, best known as “Mr. Wonderful” from *Shark Tank*.

The final event on Feb. 23 was an entrepreneurship roundtable featuring 14-time MLB All-Star Alex Rodriguez, **Marc Lore ’93** and Bucknell trustee **Jordy Leiser ’06**.

Following the roundtable, the trio attended a Bucknell-Army men’s basketball game. There, Rodriguez took a half-court shot to win \$10,000 for **Owen Garwood ’27**. He nailed it, igniting a thunderous celebration (see P. 38).



▲ Forum speakers Jordy Leiser ’06, Alex Rodriguez, Marc Lore ’93, Kevin O’Leary and George Takei (clockwise from top) engaged with students on campus.

Enhancing Student Support

Maureen McGuinness named Fritz Family Dean of Students

by MIKE FERLAZZO

Maureen “Moe” McGuinness has joined Bucknell as Associate Vice President & Fritz Family Dean of Students. McGuinness brings more than 25 years of higher education experience and most recently served as the Title IX coordinator for the University of North Texas System.

“I am excited to collaborate with students, faculty and staff to enhance the programs and services that support students’ overall development,” she says. “I look forward to building on the strong foundations of excellence and student success at Bucknell.”

NEWS TICKER

HIGH RANKS

Bucknell earned strong marks in *U.S. News & World Report’s* 2025 rankings. Among national liberal arts colleges, Bucknell was ranked No. 5 for Best Undergraduate Engineering Programs, No. 6 for Most Innovative Schools and No. 17 for First-year Experiences.

BEST IN BUSINESS

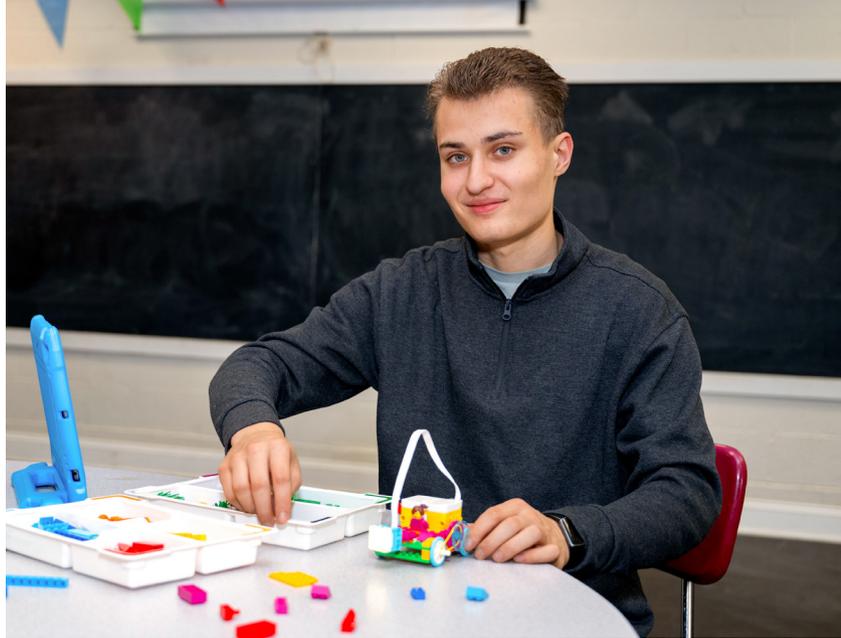
Freeman College of Management Professor Annetta Grant was named one of the “50 Best Undergraduate Business Professors of 2024” by *Poets&Quants*. Recognized as an emerging leader in consumer research, Grant has conducted work on sustainable consumption.

BUCKNELLIAN LEADS FDA

As of press time, **Martin “Marty” Makary ’93** was expected to be confirmed by the Senate as commissioner of the FDA, the agency responsible for regulating the nation’s food supply, vaccines, medicines, cosmetics and tobacco. Makary is a physician who specializes in surgical oncology at Johns Hopkins University.

'burg and Beyond

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



→ Lewisburg
Every Saturday, **Aiden Cherniske '27** heads to the Lewisburg Children's Museum to play with robots. As a volunteer for STEM Saturdays, he introduces young learners to science, technology, engineering and math through robotics activities. Growing up in Kent, Conn., Cherniske discovered his passion for technology through a library STEM program, where he learned about coding and robotics. That experience led him to volunteer with the program in high school. Now, the computer engineering major is paying it forward in Lewisburg.

What He Does
Cherniske aims to grab the attention of children under 10 with interactive robotics demonstrations. His work represents a larger mission of the museum to bridge the gap for rural students who are disadvantaged when it comes to STEM education.

Cherniske also helps run a LEGO robotics program for middle schoolers at the Donald Heiter Community Center.

The Impact
"It's so fun to see the kids' creativity," he says. They begin with base projects, such as building a helicopter or carousel, and then they experiment with seeing how fast they can make it turn without breaking. One group even asked how they could make the helicopter ADA-accessible. "Seeing them develop those problem-solving skills is the greatest part," Cherniske says. "Thinking in that way is so important in STEM."

What's Next
Looking ahead, Cherniske hopes to expand robotics programming at the museum and start a robotics club there with assistance from Bucknell's Center for Community Engaged Leadership, Learning & Research.
— Sarah Downey '25

→ Atlanta
In 2023, **Terian Williams '26** turned his platform as a Division I athlete into a force for good by founding the It Takes a Village Family Foundation. Through the nonprofit, Williams organizes Christmas and Father's Day events in his hometown of Atlanta that provide families with housing assistance, groceries, clothing and other essentials. "I wanted to give back, support underserved communities and bring Atlanta together," he says.

Williams began his college journey at Stanford University, where he spent two years before transferring to Bucknell in fall 2024. "I chose Bucknell for its close-knit community," he says. "The football team, especially, feels like a family." As a defensive back, Williams uses his name, image and likeness (NIL) — the legal right that allows student-athletes to earn income through sponsorships — to fund

▲ **Aiden Cherniske '27** organizes hands-on robotics activities for kids during STEM Saturdays at the Lewisburg Children's Museum.

his foundation. Partnering with over 60 brands, he has secured support to drive his mission.

What He's Done
Recently, the sociology major partnered with Cheez-It and the Extra Yard for Teachers initiative to donate \$10,000 to his former elementary school in honor of his third-grade teacher. "Mr. Hayes was so instrumental in my life," Williams says. "Being able to give back to the school where I met

lifelong friends and formed the foundation of who I am today was amazing."

What's Next?
As Williams looks to expand his impact in the Lewisburg area, he has plans to partner with Bison Cares, a Bucknell student-athlete initiative, to co-sponsor charitable events. "When people face tough moments, it's essential to remind them that positivity and support still exist," he says.
— Sarah Downey '25



▲ **Terian Williams '26** uses his platform as a Division I athlete to give back to underserved families in Atlanta.

Fostering Empathy Through Dialogue

by KATIE NEITZ

IN AN AGE WHERE many conversations happen through social media comments or quick text exchanges, it's easy to lose the depth and connection that meaningful in-person dialogue can offer. That's why in fall 2024, Bucknell's Division of Equity & Inclusive Excellence launched Dignity & Dialogue Circles, a campus-wide program that encourages students, faculty and staff to come together to share experiences, reflect deeply and communicate respectfully.

The program has proven impactful for Bucknellians like **Kathy Graham P'03, P'05**,



▲ **Jocelyne Scott '11** (center), senior director of equity & strategic initiatives, facilitates a Dignity & Dialogue Circle.

associate vice president of university advancement, who attended a session on post-election civility. "It inspired me to approach family conversations with empathy rather than trying to debate or convince," she says.

Facilitators report that participants apply circle principles across campus to improve communication.

Graham, for example, integrated circle principles into a workshop for her team to encourage constructive discussions. And Kurt Nelson, director of religious & spiritual life, has used the framework in grief support groups. "For students dealing with loss, these circles create a space to feel understood and supported," he says.

Celebrating a Milestone

2025 marks 150 years since **Edward McKnight Brawley** became Bucknell's first Black graduate. To honor this milestone, the Division of Equity & Inclusive Excellence is organizing a yearlong series of events. Learn more: go.bucknell.edu/blackexcellence



Bob Gamgort '84, P'16 is providing financial aid to students.

Two Significant Gifts Propel Bucknell's Financial Aid Initiatives

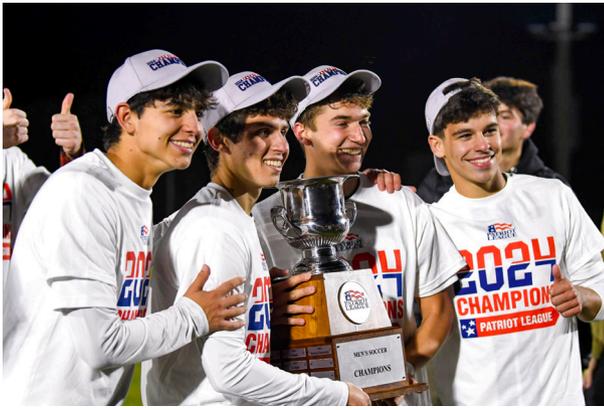
by KATE WILLIARD

BUCKNELL'S COMMITMENT to access has taken a major step forward with two gifts: one dedicated to merit-based scholarships and another to need-based financial aid.

A new endowment from **Bob '84, P'16** and **Sue DeMent Gamgort '84, P'16** will ensure Bucknell's ability to meet 100% of demonstrated financial need and eliminate loans for students in the Gamgort Family Gateway Scholars Program. Established in 2023, the program provides financial support and mentorship to first-generation college students.

In the College of Arts & Sciences, the Malesardi Arts & Sciences Scholars — named in gratitude for a generous estate gift from the late **Robert Malesardi '45, P'75, P'79, P'87, G'08** and his wife, Doris Fisher Malesardi — awards merit scholarships to academically high-achieving students.

"These gifts exemplify the transformative power of financial aid," says Bucknell President John Bravman. "They open doors for talented students who might otherwise be unable to attend Bucknell and strengthen our community with exceptional thinkers who will go on to change the world."



Men's soccer claimed its fifth Patriot League championship with a win against Colgate, with Francisco "Kiko" Hidalgo '27 (top) celebrating the victory.

Call It a Comeback

Bison men's soccer rises from last place to first

by KATIE NEITZ

Bucknell men's soccer capped a stunning turnaround season by defeating Colgate, 3-0, to claim the Patriot League championship before 1,400 fans at Emmitt Field in November. **Waldemar Kattrup '25** and **Nick Prime '25** scored in their final home games, leading the Bison to their highest-scoring match of the year. This is the program's

fifth Patriot League title — and first since 2014. The Bison were one of only two Division I teams to rise from last place in 2023 to a conference title in 2024. "Things happened fast, and it was a tough build, but I'm so happy for our guys," said head coach Dave Brandt, named the Patriot League Coach of the Year. "For our upperclassmen and especially our seniors to be able to experience something like this is just a joy to see."

Data's Creative Twist

by KATE WILLIARD
photograph by EMILY PAINE

Data science isn't just for engineers or analysts. It has the power to advance many different fields of study, sometimes in surprising ways. For example, it can help psychologists better understand children's movement patterns or inspire creative writing. Showcasing the versatility of data science is a goal of Kelly McConville, director of the Dominguez Center for Data Science. Students who participate in the Data Science Student Fellows program are matched with project stakeholders and data-science mentors who guide fellows through technical and theoretical approaches to data-centric problems. Fellows are encouraged to apply their diverse perspectives to develop solutions. This spring, 29 students are working on 13 projects, gaining experience across a range of fields. Here's a look at three.

Data Dance

The Question: What musical features influence movement in children, and can algorithms assess them as effectively as human observation?

The Collaboration: Led by mentors Professor Haley Kragness, psychology, and Claire Cahoon, digital pedagogy & scholarship specialist, fellows **Claire Engel '25** and **Gwen Radecki '25** are exploring how music and dance affect children's physical and emotional development and how to measure those effects efficiently. Their project

blends developmental psychology, music cognition and computer science.

Engel's computer science & engineering major complements Radecki's psychology and linguistics double-major, bringing a cross-disciplinary perspective to their work. They're studying different ways to track movement in children's dance by comparing methods like automatic tracking to manual labeling to determine the most effective approach for researchers.

"While I lack the technical expertise to work with data

on my own, partnering with the Dominguez Center allows me to tackle a major challenge in my work," says Kragness.

Data Bloom

The Question: How can data inspire ecowriting — writing that explores the relationship between humans and the environment — to raise awareness and spark the development of creative solutions?

The Collaboration: Professors Sara Stoudt, mathematics & statistics, and Elinam Agbo, English





▲ Professor Haley Kragness, Claire Engel '25, Gwen Radecki '25 and Claire Cahoon (L to R) are investigating how to best measure children's movements to music.

— creative writing, are partnering with fellows **Shaheryar Asghar '28** and **Caitlyn Hickey '26** to explore how data and storytelling can intersect and inspire ecowriting for the journal *The Dodge*.

Asghar, a double-major in mathematical economics and psychology with a minor in English — creative writing, and Hickey, who studies applied mathematics and business analytics, are combining their skills in data

analysis, app design and creative writing to develop an interactive app.

The project involves selecting nature-related datasets, developing writing prompts, and showing how data-driven insights can enhance creative expression. "Statistics requires creativity," says Stoudt. "This project highlights that creativity while emphasizing the important role of writing in the statistical investigation process."

Data Play

The Question: Can predictive modeling provide actionable insights for coaches?

The Collaboration: Professor Jimmy Chen, analytics & operations management, is teaming up with Palmer "PJ" Steiner, assistant women's soccer coach, and fellows **Katherine Vice '27** and **Aiden Kim '27** to develop a tool that will simulate Patriot League Women's Soccer Tournament standings and clinching scenarios. By incorporating home/away status, past matchups and team

performance metrics, they aim to support data-driven decisions during the season.

Kim, a computer science and data science co-major, and Vice, an economics major, are combining their skills to develop an interactive simulation dashboard. Kim is focused on predictive models and design, while Vice is analyzing results. "This project provides both a learning opportunity for students and practical benefits for the women's soccer team, demonstrating the power of interdisciplinary collaboration," says Chen.



A Reel Discovery

A Bucknell team is preserving rare, fragile Japanese films, making cinematic history available to a new generation

by SARAH DOWNEY '25 photography by EMILY PAINE

A nearly forgotten piece of cinematic history has been brought back to life, thanks to the research of Professor Eric Faden, film/media studies, and a team of Bucknell students. Their work has revived a rare set of Japanese short films from the 1930s while taking them across the globe in search of even more lost media.

Faden found the films by fluke in 2017 during a teaching fellowship in Kyoto. While researching another project at the Toy Film Museum, he discovered a set of reels made from paper, a medium rarely used in filmmaking. "The only other films made on paper were copies of early American ones for copyright deposit," Faden says. "The Japanese paper films are very different in that they were meant to be projected from the get-go."

However, due to the films' fragility, museums were hesitant to project them.

Determined to preserve the films digitally, Faden began meticulously photographing each frame with the intention of stitching them together as a video. The task proved to be far from simple. Although each film only lasts between two and 12 minutes, it could take Faden up to four and a half hours to photograph one. Even then, the result didn't achieve the desired effect of watching a continuous movie.

Recognizing the need for a new preservation method, Faden recruited the expertise of professors and students across disciplines. **Alina Arko '23**, who studied mechanical engineering, designed a scanner delicate enough to handle the fragile paper reels while capturing them as a continuous video. Then, computer science students **Yuhan Chen '23** and **Jackson Rubiano '27** developed software to recognize frames and stabilize the images, ensuring the films could be projected in a fluid sequence.

The films represent a fascinating mix of genres, including wartime propaganda, instructional exercise reels,

early anime and mythological stories featuring ninjas and samurai.

From the beginning, Faden's goal was preservation, not restoration. "We wanted to show the films — warts and all — with their inconsistencies and the over-scanning so the audience could see how the film is working. A restoration project would remove all that."

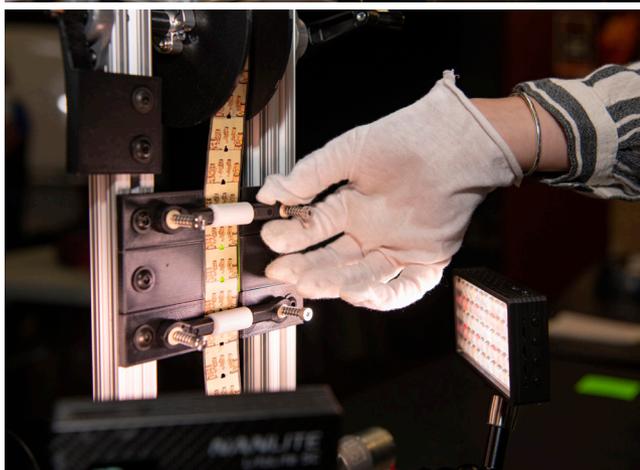
In summer 2024, Faden and a group of Bucknell students traveled to Japan in search of more paper films. Between visits to museums, shrines and temples, they examined additional reels, deepening their understanding of Japan's cinematic past.

"It gave me perspective about the history and culture of Japan, which helped me understand the films I had been working on," Rubiano says.

In August, the digitally preserved films were screened at a Brooklyn theatre. "I thought we would have six people, aside from my family," Faden joked. Instead, the event was packed — 75 people were turned away once the venue hit capacity.

For his dedication to preserving these films, Faden was awarded the 2025 Sumie Jones Prize for Project Leadership in Japan-centered Humanities by the Association for Asian Studies.

➤ Professor Eric Faden and a team of students will return to Japan this summer. Learn more about the project — including screening dates — at kamifirumu.scholar.bucknell.edu. To support this effort, visit give.bucknell.edu/JapanesePaperFilm



John Ogunwomoju '27 (opposite) is part of a Bucknell student team digitizing rare Japanese films with Professor Eric Faden (above).



Chris Sims '25 is a rare two-sport athlete who soars at the track and tackles on the football field.



INSTANT REPLAY

THE NEW PASCUCCI TEAM CENTER

"In terms of recruiting, it will help so much — it's a lot more appealing. And the weight room? It's more than a weight room. It's a collective team bonding experience."

FLYING HIGH

"In the triple jump, there are times when I'm mid-air, and I know this will be a big one. You look up, and that number is there. It's a really good feeling."

HE'S OPEN

"Academically, people would say I'm open to learning, available to listen and a critical thinker, always looking to solve problems."

Leaps and Bounds

by **BRYAN WENDELL**

INSIDE CHRISTY Mathewson-Memorial Stadium, track & field events take place just a hop, skip and jump away from the football field. But for **Chris Sims '25**, the two sports represent a world of difference.

For the triple jumper and cornerback, the journey from one sport to the other requires time management, no-days-off determination and a willingness to transform his physique from one season to the next.

As a football player, Sims needs muscle mass to jam or

tackle, while as a track athlete, he requires lean muscle to run fast and soar far. Like 47 feet, 1 inch far, Sims' best triple jump distance.

"After track season ends, I start to pack on my football weight," he says. "I gain back about 10 to 15 pounds. It's a totally different lifting program and training routine. Then, at the end of football season, that weight comes off, and I start my track training."

This physical transformation is why some colleges avoid recruiting dual-sport

athletes. Sure enough, in Sims' junior year of high school, recruiters from other schools asked him to pick a lane. "They felt if I did two sports, it would take away from one," he says. "In a way, I agree with that. I mean, I sometimes wish I did spring training for football or fall training for track. But it all comes together in the end, which makes it a really good experience for me."

This do-it-all attitude formed at age 5 when Sims sought a way to connect with his athletically inclined older brother, **Micah '20**. By middle school, Chris excelled in football, basketball and track at The Haverford School in the Philadelphia suburbs. Bucknell's track team first offered him a spot, and the football team allowed him to walk on.

"It was a dream come true to start at a Division I level and play two sports," says the economics major. "I just want to help the teams in whatever way possible."

His team-first mentality explains why Sims was selected by his peers to be track team captain. He is willing not just to motivate his fellow jumpers but also to lift up the whole team.

Sims knows individual performances can boost the entire team's morale, similar to how a key interception can change a football game. "If a distance kid runs really well, that's awesome for our team," he says. "It's not just, 'Oh, he set a PR [personal record]' — it takes the whole team higher."

TEAMWORK

by KATIE NEITZ

In April, Matthew '89 (left) and Nathan Johnson '89 will co-deliver the Freeman College of Management's Walling Lecture as part of Freeman Week.



→ Identical twins **Matthew '89** and **Nathan Johnson '89** didn't just attend Bucknell together – they now co-lead several businesses, the largest being TruConnect. As co-CEOs, they've transformed that company into a thriving business that breaks down financial barriers to wireless connectivity, ensuring underserved communities have access to essential digital tools. Leading five companies, they've mastered collaboration, delegation and trust – key components of any successful partnership.

HOW DO YOU DIVIDE RESPONSIBILITIES?

WHAT ARE THE ADVANTAGES OF CO-LEADERSHIP?

HOW DO YOU ENSURE ALIGNMENT IN DECISION-MAKING?

WHAT ADVICE WOULD YOU GIVE TO OTHERS CONSIDERING CO-LEADERSHIP?

Matthew: It happens naturally. We don't have formal conversations about who handles what. When a challenge arises, one of us instinctively takes the lead, and the other trusts that decision. We have a very unique situation because we think alike and trust each other's judgment.

Nathan: Exactly. We don't micromanage each other, and that lets us be in multiple places at once. We can divide our time between meetings in Washington, D.C., state capitals and international operations without losing momentum.

Matthew: The biggest advantage is that the company benefits from two minds on every major decision. We bring complementary strengths to the table, and our similar problem-solving approaches keep our decisions consistent.

Nathan: Another advantage is continuity. One of us is always available, whether for travel, negotiations or strategic decision-making. In a single CEO structure, all that responsibility falls on one person, which can slow things down.

Matthew: Since we grew up together, we have a built-in trust that removes ego from the equation. We don't compete for control or recognition — it's about what's best for the business. Many co-CEO arrangements fail when leaders fight over who's the "real" CEO. For us, the title is secondary to the company's success.

Nathan: We also communicate constantly. Our thought processes are so similar that if one of us makes a decision, the other would have likely made the same choice. This consistency provides clear direction for our team.

Matthew: Trust is essential. If you're second-guessing your co-leader, it won't work. You must share the same vision and have confidence in each other. Another key factor is hiring the right executive team. Taking the time to hire the right people pays dividends.

Nathan: Your team's strength directly impacts the company's success. We've made mistakes in both directions — hiring too quickly and not acting fast enough when someone wasn't the right fit. Surround yourself with people who complement your strengths, and the business will thrive.



EMPOWERING ENTREPRENEURS

From Passion to Prototype to Profit

The Campus Shop helps transform student visions into viable ventures

by **KATE WILLIARD**
photography by **EMILY PAINE**

When people think of entrepreneurship, they might picture tech startups, venture capital pitches and Silicon Valley innovators. But entrepreneurship often starts closer to home, with grassroots efforts, creative passion projects and small businesses that weave themselves into the fabric of everyday life.

Bucknell is embracing this vision with the Campus Shop — a new retail space

Waina Ali '26 is helping the Campus Shop become a launchpad for Bucknellian innovators and creators.

launched by the Perricelli-Gegnass Center for Entrepreneurship & Innovation (PGCEI) and housed at the historic Campus Theatre in downtown Lewisburg. The shop gives Bucknellians an opportunity to sell their products and market their services directly to consumers, providing students with a hands-on understanding of entrepreneurship.

Waina Ali '26, a fellow with the PGCEI, has firsthand experience with the power of entrepreneurship. When her

“This space isn’t just about products – it’s about empowerment.”

WAINA ALI '26

family relocated to Bloomsburg, Pa., in 2021, her parents took a leap of faith and opened a small grocery store.

“It taught me that entrepreneurship isn’t just about knowing everything from the start; it’s about figuring things out as you go,” she says. “My parents didn’t even have high school diplomas, but they built something meaningful by taking a chance.” Her family poured its energy and determination into the venture, creating not just a business but a hub of connection within the community.

Watching her parents navigate challenges, adapt and build something from the ground up taught Ali the value of risk-taking and resilience.

Now, Ali is channeling her insights into helping others. She’s passionate about making the Campus Shop a space that welcomes all students, especially those who might not see themselves as traditional entrepreneurs.

“The shop shifts the focus and shows students that entrepreneurship is for everyone,” Ali says. “If you braid hair or knit scarves or make art, you can sell your pieces here. If you’ve come up with an innovative new product and want to test your prototypes with real consumers, you can do that here too.”

Erin Jablonski, director for the PGCEI, plays a key role

in empowering students as they pursue their ventures. She provides coaching in areas like production and cost analysis, supporting students as they navigate the complexities of bringing their products to market. Once products hit shelves, Jablonski will review sales data and trends with the students to help them make strategic decisions to refine and grow their ventures. Students profit directly based on their pricing strategy, with 10% of sales going to the Campus Shop to fund its general operations.

Beyond students, the Campus Shop hosts entrepreneurs-in-residence, showcasing the work of Bucknell-affiliated artisans alongside the student vendors. Intertwining commerce and philanthropy offers students invaluable experience in managing, marketing and profiting from their creative endeavors while supporting the broader Bucknell community.

“This space isn’t just about products — it’s about empowerment,” Ali says. “As I talk to other students, I keep hearing, ‘I have an idea, but I don’t know what to do with it.’ The Campus Shop is here to help with that. You don’t have to know everything to start something.”



CREATIVITY ON DISPLAY

These student-owned ventures are gaining traction in the Campus Shop

Lyric Abdul-Rasheed '26, chemical engineering, creates lip products that provide nourishment and protection from the elements under her brand, Lyric’s Lip Candy.

Jaycee Birkemeier '27, biology, is using the Campus Shop to get her art in front of buyers.

Freeman College of Management student **Sofia DelGrosso '27** sells her collection of astrological cat stickers, Zodicatz (above, bottom).

Alexa Helmke '27, undeclared, crochets accessories, including hats, mittens and handbags under her

brand, the Crochet Wizard (above, top).

Freeman College of Management student **Scarlet Kashuba '27** owns Scarlet’s Stitchery and produces a variety of crocheted items.

Dani Kuck '27, undeclared, creates artistic stuffed animals.

Becca Lipsky '25, music education, markets vocal lessons for solo and choral singers.

Peace by Piece, a nonprofit organization led by Bucknell students, sells individual students’ creations to support humanitarian causes.

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TESTING LIMITS TAYLAN STULTING '16 IS PREPARING TO ROW ACROSS THE PACIFIC

photograph by **KELLY DAVIDSON**

THE PLASTIC PARADOX

PLASTIC'S GREATEST STRENGTH
IS ALSO ITS BIGGEST FLAW:
IT LASTS **FOREVER***. HOW WILL
FUTURE GENERATIONS
MANAGE THIS ENDURING
MATERIAL AND ITS
DOUBLE-EDGED
LEGACY?

by **MATT JONES**

photography by **DAVID GILLIVER**

**It takes hundreds to thousands of years for plastics to break down.
They often turn into microplastics that linger indefinitely.*



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come together.



In November 2024, more than 3,000 delegates from around the world converged on Busan, South Korea. The meeting was meant to mark the conclusion of a two-year global process that had a single, ambitious goal — to resolve one of the most urgent environmental crises of our time: plastic pollution.

“For years, the UN had been working on adopting resolutions and encouraging governments, the private sector and environmental groups to address the issue of plastic waste leaking into the oceans,” says **Stewart Harris ’95**, who majored in biology at Bucknell and is now managing director of global affairs for the American Chemistry Council. “That issue evolved into the creation of this Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee to develop a treaty.”

Established by the United Nations Environment Programme — the world’s highest decision-making body on the environment — the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee (INC) on Plastic Pollution had been tasked with forging a legally binding, international treaty to curb plastic waste. “Back in 2022, when they adopted the resolution, it was a very emotional time. There was a lot of enthusiasm and excitement about the road ahead,” says Harris, whose role as an observer and leader of the global chemical and plastic industry delegation requires him to provide professional expertise to the negotiators.

That road ran from Punta del Este, Uruguay, where the committee held its first session, through

France, Kenya and Canada before arriving at its terminus in the Busan Exhibition and Convention Center, where roughly 3,300 delegates — including representatives from 170 nations and observers from more than 400 organizations — gathered to hash out the details.

However, what became clear over the course of the fifth session was that it would not, in fact, be the last. “When we got to Busan, I think there was a recognition that governments just hadn’t given themselves enough time to work through the complexity of these issues,” says Harris.

In less than a century, plastic has become quite literally embedded in every facet of life on earth. It inhabits both lung and brain tissue, can be found on Mount Everest and in the Mariana Trench, and is used to create everything from lifesaving medical and surgical devices to clothing, kitchenware and electronic components. The complexities of figuring out how to regulate such a material are many, to say the least.

What the INC negotiations prove is there is an overwhelming consensus that plastic pollution is a global problem. The lack of a treaty, however, demonstrates that there is decidedly less unity around a global solution, though this does not mean there isn’t one. As deliberations continue into 2025, Bucknellians of all stripes — scientists and researchers, economists and industry leaders — are working toward a future in which plastics are as sustainable as they are necessary.

THE PLASTICS LIFE CYCLE

Most of the plastic life cycle is pretty straightforward. Raw materials such as oil, coal and methane gas are extracted from the earth through some combination of drilling, mining and fracking. These materials are then refined through a variety of complex, chemical processes that render raw materials into resins and nurdles, which are small plastic pellets. Manufacturers use these nurdles to create a wide range of products distributed across intricate supply chain networks throughout the world and into the hands of consumers who use and dispose of them.

One widely accepted method for understanding the environmental impacts of this cycle is to perform what's called a cradle-to-grave life cycle assessment (LCA).

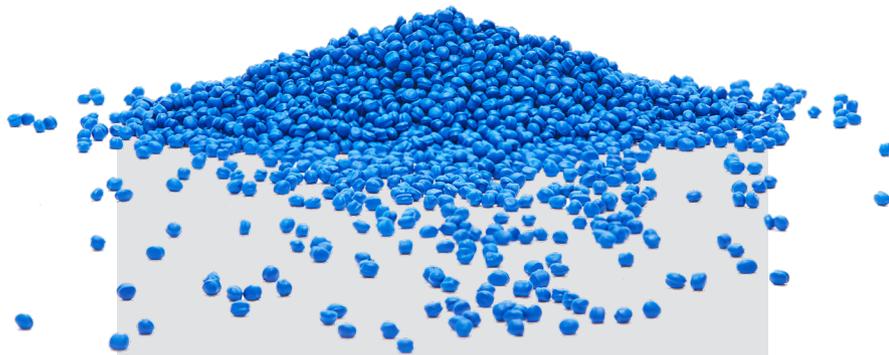
"You're looking at the life cycle from its infancy when raw materials are extracted from the earth, all the way to where a product ends up in the end-of-life scenario," says **Rochelle Fisher Bradford '94**, a Bucknell chemistry graduate who led the sustainable materials team for global packaging at Coca-Cola. (Coca-Cola was somewhat of a trail-blazer in this space and is often credited with having performed the first LCA in the country in 1969 when it examined emissions outputs and waste flows of beverage containers.)

For most consumers, the lifespan of a plastic product begins and ends with its usability. This is particularly true of single-use plastics. A high-density polyethylene grocery bag exists for the half hour it takes to get food from the checkout counter to the kitchen pantry. A polyethylene terephthalate (PET) water bottle lives and dies between the first sip and the last. A polypropylene wet wipe survives the few seconds it takes to wipe down your hands. Then, poof: into the garbage or the recycling bin.

However, there is a vast distance between the lifespan of the product and that of the polymer. Polyethylene and polyurethane can take hundreds of years to decompose, if not longer. Current estimates suggest the world produces between 350 and 450 million tons of new plastic waste each year, approximately half of which is composed of single-use plastics, so there is a significant push to focus pollution mitigation efforts on the tail end of the life cycle.

"What the industry is trying to do as a whole is find a better alternative than throwing it all in a landfill," says Bradford, who in her role at Coca-Cola helped shepherd an initiative to make all consumer-facing plastic recyclable in the coming years. "Using a method called mechanical recycling, you can basically take a PET bottle that's been used, chop it up into a bunch of pieces, clean and sterilize it and melt it down and form another bottle."

An emphasis on recyclable materials is a step toward the cradle-to-cradle approach, in which products and materials can exist in a closed loop of infinite circulation rather than becoming waste.



A PLASTICS LEXICON

bioplastics: materials that include bio-based, bio-derived and biodegradable plastics produced from biomass sources, such as starches, sugars and lipids

chemical recycling: an advanced form of recycling that seeks to convert plastic waste back into raw materials for the manufacture of new plastics

mechanical recycling: the processing of plastic waste without altering the chemical structure of the waste; includes the collection, sorting, washing, drying and shredding of waste materials

microplastics: plastic particles less than 5 millimeters in size, the majority of which are produced by synthetic textiles, car tires and city dust

nurdles: very small beads or pellets of plastic that serve as raw material in the manufacture of plastic products (pictured above)

Plasticene: a proposed new age in Earth's history, contained within the Anthropocene epoch, which begins with the proliferation of plastics in the 1950s and the incorporation of plastics into the geologic record

single-use plastics: goods made from fossil fuel-based chemicals that are meant to be disposed of after use:



Polyethylene terephthalate (PET)
bottles, cutlery, cups



High-density polyethylene (HDPE)
shampoo bottles, milk bottles



Low-density polyethylene (LDPE)
bags, food packaging, freezer bags



Polypropylene (PP) drinking straws,
microwave dishes, bottle caps, wet wipes



Polystyrene (PS)
cutlery, plates, cups



Expanded polystyrene (EPS)
protective packaging, hot drink cups

In theory, every type of plastic is recyclable insofar as it has the ability to be recycled. In practice, however, challenges remain.

THE AFTERLIFE OF PLASTICS

The first plastics recycling plant was born in Conshohocken, Pa., in 1972, against the backdrop of a swelling environmental movement. As a response to public backlash over the proliferation of plastic pollution, much of it generated from single-use plastics, producers and manufacturers started advertising recycling as a solution.

“They did something really clever to save face and keep the heat off their industry, which was to create the recycling code numbers with the three arrows that you find on plastic products,” says Thomas Kinnaman, Bucknell’s Charles P. Vaughan Chair in Economics, who researches global trends in recycling. “They were worried that plastic would be banned, so rather than change their product, they shifted to telling the public that everything was recyclable.”

Post-consumer plastics are typically labeled with numbers, starting with one designating PET, the most commonly recycled plastic, all the way up to number seven, a catchall that includes everything from nylon to polycarbonate.

While PET and high-density polypropylene are more easily and therefore more commonly recycled, certain specialized plastics, such as those coded seven, can contain mixed materials or toxic substances that are difficult to process. However, challenges aren’t purely technical, as recycling infrastructure — or the lack thereof — significantly affects recyclability.

“It doesn’t matter if you create a magic material if you can’t scale it,” says Bradford. “The whole idea of recycling is dependent on a lot of different parts of the value chain working together. Not only does the material have to be recyclable, but somebody has to collect it. Somebody has to sort it. Somebody has to clean it. Somebody has to break it down to its original polymers and put it back together. And there has to be a market for it.”

Recycling contributes to a circular plastics economy, but a closed-loop system doesn’t automatically eliminate pollution. This is perhaps no more true than in the case of PET bottles recycled to make polyester clothing. “The primary way that we introduce plastics into the environment is one that people don’t realize — laundry,” says **Sally Rocks ’04**, who studied chemistry at Bucknell and is now a bioinorganic and environmental chemistry professor at Utah Valley University. “Clothing made from polyester, nylon, rayon — these are all plastics. When you do your laundry, you abrade tiny bits of those plastic fibers off that go out with your wastewater.”

Microplastics, classified as particles less than 5 millimeters in size, are transported not only through



Since the 1950s, about 8.3 billion tons of plastic have been created — with about 6.3 billion tons becoming waste.

water, but air, dust, rain and snow, by which they’re deposited in remote locations all across the world, from Antarctic sea ice to deep ocean trenches.

The ubiquity of microplastics raises serious questions about pollution mitigation efforts that focus on the end of the plastic life cycle, if only for the simple fact that the life of plastic doesn’t really have an end. So a cradle-to-grave analysis is somewhat of a misnomer, as plastic neither dies nor rests; it just breaks down into infinitely smaller and smaller particles, eventually achieving a kind of omnipresence. The paradoxical truth about plastics is that it is impossible to imagine a world without them — for better and for worse.

Perhaps the answer lies in reimagining what plastics are altogether — from the first stage to the last.

SUSTAINABLE SOLUTIONS

Let’s go back to the beginning.

Before plastic is recycled or deposited in a landfill, before it is used or consumed, before it is transported to store shelves or processed and manufactured, it is extracted from the earth in the form of oil, gas or coal.



Or at least, this is true of 99% of plastics. Contained within the other 1% is a range of novel technologies and materials that reconceptualize the entire life cycle of plastic.

“People tend to use the terms ‘bio-based plastics’ and ‘biodegradable plastics’ interchangeably, but they’re actually different,” says Professor Kat Wakabayashi, chemical engineering, who for the last 15 years has been working with polylactic acid (PLA), a bio-based and biodegradable plastic material derived from fermented plant starches. “Our lab works on modifying these bioplastics so that we end up with a more consistent, more well-behaved product.”

To do that, he and his students purchase commercial PLA pellets, roughly the size and shape of Nerds candy, and reinforce them with bio-based cellulose fibers derived from wood pulp from a sustainably managed forest in Maine. Using his lab’s solid-state shear pulverization extruder, he compounds small pieces of these cellulose fibers with PLA to create a stronger, more reliable material that resists softening at low temperatures.

Wakabayashi’s research is also concerned with the end-of-life scenario for PLA. Its low heat stability can make it challenging to mechanically

A LESSON FROM ‘THE GRADUATE’

by ROBERT BRAILE '77



Benjamin Braddock knew. In *The Graduate*, the prescient 1967 film about an America soon to explode, Braddock — played by Dustin Hoffman — is cornered at a dinner party by the insidious Mr. McGuire, who advises the recent college graduate of his brightest career prospect. “Plastics,” McGuire says, an arm over Braddock’s shoulder, a finger in his face. Braddock’s skepticism, his outer fascination masking his inner revulsion, foretold the future of plastics in our society.

The dark actualities beneath the sparkling appearances of plastics were clear to Braddock, figuratively in the duplicitous characters around him and literally in the duplicitous career before him. The actualities were also clear to us, or plastics as a metaphor for the characters would have failed in the film. But it worked because it expressed the essence of plastics in America: like the characters, glitzy at first glance but destructive at heart.

Plastics were patriotic when they entered American life after World War II, having provided parts for airplanes, weapons and other military needs. They enabled a consumer culture previously unknown to us, fueling our American idolatry of efficiency, affordability, effectiveness and ease. “Plastics: A Way to a Better More Carefree Life,” declared *House Beautiful* magazine in 1947.

All that glitters is not gold. By the first Earth Day in 1970, the same year President Richard Nixon created the EPA, the ecological costs of plastics were stark. Smog from factories making everything from Frisbees to Barbies smeared the sky, trash incinerators burning plastics further toxified the air and mountains of plastics rose in landfills, recycling and regulation nascent. Ever since, as plastics have become more prevalent and harmful — last April, the same EPA called plastics pollution “ubiquitous” — we’ve discovered plastics everywhere in our world and in ourselves, exacerbating societal ills from cancer to climate change.

“There’s a great future in plastics,” McGuire says. “Think about it. Will you think about it?”

“Yes, I will,” Braddock responds.

“Ssh, enough said,” McGuire whispers. “That’s a deal.”

Robert Braile '77 is a former environmental correspondent and book critic for The Boston Globe.

Photo: PictureLux / The Hollywood Archive / Alamy Stock Photo

recycle, but it can biodegrade within months under the right industrial composting conditions. In collaboration with the Bucknell Farm, Wakabayashi and his students developed a custom soil degradation apparatus to evaluate the biodegradability of their PLA samples. “We have actually seen signs and measurements of polylactic acid degrading in our controlled environment in the lab, so that’s a good sign,” he says.

While PLA is one of the most prevalent commercial bioplastics worldwide, among the most promising polymers of the future is polyhydroxybutyrate (PHB) — a bio-derived and biodegradable plastic.

“PHB is made as an emergency food source in bacteria,” says Professor **Hannah Yocum M’16**, chemical engineering. Yocum’s research in metabolic engineering started with making precursors to antibiotics, though she eventually discovered that the application of different enzymes to those precursors could be used to produce bioplastics like PHB. “We found you can take the genes that code for the enzymes that make the bioplastic and put them into another microbe and make more bioplastic,” she says.

PHB is easily and quickly biodegradable and biocompatible, meaning that it is well suited for biomedical applications, such as medical implants and sutures.

The appeal of bioplastics, particularly those derived from sugars, celluloses and bacteria, is that

“WE’RE TRYING TO DESIGN MATERIALS FROM THE BOTTOM UP SO THEIR RECYCLABILITY IS INHERENT IN THEM FROM THE BEGINNING.”

Mara Kuenen ’18

they offer an alternative to fossil fuels. Bio-derived plastics do not rely on the extractive economies of oil, coal and gas; however, just because a plastic is biodegradable does not mean it is without hazards. Even PLA and PHB produce microplastics and nanoplastics that can potentially harm natural environments.

STUDENTS WORKING TO REDUCE SOCIETY’S CARBON FOOTPRINT



Mikey Brandt '26 and Brooke Barry '26 created a biodegradable dry-erase marker.

Mikey Brandt '26, markets, innovation & design **ECOMARK: A BIODEGRADABLE MARKER**

“During an entrepreneurship class, my professor’s Expo marker ran out, and he made a comment about how he feels like he throws one out every day. I looked up how many Expo markers get tossed a year, and it was over 400 million just in the United States. That sparked the idea for EcoMark, a biodegradable dry-erase marker I developed with **Brooke Barry '26** [accounting]. We are working to finalize the marker design and get a prototype ready for production.”

Morgan Powell '26, civil engineering **TRAPPED GRASS: REPLACING UNUSED GRASS WITH NATIVE PLANTS**

“As an intern in the Office of Campus Sustainability, I’ve been working with Erin Jablonski, director for the Perricelli-Gegnag Center for Entrepreneurship & Innovation, and **Brennah Kennedy '26** [electrical engineering], on the Trapped Grass Project. Our goal is to replace areas of unused grass on campus with native plants, wildflowers and potentially even food gardens. This reduces the need for mowing, assists with runoff and supports our carbon emissions-reduction goals.”

Zack Yardley '25, Spanish and finance **FOREVERGREEN: TRACKING AND OFFSETTING CARBON FOOTPRINTS**

“My co-founder and I saw a gap in the carbon credit market, so we created Forevergreen, an app that allows people to calculate and track their emissions and offset them with carbon credits. With many of us facing climate anxiety, Forevergreen is our way of making a sustainable future more accessible for everyday people.”

The end-of-life scenario of even bioplastics poses familiar challenges. One solution for reducing waste could lie in reengineering traditional plastics to better close the life-cycle loop.

A CATALYST FOR CHANGE

Polyethylene is the most common type of plastic in the world. The low-density varieties are used to make water bottles and food wrappers, while medium-density and high-density polyethylene is found in everything from shopping bags and shower curtains to milk jugs and detergent and shampoo bottles. The qualities that make polyethylene so useful – its versatility, durability and high chemical resistance – also make it difficult to recycle.

Though not all methods of recycling are created equally.

Mechanical recycling involves the melting and shredding of material without altering the chemical composition. “You can melt polyethylene down and reprocess it, but there’s a finite number of times you can do that,” says **Mara Kuenen ’18**, who majored in chemical engineering and is now a postdoctoral researcher in chemistry at the University of Minnesota. “With chemical recycling, you actually break down waste at a molecular level to return it to those original monomers.”

Kuenen’s research with polyethylene involves devising strategies to make traditional plastics more recyclable. “We’re trying to design materials from the bottom up so their recyclability is inherent in them from the beginning,” she says. “We want to make those strong chemical bonds breakable under specific circumstances, so something like your water bottle doesn’t degrade in your hand while you’re drinking from it, but it does easily degrade with the right trigger.”

In Kuenen’s research, that trigger involves using small alcohol molecules to break down her polyethylene-like polymers into individual molecules that can be repolymerized into new, high-quality plastics. The same premise informs the work of **Philip Onffroy ’22**, who studied chemical engineering at Bucknell and is now a doctoral candidate at Stanford University.

“A different method of recycling is UV-based recycling,” says Onffroy, who was introduced to sustainable polymers and bioplastics as a student in Wakabayashi’s lab. “When you shine the correct wavelength of light on a piece of plastic designed for photo-initiated degradation, that light will hit the reversible bond in the plastic and break it, so you can then convert it back into its original feedstock.” Of course, one drawback of creating plastic with more readily reversible bonds is that it may not be as durable as plastics with stronger, irreversible bonds.

Plastics recycling that relies on specific biological catalysts is still in the early stages of research, but



the technology could help build a circular economy and reduce plastic waste.

Even so, the existence of the proverbial “magical material” is still constrained by problems of scale and economic viability. “I can do things at my lab bench to make something that is recyclable, but if there’s not an economic incentive for it or a policy to support it, then it’s not going anywhere,” says Kuenen. “My polyethylene materials aren’t going to solve the plastic waste crisis. Sure, they may be a part of a solution, but for these global changes to happen, we really need policy changes.”

In the spirit of circularity, it all comes back to Busan and the need for a global treaty.

“While they didn’t finish the negotiations, they did make a ton of progress on some key areas,” says Harris. “Things like extended producer responsibility are in there. Things like calling on governments to establish targets for recycling rates and for access to recycling are in there.”

As someone who has witnessed the negotiation process from its inception, Harris foresees an eventual treaty as a necessary catalyst to inspire a broad array of solutions, from improved and expanded recycling infrastructure to greater investment in bio-based and biodegradable plastics. “It’s not going to be a one-size-fits-all, universal solution,” he says. “Once governments complete negotiations and they move to implementation, the private sector in general is going to have a huge role to play in implementing the solutions. The treaty sends a signal to the private sector to accelerate investments and innovation.” ■



Taylan Stulting '16, who discovered rowing at Bucknell, is gearing up to cross the vast Pacific Ocean.

Waves of Change

*Rowing 2,800 miles across the Pacific is a grueling test of endurance, strength and courage. But for **Taylan Stulting '16**, a greater mission drives every stroke.*

by Caleb Daniloff
photography by Kelly Davidson

At first glance, horseback riding and ocean rowing might seem like entirely unrelated pursuits. But for **Taylan Stulting '16**, growing up in the saddle in South Carolina turned out to be more than just a childhood pastime — it would serve as a foundation for something much more extreme.

When faced with eight-foot waves during an overnight training row off the coast of Massachusetts, Stulting instinctually engaged their core and hips, rolling up and over the surging waters with remarkable balance and poise.

“It’s like riding a mechanical bull,” says Stulting, who is non-binary. “It’s not uncommon to fall off your seat. That’s why you’re always tethered.”

Stulting first learned to row at Bucknell in 2012, never imagining that one day they would attempt to row 2,800 miles from California to Hawaii. But that’s exactly what’s in store this June, when together with two teammates, Stulting will attempt the arduous passage from Monterey, Calif., to Hanalei Bay on the island of Kauai.

The racing event, organized by World’s Toughest Row, pits rowers against each other and the vast and unpredictable Pacific Ocean with the promise of “sleep deprivation,

hallucinations, blisters, sores, tears and pain” alongside “camaraderie, self-discovery and unparalleled pride.”

As one of eight boats preparing to set a course for Hawaii this spring, Stulting’s team aims to complete the crossing — a distance greater than the width of the Atlantic Ocean — in around 40 days (with an eye on the world record of 38 days and 12 hours), navigating a wild waterscape with waves as high as 20 feet while avoiding cruise ships and container vessels.

But the challenge is not just about physical endurance or chasing a record. It’s about transcending mental and emotional barriers — pushing through exhaustion, confronting fears and overcoming the isolation that comes with spending weeks on the water with minimal rest.

It’s also about representation. If successful, Stulting, a doctoral student at the University of Wisconsin-Madison, will be the first out transgender rower to complete the feat.

“Growing up in South Carolina, there wasn’t much visibility for trans people, especially in sports,” Stulting says. “This journey is about proving that we belong.”

Callouses and Camaraderie

Fresh off a 21-hour training row this past October, Stulting and teammates Courtney Farber and Julie Warren relaxed on the patio of Mission Boathouse, a waterfront restaurant overlooking Beverly Harbor, about 20 miles north of Boston. Under clear, breezy skies, they compared calloused hands and dug into plates of pasta and snacks, their faces chapped by wind and saltwater spray.

As the breeze picked up and the pasta quickly disappeared, their conversation shifted to the technical aspects of the sport, including how to deploy the para-anchor, a parachute-like device that sits just below the water's surface, keeping the boat in place when heavy weather prevents rowing. They practiced putting on the immersion suit, a crucial piece of gear that allows a team member to stay dry while performing tasks like cleaning barnacles off the hull or repairing a damaged rudder (sometimes

a casualty of marine life collisions). They also reviewed person-overboard drills, tested different row-shift patterns and honed the logistics of eating, sleeping and using the bathroom in cramped quarters.

"Basically, we're figuring out how to exist on a 29-foot boat in tight spaces," Stulting says.

This was the third time the

could take six months off and buy a boat," Stulting says. "But this four-woman team seemed like average folks."

A seasoned world traveler with a taste for offbeat pursuits like roller derby, flying trapeze and skydiving, Stulting was inspired to pursue the same dream. They put out a call for potential teammates on Facebook and inter-

"I realized I had the potential to tackle anything with the right support."

Taylan Stulting '16

team had gathered to row together, though the union had been nearly two years in the making. In 2022, Stulting began following the record-breaking journey of a four-woman crew rowing across the Atlantic.

"When I first learned about ocean rowing, I thought it was just for wealthy people who

viewed more than 25 candidates across several months. "You have to make sure you've got the right people for something like this," Stulting says. "How do you handle conflict? What are you like at your worst? What is your 'why'?" This journey is as much about the people you're rowing with as it is about the ocean itself."

Taylan Stulting '16 and their crew will row — and eat and sleep — aboard Emma for about 40 days.



Farber, a 55-year-old personal trainer and mother of three from Silver Spring, Md., was the first to join. She began rowing in her 30s.

“On a personal level, I want to know what I’m made of,” Farber says. “This will be a serious test. And as an ally, it’s about walking the walk and normalizing that there’s space for us all.”

Warren, a collegiate rower from Smith College, works as a rowing coach and nanny in Chicopee, Mass. She was drawn to both the challenge and the inclusive nature of the venture.

“It’s important to do hard things in life,” Warren says. “I don’t know yet what the ocean will teach me, but I know it will teach me something worth finding out. And supporting a charity that helps LGBTQIA+ athletes — it’s amazing to be able to support an organization working to make sure we all can continue to have a place in sport.”

Stulting named the team “Oar the Rainbow” and founded a nonprofit to raise funds for Doctors Without Borders and

Athlete Ally, an organization working to combat homophobia and transphobia in sports.

For Stulting, the journey goes beyond advocacy. “I’m a survivor of child sexual abuse, and sports have always been a way for me to reclaim my body and rewrite my narrative,” they say. “Doing something on this scale is the ultimate reclamation.”

Finding One’s Place

At Bucknell, Stulting found more than just a passion for rowing, which became a source of peace and belonging. They also discovered the importance of being true to themselves. After a year of studying engineering, they made the decision to switch majors and colleges, an experience marked by a supportive response from the dean of engineering.

“I realized that I had the potential to tackle anything with the right support,” says Stulting,

who decided to pursue a major in women’s & gender studies. “It was empowering to know that I could make decisions based on what I wanted to do, not just what others expected of me.”

This support extended to their activism in LGBTQIA+ causes across the state. “I missed class more than I should have,” they say. “But my professors worked with me to figure out how to make up assignments because they knew what I was doing outside of school was important to me.”

Braving the Pacific

While the human crew is at the heart of the journey, the boat — *Emma* — will be home for weeks at sea. Docked near Mission Boat-house, *Emma* is no ordinary row-boat. A 2018 Rannoch R45, this sleek 1,000-pound carbon vessel is equipped with solar panels, sleeping berths, and navigation and communication tools. This will be her fifth ocean voyage (an

Ocean rowers stay secured with harnesses and lifelines, but the rolling waves of the Pacific can still knock them off their seats.



average boat makes 10 crossings). Her last adventure took her across the Atlantic, helmed by a Canadian and American crew.

Designed for safety, *Emma* is a self-righting vessel. Rowers are tethered by harnesses and lifelines, and the boat carries a life raft, satellite phones and an emergency go-bag. Even the oars are clipped in, with a spare pair on hand. One of the watertight hatches stores the lithium-ion batteries that supply power to the boat's technology and lights. It also runs the watermaker, which desalinates seawater, producing up to 18 liters of potable water daily for drinking, washing and hydrating dehydrated meals.

navigation drills and radio training. Their coach, Duncan Roy, a seasoned English ocean rower and world record-holder, stresses the importance of mindset.

"Quite often, the biggest challenge is the unknown," Roy says. "Over the past two years, Taylan has shown relentless drive, determination and focus. These qualities will be invaluable on the Pacific Ocean."

While the team is still working out the shift cadence, the launch will likely require all hands on deck. Launching off Monterey's coast is expected to be tricky due to the tides, waves and varying depths. *Emma* will weigh close to 2,800 pounds fully loaded. "Wind

and sunscreen will be essential for the journey.

And when those final strokes are taken in Hanalei Bay, the crewmates fire off celebratory flares per tradition and awaiting friends and family come into view, Stulting imagines stepping onto the beach with wobbly legs and a mix of triumph, pride and transformation. "We have to wade through the water to get to land, and I think a lot about how it will be this almost poetic transition."

Back at the dock in Beverly, boats are mooring as the sun begins sinking, gulls wheeling overhead. From *Emma's* stern, an American flag and a pride flag



The boat features small cabins at the stern and bow: One houses the autopilot and navigation system; the other stores medical supplies and repair tools. Both berths serve as sleeping quarters, with just enough headroom to kneel. "We call them our New York City apartments," Farber quips. Despite the high-tech gear, *Emma* offers no luxuries — rowers rely on buckets for waste and hygiene, with "foolproof" methods to tell them apart in the dark, Stulting says with a wry grin.

Like any extreme sport, ocean rowing requires rigorous preparation — mental, physical and technical. The crew undergoes extensive safety courses,

can push a rowboat more quickly than a rower can row," Stulting says. "A big concern is being blown ashore or into rocks."

As the crewmates prepare to set sail, sea-life encounters are high on their wish list. They hope to see dolphins, whales, sea turtles and even sharks. "Flying fish can land on the boat or even smack you in the face in the dark," Warren says with a laugh. "Then you have to throw them back, and the boat smells like fish."

Once the boat is past the continental shelf, the path will be wide open. Stulting anticipates the first few weeks will be cool and rainy, followed by sunnier conditions. Sun shirts, wide-brimmed hats

flap in the breeze, a testament to the team's mission and identity. Nearby, a pleasure boat flies American and Trump 2024 flags. Despite the political climate surrounding the transgender community, Stulting reports no hostility from other boaters.

"For this journey, being trans simultaneously has mattered a lot and meant nothing," they reflect. "Once we're on the boat, we're just there to eat, sleep and row. That's all we do." ■

The route; *Emma's* advanced navigation and communication tools; hard-earned calluses (L-R).



Visit magazine.bucknell.edu to see additional photos from the photo shoot with Taylan Stulting '16 and their crew.

THE BOAT: *EMMA*

Emma is an R45 made by Rannoch Adventure in 2018. This will be her fifth ocean crossing.



NIGHT ROWING

The cabins use red interior lighting so the crew's eyes can more easily adjust to the dark.

A tricolor navigation light is on top of the bow cabin on about a foot-and-a-half-long pole so it can be seen above waves at night: A white light is facing stern, a red light on port and a green light on starboard.



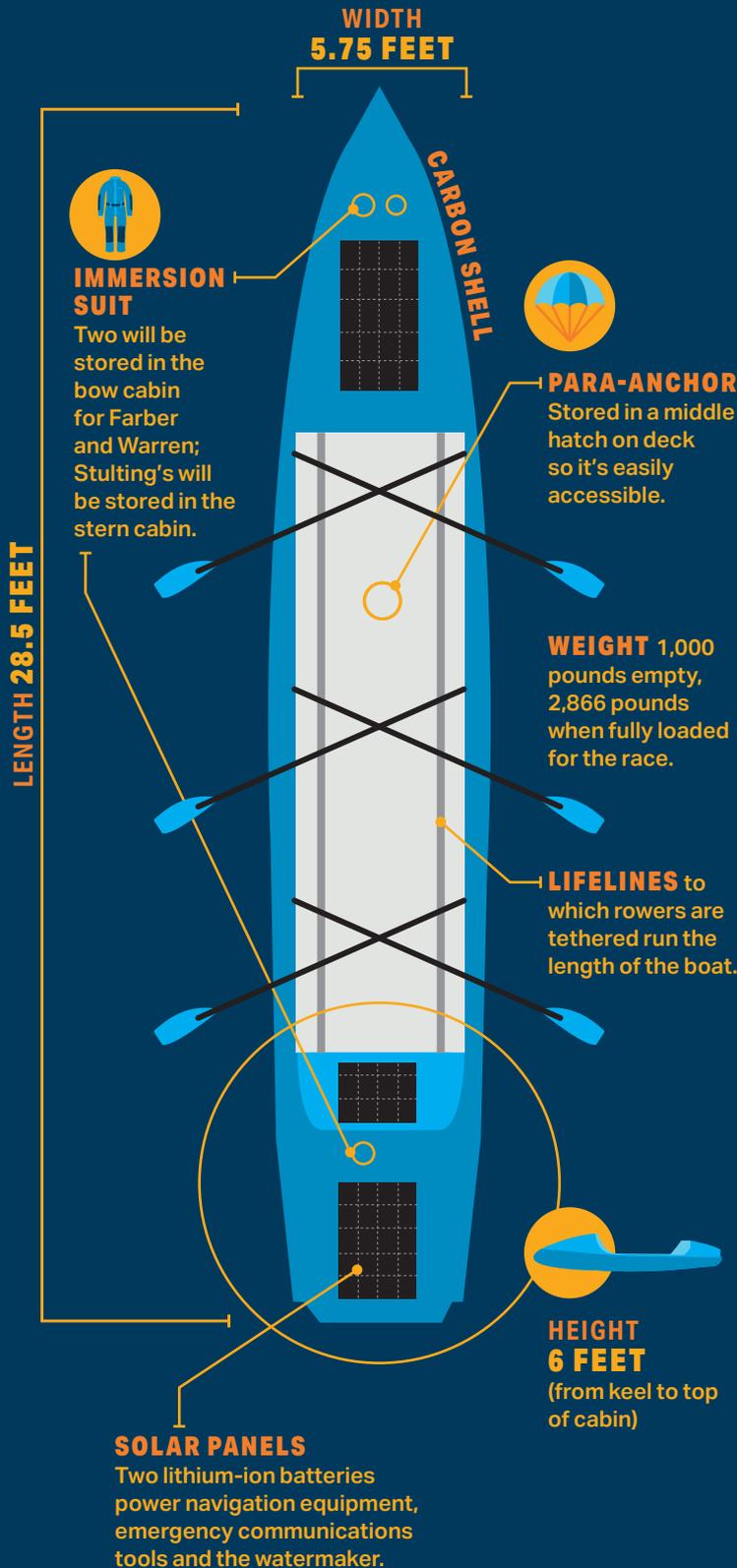
WATERMAKER

The Schenker Smart 30 watermaker is tasked with desalinating the approximately 18 liters of water required each day to hydrate, rehydrate the dehydrated meals and periodically wash off saltwater, sweat and grime from bodies.



PACIFIC OCEAN

The largest ocean, covering more than 30% of the Earth's surface, is bigger than all the continents combined and more than twice the size of the Atlantic.



NUTRITION

With over 5,000 calories burned each day, eating will be a huge chore. Most calories will come from freeze-dried meals and daily snack bags — a personalized gallon bag of snacks for each rower that day. The crew won't have fresh fruit.

In Stulting's bag: Pop-Tarts (cookies and cream), Pringles and Trader Joe's chocolate wafer cookies with peanut butter dipping sauce.



LAND TRAINING

Ergs, squats, deadlifts and pullups, plus cycling and horseback riding.



PLAYLIST

"I Love It" by Icona Pop. "We used to listen to it in the Bucknell boathouse," Stulting says. Plus, audiobooks, the *Moana* soundtrack, pop, R&B, classics, sea shanties. "It's eclectic."



From its modest start with just seven graduates to today's grand celebration of nearly 900, Commencement is the University's most anticipated event of the year. As we mark the 175th edition of this tradition, we look back at the milestones that shaped this event — each a testament to Bucknell's growth and enduring legacy.

by **SUSAN FALCIANI MALDONADO,**
EIR DANIELSON and **KATIE NEITZ**

photographs: courtesy of
SPECIAL COLLECTIONS/UNIVERSITY
ARCHIVES; by **JAMES T. GIFFEN**





Origin Story

Bucknell, initially known as the University at Lewisburg, held its first Commencement August 20, 1851. Seven men earned degrees before an audience that included future U.S. President James Buchanan. The University was described as "carved out of the wilds of Pennsylvania," which wasn't just poetic. The trek from Philadelphia involved a 25-hour journey by stagecoach, canal boat and train.

Bucknell
UNIVERSITY

An undated photo captures Commencement between 1926 and 1932 (above); the legacy continues in 2024 (below).



Dressing the Part

Bucknell's first seven graduates shared a single academic gown, exchanging it behind the platform before stepping up to deliver their speeches. Caps and gowns became the standard in 1891; their use before then was debated. By the 1890-91 academic year, students had embraced the tradition, seeing it as a symbol of academic success. A look through our archives reveals the timelessness of this custom. Grads from each decade share the same look. Only their hairstyles and shoes — and the attire of family members — hint at the changing eras.



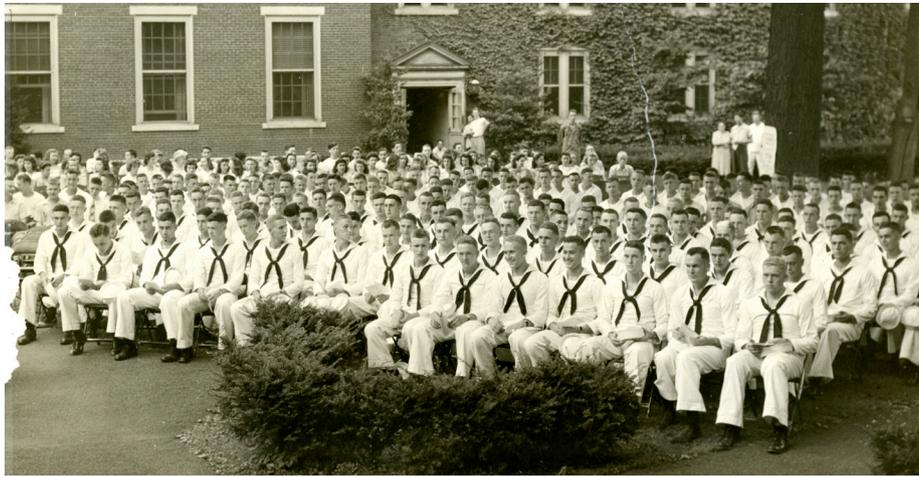
Changing Venues

Bucknell's first ceremony was held in the Academy Building (now Taylor Hall), following a procession that began at old Lewisburg Baptist Church, where classes were first held. From 1855 to 1857, the festivities were held in the **Grove**. By 1858, the event had shifted indoors to Old Main (now Roberts Hall). When Bucknell Hall opened in 1886 with funding from William Bucknell, the Commencement procession began there before ascending to Old Main. In 1926, the ceremony moved to the College Quadrangle, with the porch of the **Carnegie Building** serving as the platform. Starting in 1933, Hunt Hall became the backdrop. By 1938, Commencement moved indoors to the newly constructed Davis Gymnasium. It remained there until 1970, when the ceremony moved to the Academic Quadrangle, now known as Malesardi Quadrangle. Today, seniors participate in a Commencement Eve candlelighting ceremony. On Commencement Day, they process through the Christy Mathewson Gates.



Honoring Luminaries

In 1851, Bucknell became the first U.S. institution to award an honorary doctorate. Since then, Bucknell has honored a variety of achievers, including composer and songwriter **Irving Berlin H'40** (top, left) and 38th Vice President of the United States **Hubert Humphrey H'68** (bottom, right).



When Duty Called

Bucknell's history includes war-time disruptions. In 1863, students formed the University Guards to defend Harrisburg from Confederate soldiers. Commencement was almost canceled, but the seniors returned just in time for the ceremony. During **World War II**, Bucknellians again answered the call to serve. From 1943 to 1946, the University hosted a Navy V-12 training unit, where aspiring officers trained while fast-tracking their bachelor's degrees.



Bucknell's colors, orange and blue, made their first appearance on the Commencement platform in 1887.



JESSICA LIVINGSTON '93 TO ADDRESS 2025 GRADUATES

Jessica Livingston '93, co-founder of Silicon Valley's renowned startup incubator Y Combinator, will deliver the 175th Commencement address May 18. A leader in entrepreneurship and innovation, Livingston has helped launch over 5,500 startups, including Airbnb, Reddit and Stripe. Livingston, who majored in English, exemplifies how a Bucknell education can lay the foundation for a transformative, world-changing career.

Steps Toward Equality

Women had studied at the University since its founding, but primarily in secondary education programs in the Female Institute, a seminary affiliated with the University. In 1885, **Chella Scott** became Bucknell's first female graduate. Scott's achievement occurred when higher education for women was still a relatively new concept.



In 1875, **Edward McKnight Brawley** became the first Black student to earn a bachelor's degree from Bucknell. Brawley went on to become a minister, religious scholar and journalist who served as the president of Selma University and Morris College.



Editor's note: This feature benefited greatly from the expertise of Susan Falciani Maldonado, Bucknell's university archivist and director of special collections, and Eir Danielson, assistant university archivist and records management coordinator.



Bucknell is commemorating the 150th anniversary of Brawley's graduation this year. Visit go.bucknell.edu/blackexcellence to learn how the Division of Equity & Inclusive Excellence is celebrating this milestone.



Learn more about their work at researchbysubject.bucknell.edu/scua and by following [bucknell.scua](https://www.instagram.com/bucknell.scua) on Instagram.

'ray BUCKNELL

MISSION
CONTROL

BROADWAY
MAESTRO

AI MEANS
BUSINESS



A-ROD FOR THE WIN! MLB LEGEND ALEX RODRIGUEZ SCORED \$10,000 FOR OWEN GARWOOD '27 (SEE P. 6)

photograph by LIANNE GARRAHAN '25



In the Face of Uncertainty, Follow the Mission

RAPID CHANGE HAS SWEEPED the nation in recent months, as new federal actions and guidance from numerous executive offices have dominated headlines and conversations.

The new year ushered in a pervasive sense of uncertainty for higher education that is perhaps unmatched in modern times, and it impacts all of us, regardless of our political beliefs and regardless of ultimate outcomes.

We are closely monitoring all developments and working to identify the best courses of action we may need to take to follow the law while also upholding our institutional mission and values. This is challenging, as the legal implications of the multitude

of actions and statements coming from Washington are not always clear, and they sometimes contradict Pennsylvania law.

What is clear to me, as the proud president of Bucknell for nearly 15 years and as a professor and administrator at Stanford for even longer than that, is that higher education in the United States now faces a potentially seismic shift. After spending the last 50 years “in college,” as I like to say — and living on a campus for 46 of them — I know more than a bit about the complex inner workings of these special and in many ways quite decidedly American institutions. I also am deeply aware of the broad

spectrum of beliefs regarding what higher education is and what it should be. And I must urge everyone to not fall for the easy platitudes I hear repeated by all sides.

Whether public or private, large or small, colleges and universities are bracing for the potential loss of federal funding for research, which will impact medical and scientific advances for decades to come. They’re preparing for the possibility of increased visa scrutiny for current and future students and professors, which could reduce enrollment and faculty expertise. They’re studying the impact of potential cuts to federal student aid, which could put paying for college out of reach for students of modest means.

At the same time, the abrupt elimination of federal jobs has affected tens of thousands of workers, which directly impacts those with children in college and could increase their need for financial aid.

These issues are complex and in many ways challenge the basic foundational principles of our work as educators. We are constantly evaluating our legal obligations as circumstances continue to evolve. While we will meet the institution’s legal obligations, we will uphold our core values of academic freedom and student-centered residential education in a welcoming community where everyone can thrive.

Above all, we remain deeply committed to our mission and to serving and educating all Bucknell students, *all* of whom deserve to be here. We must continue to facilitate their learning and growth so they can develop intellectually and personally and discover their purpose in life. We must ensure Bucknell is an inclusive community that welcomes free expression and the exchange of ideas — a place where all can thrive and reach their fullest potential. These values drive every decision we make and unite us in purpose, as they have since our founding.

Higher education is facing complex challenges, but it is worth noting that a crisis can be the catalyst for unexpected breakthroughs. This moment in Bucknell’s history presents the opportunity to recommit to our mission in new ways. As we navigate a changing landscape, we will consider all options to best meet the evolving needs of our community. With thought and care, we will focus on being more innovative than ever before and emerge even stronger. Our commitment to you, and to all Bucknellians to follow, remains steadfast.

John C. Bravman
President



Editor's note: Starting with our summer issue, we will be working with a new digital platform to enhance the online magazine. The upgrade will provide a robust archive of past issues, and for the first time, Class Notes will be published online, allowing readers digital access to this popular column.

Please see P. 62 for a list of our Class Reporters.

1953

ROLAND CREPS notified us of the death of his fraternity brother **ED KNORR**, who died June 16, 2023, in Indiana. Ed married his Bucknell sweetheart, **JANET POPE KNORR '56**, and they lived in the Indianapolis area, where Ed worked in accounting and finance. In retirement, they moved to the Charleston, S.C., area. Janet died Aug. 15. They are survived by two sons and two grandchildren.

ED WILLIAMS, who served in the Navy after college and spent most of his career in Pittsburgh in the nuclear division of Western Electric, died June 4. He was an avid golfer and talented amateur photographer. A native New Yorker and lover of the ocean, he enjoyed vacations at Jones Beach with his family. Following his retirement, he worked for Sony, taught computer classes to seniors and was active in his church. Ed and his friend, **DOWNEY STANCS**, were mainstays at Reunions, providing us with recollections of our college days. Ed is survived by three daughters, including **DIANA WILLIAMS WOOD '84**, and eight grandchildren.

On Aug. 15, **NANCY SCHREINER HUBLEY** died in Chatham, Mass. After college, Nancy married the late **REG '52**, whose career took them to New York, and they settled in Summit, N.J. The couple

had a son and a daughter but later divorced. Nancy was active in Christ Church, where she played the piano and harp and often directed the church choir. A talented thespian, Nancy performed in and directed several semi-professional productions in the New Jersey area and founded an educational theater group. She remained busy in retirement with theatre and her new hobby, painting. She is survived by her two children and one grandchild.

MARY ANN FAIRCHILD DILWORTH died Aug. 31 in Pittsburgh. She taught school for a number of years in Norristown, Pa., and Claymont, Del., where she assisted with publishing the yearbook. She was an active volunteer with the Dickinson Theater Organ Society, which was started by her husband, Meals on Wheels, and other organizations. She received the Delaware governor's award for outstanding service. Predeceased by her husband, **ROBERT '57**, Mary Ann is survived by three children, many grandchildren and five great-grandchildren.

JOHN TROAST of North Palm Beach, Fla., and Harvey Cedars, N.J., died Sept. 19. He served in the Korean War prior to joining the family firm founded by his father, Mahony Troast Construction Co. John was part of the second-generation

expansion to commercial and development work and was active in the early redevelopment of the Hackensack Meadowlands. He was joined in the company by his five sons. John served on the boards of the New Jersey Manufacturers Insurance Group, New Jersey Business and Industry Association and Felician College, where he was awarded the degree of doctor of humane letters. John was proud of a family tradition at Bucknell that included his late brother, **ARTHUR '50**; three sons, **JOHN '79**, **DOUGLAS '85** and **GARY '87**, and two grandsons, **BRIAN '06** and **TYLER '08**. He was a fan of the New York Yankees; his interests also included genealogy, travel and golf. John raised his family in New Jersey and was a Little League coach. Survived by his wife of 68 years, he also leaves behind his sons, 14 grandchildren and 10 great-grandchildren.

ISABEL AITKEN BROOKER died Oct. 15. She met husband **DONALD "BARTH" '54** at Bucknell. She used her art degree in teaching traditional and tapestry rug hooking and planned three national rug exhibitions. A well-known gardener, Isabel was active in several garden clubs and enjoyed creative writing. Her husband preceded her in death and three sons and grandchildren survive her.

ELLEN HERTE SCHICK sent us a smile with this Mark Twain quote: "The older I get, the more clearly I remember things that never happened." — *Christine Hill Killough and John Manbeck*

1954

JAN SHRECK MCKEEL wrote that it was a difficult year for her after husband **BEN '53** passed in 2023 after 67 years of marriage. There were also bright spots along the way. Their son, Scott, his wife and their three daughters are all graduates or students at University of Florida. Jan lives in the retirement home where she's been for the last five years. She finds it very busy, playing lots of bridge and being in an interesting book club. — *Bonnie Mackie Aspinwal*

1955

I received a note from **JOAN HILLIER MONTANARI** filled with memories of living with her GI Bill husband in Vet's Village and fighting the mice. She worked at "Donehower Sporting Goods — a small but charming 5-and-10 store that had the best chicken corn chowder." Joan joined Phi Alpha Pi, an independent sorority, and son David was born in Lewisburg hospital. She remarried, had two daughters and traveled extensively. Joan retired as a critical care nurse at

age 72. Joan adds, "I would like to know what others are doing. I enjoy reading about them in the magazine."

Classmates enjoyed our mental trip back to Bucknell and wrote to me wanting more. Here we go: "Where is my dink and sign?" Freshmen were not allowed to walk the "Lit Path." We had to be back in the dorm by 8 p.m. on weekdays and 10 p.m. on weekends. We danced to "Blue Moon" at Pardo's, and the tennis coach was the chaperone at the Phi Psi Open House.

The girls lived at the bottom of the hill and were called the "Sem Gems." (Boys outnumbered girls four to one.) Commerce and finance majors had more time to date than the engineers. How did 40 Hunt Hall girls manage with one phone in a closet? Freshman year the football team was undefeated. Cheerleaders: "Give me a B!"

Hectic Wednesday afternoons to meet *The Bucknellian's* deadline, but there was time to take a break and go to Chet's for coffee.

MEREDITH PEASE EASTERLY '86 writes, "This is just a quick note to say that I enjoyed your memories in *Bucknell Magazine*. Some of them were my memories too, many years later in the early '80s, and it was nice to see different traditions over time." — *Eleanor Mackie Pigman*



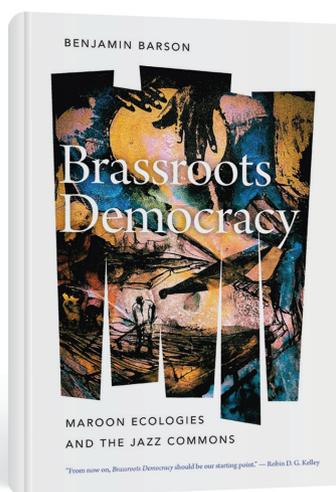
The Rhythm of Change

by MATT JONES

HISTORY DOESN'T NECESSARILY REPEAT itself, though it does have its own set of rhythms. Governments rise and fall. Economies crash and recover. Industries boom and disappear. Where inequality swells, revolution follows. Time marches on to the drumbeat of civilization. As Professor Ben Barson, music, argues in his new book, history's musical undercurrent is far more than a symbolic tool for understanding how the world has changed.

In *Brassroots Democracy: Maroon Ecologies and the Jazz Commons*, which was named a Best Book of 2024 by *PopMatters*, Barson explores how Black musicians shaped music into a world-making force that impacted everything from the Haitian Revolution to Reconstruction and the birth of jazz. Building on Julius S. Scott's *The Common Wind*, a book that details the networks of information about the Haitian Revolution that spread across the Caribbean, Barson's research demonstrates that music was a powerful force in responding to systems of slavery and imperialism. "I wanted to call attention to this acoustic, kinetic moment that inaugurated this new age of revolution and trace how song, rhythm and instrumentation articulated itself in these pivotal moments," says Barson.

Both a jazz musician and a community activist, Barson has long been interested in the relationship between music and social movements. While he was an undergraduate at Hampshire College, his African American studies courses revealed a connection between the ethos of music and the history of the campaign for equal rights. Barson continued to investigate these topics while pursuing



his doctorate in music at the University of Pittsburgh. "It was acknowledged that the 1960s were a time of convergence between questions of social relations, the political imaginary and developments in music," he says. But Barson also questioned whether there was a deeper, more dynamic history to be unearthed. "This book emerged from my Ph.D. research, and my Ph.D. research emerged from feeling the power of music across historical contexts."

Of particular importance to grassroots democracy movements was the formation of large brass bands, which were composed of both freedpeople and formerly enslaved people. These bands frequently performed at mass meetings, rallies and parades, often improvising musical arrangements as a mode of political expression. "Being innovative and being able to improvise were markers of being politically aware," says Barson.

Spontaneous improvisation is commonly associated with jazz music, which Barson links to the mass movements of freedpeople that mobilized in confrontation with the institution of slavery. "Improvisation has always had a dynamic social commentary that reflected the spirit of the times," he says.

Given the improvisational nature of jazz, there is a commonly accepted refrain that you'll never hear the same jazz performance twice. In this way, jazz does not repeat itself, though it contains the rhythms of history.

Brassroots Democracy: Maroon Ecologies and the Jazz Commons was released by Wesleyan University Press in 2024 and can be found at weslpress.org.

Faculty & Alumni Books

Professor DeeAnn M. Reeder P'16
The Lives of Bats: A Natural History (Princeton University Press, 2025)

Professor **DeeAnn Reeder P'16**, a renowned expert in bat biology, offers a comprehensive exploration of bats, which play an essential role in ecosystems worldwide. *The Lives of Bats* offers a visually stunning look at these often misunderstood creatures. With over 1,400 species of bats inhabiting nearly every part of the globe, they contribute to controlling insect populations and pollinating plants, yet they remain largely underappreciated.

Editor's note: The magazine will explore Reeder's work — including her role as a research associate for the National Museum of Natural History, Smithsonian Institution — in an upcoming issue.

Richard Zanetti '61, M'64
Vector: A Thriller

(Archway Publishing, 2024)
Zanetti, a retired publishing executive, chemical engineer and Army veteran, brings his diverse experiences to *Vector*. His background, including work in environmental safety, informs this suspenseful story.

SHARE YOUR WORK WITH US

Bucknellians, have you recently published a book, launched a podcast, released a film or developed an app? We'd love to hear about it!



Send your news to bmagazine@bucknell.edu

1956

I knew the late **JOHN HAYES** since the beginning of our enrollment in the pre-med course at Bucknell. I paralleled his matriculation at Temple University's school of medicine. We shared dinners together while at Temple, and I got to know his wife and kids as well.

CLAIRE HAMMOND EBERHART M'57 and I visited him and his first wife, Shirley, when he was stationed at Fort Belvoir and at Fort Dix. His family visited us at our home in Yardley, Pa. He and Shirley moved to Arizona because of her multiple sclerosis. When she passed, he married **DOT HUND HAYES**. Whenever we visited our son in Phoenix, we would share a lunch out.

When I moved to Phoenix following Claire's passing, I reconnected with John. I attended his funeral Nov. 18 and learned of his involvement in the Shriners Hospital and his passion for fishing and hunting. John always had a smile on his face. From offsprings' testimonies, it was obvious that there was a lot of love in his family. He will be missed. — *Joseph Eberhart*

1957

"Where to start?" asks **GLADYS FREUND MCDONNELL** when describing her 37 years as a docent at the Bronx Zoo and another seven at the American Museum of Natural History. "My favorite is the two little old ladies who announced with great certainty that the Earth was created 4,000 years ago. Why on

earth did they come to a science museum? But I didn't argue.

"At the zoo, on the other hand, people don't offer opinions. They listen in awe as I go on about the miraculous creatures human beings are. Did you know that it's our backside that gives us the ability to build everything we have? The gluteus maximus is the single largest muscle in our body and allows us to stand upright."

If you happen to be in NYC, let Gladys know (c.mcdonnell@verizon.net) and she'll get you a freebie to the zoo and the museum. I'd like to add here that Gladys majored in French and history, and here she is lecturing about our butts.

If it weren't for the detective work of **BILLIE JANE "B.J." BOYER MAUL**, I wouldn't have learned of the death of **CAROL CHRIST STEELE** last March in Jupiter, Fla. She and **LAURENCE** wed a few months after graduation and were married for 58 years. The Steeles settled in Williamsville, N.Y., where she was a teacher's aide, got involved in community affairs and rooted for the Buffalo Bills. Carol is survived by three children, one of whom, Nanci Massey, our indefatigable B.J. tracked down.

MARY JOYCE WOODWARD LONG BERINGER, who after graduation and her marriage to the late **FORREST LONG** spent many years as an elementary school teacher, died in July. She was an active learner and traveler and eager to experience different cultures, celebrating the threads that bind

humanity. That desire to learn kept her engaged in biblical and theological studies, gardening, singing and sewing beautifully tailored garments. After Forrest's death, Mary Joyce married Marshall Beringer, but once again she was widowed. She is survived by two children and five grandchildren.

RALPH RIKER, the first of three generations of Bucknellians, died in 2023; his son, **ROB '88, M'91**, sent me the news. Ralph was captain of the Bison football team and remained an active member of the Bison Club. The third generation is Rob's son, **JON '22**. Not only does Bucknell blood run in the veins of the menfolk, but they married Bucknell women: the late **RUTHANNE HOMMEL RIKER '59** left after her sophomore year to follow Ralph around the country as he fulfilled his ROTC obligations; she later completed her music degree while son Rob was at the University. Rob's wife is **LAURA SWEENEY RIKER '91**. After returning to civilian life, Ralph joined the New Jersey National Guard and served for 27 years.

Rob writes, "Dad was tough and a bit old school; he lived his life with reckless abandon as a helicopter pilot (flying over the family home to check on his children), boating and fishing enthusiast and competitor — right down to the legendary games of checkers he played with my kids at Thanksgiving."

ADELAIDE SINS KROUSE COOLEGDE reports, "I moved back to Massachusetts to be near my family. Although I

loved living in Vermont, I couldn't convince any of them to move north. So, I'm happy to be back and going to soccer and football games to cheer on my grandchildren. My youngest grandchild has an offer to attend Bucknell next year. I'm not sure which of the schools he is going to choose. I'm trying to be the good grandmother and support him in his decision process, but sometimes I want to turn him into a Bucknell alum."

By the time you read this, the decision will have been made. Let us know, Sins. And the rest of you: Please eat your blueberries, take long walks and send us news. — *Carolyn "Callie" Meyer*

1958

BILL MEISTER writes that he and wife Beth did a lot of traveling until last year, "when we had to abandon ship while on a cruise, and I spent nine days in a hospital in the Netherlands. It was a great hospital but not as good as a cruise. Beth has decided our cruising days are over, and I can't blame her. The last time I visited the University was in 2016 when I attended the 60th anniversary of swimming and diving at Bucknell. It was actually my idea/suggestion to the swim coach to have it, and he did a great job.

"We live in Lewes, Del., near my youngest daughter. I can't swim in the ocean, but my homeowners association has a great pool. Two of my grandchildren (2 and 6) are close, so Beth gets to do lots of babysitting." By the time you read this, Bill should have nine

grandchildren and two great-grandchildren.

While Bill was engaged to a fellow Bucknellian, that did not work out. "I married a Connecticut girl after I left the Army, and we had three daughters, born in Reno, Nev. We lived in Reno for 34 years, and I loved every minute until she divorced me. I was in education there for 32 years. Luckily, I met a beautiful and intelligent woman, who was an engineer, a few years later; we've been together for 40 years. She was recruited by an intelligence agency, so we moved to Virginia in 1998. We had my fourth daughter together.

"I think I was the youngest guy in our class. It took until my junior year before I knew a freshman girl younger than me. I will be 87 Oct. 15, 2024."

CATHY HOFFMAN DOREMUS wrote that she enjoyed reading about my trips, adding, "You are following my theory that you can't hit a moving target. I spent the summer at my lake house, which has been renamed The Last Resort. It was called Five Pines, but they are long gone. The house was built around 1913. My younger son, Peter, is renovating it to make it his homebase when he is in the U.S. and not in Florida."

Cathy reported that **PAT WENK STRACHAN '57** was coming to the lake for a visit. Pat lives near daughter Ellen in an assisted-living facility.

"I hope your plea will generate some replies, but our ranks continue to thin. Going to doctors and funerals seem to be prime activities for me. I'm involved in church, two

30 UNDER 30 HONOREE

A STELLAR CAREER

NASA engineer Serena Tramm '20 gathers data from distant worlds to answer some of science's biggest questions

by **MATT JONES**

FOR MILLENNIA, HUMANS have turned their eyes skyward and wondered what lies beyond our planet. Yet only a few actually play a part in finding answers. "My job bridges the question and the data that can answer it," says **Serena Tramm '20**, an applied science systems lead engineer at the NASA Jet Propulsion Laboratory (JPL) in La Cañada Flintridge, Calif.

Tramm didn't always dream of exploring space. But an internship as a systems operations engineer with Northrop Grumman and an astrophysics class taught by Professor Michele Thornley, physics & astronomy, got the mechanical engineering major thinking about how she could apply her skills to the great beyond. "I was able to dip my toe into the subject at Bucknell, which helped me realize it was something I wanted to explore more," she says.

With the help of her professors, she was accepted into a graduate astrophysics program at Rochester Institute of Technology. There, she discovered a love of instrument engineering for astrophysics, which involved launching sounding rockets carrying scientific instruments into space. Her research helped her formulate a clear picture of her ideal career. "I didn't think it was possible to work for NASA — it's everyone's pipe dream," she says. "But when I got the job offer, I knew it was what I wanted to do."



As an engineer at the NASA Jet Propulsion Laboratory, Serena Tramm '20 has turned her dream career into a reality.

At JPL, Tramm has worked on instrument operations for the Mars Perseverance rover and Earth-observing satellites like Sentinel-6, which measure sea-surface heights to understand climate change. "Everyone I work with is doing something that's never been done before," she says. "We're always doing things for the first time."



In 2024, the Center for Alumni & Family Engagement named Serena Tramm '20 as one of Bucknell's 30 Under 30. Learn more and nominate a 2025 honoree at go.bucknell.edu/30Under30

mahjong groups and two book groups, and I'm quite active politically. Does it seem possible that we graduated 66 years ago?" — *Roberta Bayer Schlacks*

1959

DONNA JEANNE GAY GRUN KAPLAN writes, "I just finished reading my copy of the *Bucknell Magazine*; what a great read, and how glad I was to catch up with friends and Bucknell happenings. [During my time at the University] I lived in Lewisburg and was a 'townie' — in the best sense of the word, of course. I moved from Mt. Gretna, Pa., to

Independent Living at Traditions of Hershey in Palmyra, Pa., to be with husband Melvyn Kaplan, who was in personal care here until he died. My daughters, Ellen and Emily, both live nearby. I'm very happy here; it is a wonderful place with much to do."

MONA O'NEILL SHARKEY writes, "Our 1959 classmates are slowly passing away, and I always look for this information in each issue of the magazine. I had special friends in earlier classes as well, including **ART KINNEY '56**, my freshmen year. **KEN LANGONE** was usually back in Queens on the

weekends, so we did not see much of him at the Sigma Chi house when there was an Open House going on. Women had hours and social restrictions on mixing with male Bucknellians, which in hindsight was a good idea.

"I met my late husband, **BILL**, at our fifth Class Reunion in 1964. I knew who he was — a quiet guy in my philosophy class. Anyhow, we hit it off after sharing conversation and a beverage at the SAE house. He called me two weeks later at my job at the New York World's Fair. A year later, in June of 1965, we were married. How lucky we were both

able to attend our first Class Reunion."

She reported that Bill died June 29 and was a member of the first varsity swim team, a member of Lambda Chi Alpha and a sports reporter for *The Bucknellian*. — *Heidi Hormel*

1960

MARILYN PEARCE HARDER SALCHERT writes, "My first husband, **GEORGE HARDER '59**, and I had 26 good years and two children together before his sudden death in 1986. My second husband, George Salchert, a widowed father of seven, and I had 30 good years

before his death from COVID-19 in 2020. I'm proud of 22 grandchildren and 12 great-grandchildren. I live in a continuing care retirement community in Laurinburg, N.C., a wonderful place with lots of activities and interesting friends. My arthritis is severe, but I do editing jobs, library work and social work, and sing in our community choir. My partner, John Clinton, a retired U.S. Navy captain, keeps me smiling."

ELLIE BODY FETTERMAN wrote to tell me that her 24-year-old granddaughter, Mary, performed as the lead soprano in the "Messiah"

at Peachtree United Methodist Church in Atlanta. She graduated from Eastman School of Music, Rochester, N.Y., with a master's in voice and is an aspiring opera singer. Her parents are **TED '92** and **DEBBIE RAGUSA FETTERMAN '92**. Ellie adds, "I live at the family cabin, where I have been since 1974. A group of us came to the same cabin after the Lehigh vs. Bucknell football game in the fall of 1958. My oldest son, **TERRY '89**, had a wonderful experience at the University. He returned to campus with his friend **GARRIN KAPECKI '89**, who was inducted into the Bucknell Athletic Hall of Fame. After having four children and 11 grandchildren, I am doing well at 86."

GERRY BUSHYEAGER reports, "Every time I get *Bucknell Magazine*, I tell myself to write to you [Pete], so here we go. I left Bucknell with a degree in business administration, a commission as a second lieutenant in the infantry, a job with U.S. Steel [USS] and a smile on my face. I wrapped up my Army

Reserve obligation as a captain in a civil affairs company and retired from a 40-year career in accounting management with USS in 2000. I married and helped raise three children who have turned out to be a computer consultant, a financial planner and, the youngest, a lawyer. I'm so proud of them and the eight grandchildren they have provided us. I left Pittsburgh for Florida after retirement, but the heat got to us, so we moved to East Tennessee and the Tellico Village, a retirement community with three championship golf courses, a 16,000-acre lake and lots of other amenities. I tinker with a couple old cars I own and belong to six car clubs. I stay busy with the cars and play golf a couple times a week. For the last eight years, we've been spending winters in The Villages in Lady Lake, Fla. I'm a lucky guy and that smile is still on my face."

Bindy and **JACK WOERNER** enjoy living in Charlotte, N.C., and visit Hilton Head Island, S.C., quite often and connect

with Brad Tufts to catch up on Bucknell activities and hit the golf ball — not as far as desired. "I [Jack] continue to help small- and medium-sized companies grow, and I'm presently working with an AI company, Forward-Lane.com. It's always great to hear about Bucknell friends, which extends to my daughter, **HILARY WOERNER CLARKE '97**."

DICK WERNER writes, "I sold my company, Shaker Computer and Management Services, in 2018 to an English company. In retirement, I've been volunteering in the nonprofit sector. I'm the president of the board of Bethesda House of Schenectady, N.Y. I have a wonderful wife, two married children and three grandchildren. My kids, who are 60 and 57, are thinking of retiring at those young ages. Is that the norm these days? Unfortunately, the benefits of old age barely outweigh the problems associated with being elderly."

CHUCK BRYDEN sent a note about having lunch in Fort Myers Beach, Fla., with **LOU RUSSO** and his wife, Kathy. Chuck adds, "Lou was a fellow member of Lambda Chi Alpha and had a long career as a dentist in New Jersey."

I wish you all a healthy and enjoyable 2025. Go Bison! — *Pete Fritts*

1961

November was a stellar month for me, with a fantastic Sierra Club kayaking trip on the springs and rivers of central Florida, followed by a delightful two-day visit with **CAROLYN**

SCHAAF HORTER at her home in Gainesville, Fla.

Carolyn also had a visit from **JOYCE KRAEKEL DEWSBURY**, who reports, "Carolyn and I have been friends since high school and both graduated from Bucknell. At lunch, we discussed what we've both been doing and the election. We went to the Gainesville Fine Arts Association [GFAA] to the new exhibit, *Nostalgia*. I also showed Carolyn my small display in the GFAA art shop. She surprised and delighted me by buying one of my fabric-art pieces. It was a lovely afternoon."

RICHARD ZANETTI M'64's thriller, *Vector*, has been published and is available on the Amazon and Barnes & Noble websites. He described it as "a fun read for thriller fans," which undoubtedly includes a lot of aging Bucknellians.

I hope to hear from more of you in 2025. — *Jan Powers*

1962

ROBERT CHERTKOF writes, "In May of 1962 after four years of Army ROTC, I earned a Bachelor of Science in civil engineering and was commissioned a second lieutenant in the Army Corps of Engineers. Memorial Day 2024 brought to mind a special memory for me. On the morning shows on that day, they had several uplifting interviews and stories of military men and women.

"It made me think about my own two years of service, especially the six months I was stationed in Indonesia on a military advisory assistance

group assignment. What came to mind was July 4, 1964, when I was called from where I was in the jungles in Bogor, 40 miles from Djakarta, to come to the U.S. Embassy in Djakarta and bring my dress uniform with me. I had no idea why. When I entered the ballroom, there was a party going on to celebrate the Fourth of July — which in the military and outside the U.S. was treated as a big deal. A group of officers called me over, and before I knew what it was all about, they removed my gold bar second lieutenant and replaced it with a first lieutenant silver bar." — *Heidi Hormel*

1963

DAVE ULP of Dover, Del., passed away at home Dec. 18, 2023. He majored in civil engineering and served six years in the Navy. After his military service, he worked for Playtex in Dover as a civil engineer and owned and operated the Country Pantry restaurant, also in Dover, before entering the real estate business.

Dave is survived by his wife of 15 years, Susan Keller, daughter Stephanie, former wife Donna, and grandchildren. — *Penny West Suritz*

1965

FRANK PANCZYSZYN writes that he and his wife spent Christmas "at home in Williamsburg, Va., with our three children and four grandkids. Mary and I have made a series of short trips in the Tidewater and Richmond area this season."

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30 UNDER 30

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MAY 30–JUNE 1, 2025

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This year will celebrate the 50th Reunion of the Class of 1975; the Classes of 1980, 1985, 1990, 1995, 2000, 2005, 2010, 2015 and 2020; and all emeritus classes (Class of 1974 and earlier). Members of these classes should watch their email for more information.

Reunion events include class-specific gatherings, campus tours, festivals and more. View the event schedule, explore your class page, make a gift in honor of your Reunion and register to attend at go.bucknell.edu/Reunion.



FIND YOUR CLASSMATES AT BUCKNELL.EDU/ALUMNIAPP AND SHARE YOUR EXCITEMENT ON SOCIAL MEDIA USING [#BUCKNELLREUNION](https://twitter.com/BUCKNELLREUNION).

JIM ROWBOTHAM passed along **JOHN RINDLAUB**'s Christmas letter, and I culled a few of the many interesting parts. John chairs the National Bureau of Asian Research, a think tank for Asian security, economic and military issues. He lives in Sarasota County, Fla., and suffered through 100-mile-an-hour winds that hammered nearby neighborhoods and barrier islands. Luckily, he was able to get back to normal quickly. There were road trips, including stops at Mt. Rushmore, the Battle of Little Big Horn, Devil's Tower and Redwood National Park. **DOUG CLARK** writes, "I married my long-time partner, Gary Hawks, Aug. 10 in our home in Ashville, N.C. In attendance were our ex-wives, four children, seven grandchildren and numerous friends including **ALAN**

ROBERTS '70. One is never too old." For the last two years, **ELISSA "ELLY" RICHARDS KARN** and I have met in Washington, D.C., to enjoy the city together. Sixty years ago, Elly and I were roommates. What fun to realize that we still have so much in common. I'm trying to convince her (and all of you) to come back for our 60th Reunion in May — and also to go on the Bucknell alumni tour of National Parks and Lodges of the Old West at the end of August. **JACK FRAZIER** never found his long-lost Bucknell love, **MARGARET "MAGGIE" MOORE PLATT**. An anonymous tipster told him that she married and both she and her husband became professors at Louisiana State University before retiring to Florida. But despite considerable effort, Jack was unable to

make contact with Maggie, and if anyone can conduct proper research, it's Jack. He earned a Ph.D. in zoology, specializing in turtles and sea life, working for the Smithsonian doing worldwide research. The list of his awards and publications runs over 65 pages. While Jack could not contact Maggie, his old Bucknell buddy, **JIM BROWN**, contacted him after reading his name in this column. They have enjoyed emailing and catching up. Jack shared this funny memory of Jim: "Jim was a good swimmer. I think he 'pinned' his girlfriend in the Phi Gamma Delta house; they had to go into the bathroom to have privacy (the things one remembers!)." Jim confirmed the woman he pinned — and later married — was **BABETTE HOCEVAR**

BROWN. She was an early computer programmer, and he practiced as a pediatrician in Syracuse, N.Y., for 38 years. They live in Chapel Hill, N.C. As Jack said, it's funny what we remember and the people we would like to reconnect with. You can always send those things to this column, but even better, plan to come to our 60th Reunion in May. It may be the last chance for us to connect with special memories and special people. Bucknell does a great job of hosting reunions, including offering every frat boy's dream — free beer and wine! I hope to see you there. — *Jackie Hornor Plumez*

1966
I finished reading *Framed*, a disturbing but compelling book that at the time of this writing sat at #2 on

The New York Times nonfiction bestseller list. Published last October, it was co-written by John Grisham and our good friend **JIM MCCLOSKEY '64**. It is a collection of 10 astonishing stories, five from each author, in which innocent people were falsely convicted of murder and sentenced to life in prison or death. It was while Jim was at Princeton Theological Seminary in 1980 doing his field education work as a student chaplain at Trenton State Prison that he became convinced of the innocence of a man serving a life sentence for a Newark, N.J., murder. Jim began his Centurion Ministries nonprofit organization in an effort to exonerate this inmate and was ultimately successful in doing so in 1983. Since then, Centurion has helped free 70 other men and

30 UNDER 30 HONOREE

LIFE LESSONS

For high school teacher John Quinn '18, a quality education goes beyond the classroom

by MATT JONES

AS A POSSE SCHOLAR AT BUCKNELL, John Quinn '18 learned the importance of giving back to his community. After graduating with a degree in history, Quinn returned to his home district of Prince George's County Public Schools, where he teaches AP and IB psychology and government at Frederick Douglass High School. He has also advised the National Honor Society, coached the debate team and helped found the school's mental health club.

Quinn's time at Bucknell taught him that the value of education extends beyond the classroom. "The experience at Bucknell was just as much about what happened outside of the classroom as inside of the classroom," he says.

In his first year of teaching, Quinn was named High School Male Educator of the Year by his district. He went on to earn his master's from Teachers College at Columbia University, where he wrote a thesis on implementing a positive psychology curriculum to explore adolescent identity development.

"A Bucknell education instills in you how important it is to learn about the injustices in society, the inequities, especially in public education," he says. For Quinn, tackling those injustices often takes place at the individual level. "Mentorship between students and young teachers is key," he says. "Being able to connect with young people is both important and rewarding."



John Quinn '18 draws upon his experience as a Posse Scholar to inform his career as an educator.

Looking ahead, Quinn aims to drive systemic change as an administrator. He joined his district's aspiring leaders program and hopes to become an assistant principal and, eventually, a principal.



In 2024, the Center for Alumni & Family Engagement named John Quinn '18 as one of Bucknell's 30 Under 30. Learn more and nominate a 2025 honoree at go.bucknell.edu/30Under30

women who collectively spent over 1,500 years in prison for the crimes of others. The five stories that Jim wrote are of Centurion cases he worked on over the years in different parts of the country. The five that John Grisham wrote are ones he was familiar with serving as an advocate for the imprisoned innocent since 2006. John is on the boards of Centurion and NYC's Innocence Project. What is so disturbing is that these innocent victims were convicted because of lies, omitted evidence and coercion, false confessions by police and

prosecutors whom we tend to trust to do the right thing. The stories really challenge our faith in a system that is supposed to be fair and just. Read *Framed* for yourself, and you will surely agree. Congratulations to Jim.

After a couple of nasty hurricanes destroyed the renowned Turtle Club in Naples, Fla., for a time, it has been rebuilt and is looking better than ever. It is co-owned by the Moore family (**MICHAEL '64** and **CAROLYN MORTON MOORE '65** and their son, Mick, along with a partner), and the family has hosted an alumni

sunset-on-the-beach event. This fall, 20-some Bucknellians enjoyed cocktails and appetizers and a splendid sunset on the gulf. Bucknellians from the '60s who attended, in addition to the Moores, were **NORM '63, M'64** and **MARY LOU ROPPEL GARRITY '64, BOB POLINER '64, RICH RITTENBERG '64, LARRY HEPLER '65, FLOSSIE GRABER WATT, ME (JACKIE), PAT SWENSON '68, JACK PHILLIPS '68, LINDA LAWRENCE NUTTALL '69** and **LARRY KLOCK '69**.

I'm sorry to report the loss of **TOWNLEY LARZELERE**, who passed

away after a lengthy illness following a stroke. Townley lived in California for almost 50 years and was active in real estate development. He leaves his daughter and a granddaughter, who live in British Columbia, Canada, and his sister, **NANCY LARZELERE PUFF '69**, wife of **BOB '67**. Townley was a proud FIJI at Bucknell as well as a swimmer. Another FIJI from our class, **ROLAND "CAPPY" CAPONE**, sadly lost wife Sue to cancer after 56 years of marriage. He writes, "She was about everything to me." **BEN ELLIOTT** adds that Sue was "a lovely, gentrified

Southern lady." Our thoughts are with Nancy and Cappy, and may these losses of dear friends remind us yet again to appreciate and make the most of each day we are fortunate to be given. Please continue to keep in touch. — Jackie Pearson Weidenfeller

1967

KEN GILBERT made my job somewhat easier by sending me an email with an update on his and wife **RUTH DURFEE GILBERT's** life. They've moved to Vancouver, Wash., to a 55-plus community. Generally, they're

30 UNDER 30 HONOREE

RESTORING JUSTICE

Johnathan Coleman '19 uses his law degree to address societal injustices

by MATT JONES

JOHNATHAN "CHIEF" COLEMAN '19 felt torn between a career in politics or law until a study abroad trip to South Africa showed him a path forward. "Learning about South Africa's restorative justice process after apartheid inspired me," he says. "I grew up in a lower-class socioeconomic area, and one reason I wanted to go to law school is that the criminal justice system had impacted my family. I thought that having a better understanding of the law would protect us from injustice."

While studying at University of Southern California Gould School of Law, Coleman joined the Post-Conviction Justice Project (PCJP), where he provided pro bono representation to incarcerated individuals before the California Board of Parole. "These people have been rehabilitated and paid their debt to society, so we should help them reintegrate," he says.

His work with the PCJP led him to pilot a restorative justice program in Long Beach, Calif., where community members help determine responses to crime. "It's taught me that, sometimes, people just need a second chance," says Coleman, who serves as the vice chair of the Ethics Commission for the City of Long Beach.

In addition to his commitment to restorative justice, Coleman practices intellectual property and privacy law. "In private practice,



At Bucknell, Johnathan Coleman '19 was a Posse Scholar, member of the water polo team and the Commencement student speaker.

I represent large corporations in relatively sophisticated matters," he says. "Shifting from my practice to restorative justice work reminds me of why I went to law school in the first place. It's an honor to advocate for others."



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"pleased at our choice and seem to be thriving." They're hoping alums in the area might contact them: Ken at kkgg@volo.net and Ruth at ruthgilbert@gmail.com.

BRUCE PENNINO lives in central Massachusetts. A civil engineering major, he worked in that field until his retirement 18 years ago. Since then, he's used his engineering skills as a volunteer with several rails-to-trails projects, assessing the bridges on the railroad bed, some of which are more than 130 years old. This struck a chord with me because I've worked on a trail-building crew since retirement, including preparing a local

rails-to-trails project. Bruce has a cottage at Wellfleet on Cape Cod, Mass., where his family spends the summers. His closest Bucknell friend, **BRUCE BASARAB**, passed away in 2014.

NATALIE SMITH GRABOW was a math major and worked for Bell Labs. She took some years off with her children and then returned to Bell. She and her husband have been retired for more than 25 years. She played tennis regularly but then took up distance running and biking. At age 59, she learned to swim to participate in triathlons and has taken part in the Iron Man Triathlon in

Kona, Hawaii, 10 times, finishing first in her age group once and in the top five on many other occasions. She had three triathlons scheduled for this summer and will participate in the Kona event in October. Her goal is to be the first woman over age 80 to complete the event. A full triathlon includes a 2.5-mile open-water swim, 112-mile bike ride and concludes with a 26.2-mile run. Natalie occasionally gets together with **CHRIS KLOCKNER WEST**, **NANCY HAMILTON BLASIUS**, **SUZANNE MANTE ALCOCK** and **BETSY HAYES BARRETT**. She has two

daughters and four grandchildren. **BRIAN ARMET** moved from an adjacent town to Berlin, Conn., a few years ago. A civil engineering major, he later got his master's in sanitary engineering from Penn State, where he met his wife. Brian served 15 years as the executive director of the Mattabassett sewer district, and prior to that, he spent 25 years as an environmental consultant. He is president of his condo association, and he and his wife travel widely, including cruises in France and Great Britain, on the Columbia and Snake rivers, and soon around Iceland. He has

two sons and four grandchildren and stays in touch with **DICK BARLOW**.

MARGARET "PEGGY" MESSMORE PERELLA was a music major, concentrating on piano. She taught music lessons for several years after graduation, and after a break with her children, she was in health care administration, eventually becoming director of the local library. When it expanded, permission from the local government to do so was contingent upon naming part of the complex for her: the Perella Schoolhouse, which is part of the Intercourse (Pa.) Library. She remains in contact

with **PAT FELLOWS SCHAFFNER** and **JUDY BESSOR MCDOWELL**.

BOB GOEHRING went to Duquesne University's law school and practiced law in Pittsburgh until 2024. In 1995, he was elected as a delegate to a White House meeting on small businesses, where he rubbed elbows with Bill Clinton and Al Gore. His son, **ROB '93**, practiced law with Bob until COVID-19 forced some changes. Bob gets together occasionally with Phi Psi brothers **STEVE LINCOLN, GEORGE WILEY** and **JOHN DEERMOUNT**.

HAL WOOLLEY lives in the same Manhattan home he bought in 1976 and has been retired for 10 years, having worked for the Bessemer Trust, a family-controlled investment firm. He is interested in history and literary issues, in pursuit of which he belongs to the LOTOS club, which offers lectures, conferences and dinners. Of Dutch heritage, Hal read *Island at the Center of the World*, which traces the Dutch founding of Manhattan. His wife is interested in genealogy; her ancestors arrived on the Mayflower. — *Chuck Gilliland*

1968

WARD ANDERSON reports, "My novel, *Putin's Interpreter*, was released as an e-book Sept. 11 (putinsinterpreter.com). A paperback version is coming soon."

GEORGE ROENNING of Sevastopol, Wis., passed away Oct. 19, leaving behind a legacy of kindness, humility and dedication. He was raised

in New Jersey and spent summers in Wyalusing, Pa., fishing and working on his uncle's farm, igniting his love for the outdoors. While at Bucknell, George joined Theta Chi and met his first wife, **BARBARA GRAY ROENNING**, who predeceased him. He enlisted in the Army during the Vietnam era and served in Alaska as a medical administrator.

George attended medical school at Rutgers, followed by his residency at the University of Wisconsin-Madison. Shortly thereafter, he began his career in Sturgeon Bay, the small Wisconsin community that he loved. He then dedicated over 30 years to medicine as a family physician before retiring in 2012.

It was during a 1991 ski trip that George met Kristi. They married and created a blended family. George spent special days fishing and hunting, especially at the family cottage in Minocqua. He was also a runner, cyclist, skier and dedicated fan of the Badgers, Packers and Brewers. He was a voracious reader with a love for music, especially Queen's "Bohemian Rhapsody," a vegetable gardener and a member of the Peninsula Singers.

Despite his health challenges, George lived his life fully. He deeply loved his family, his work and the community around him.

LYNN HUNTSBERGER KILLHEFFER reports on the latest KD mini-reunion, "The week of Sept. 9, five of us met in LA, where hostess **SUSAN PENECALE ZOLLA** arranged a full and varied

itinerary. Also attending were **BRENDA CROUTH-AMEL ADAMS, NANCY WEBER VETTER** and **KATHY FENTON WAGNER (JENNY PAYNE REESE** and **JANET FUOSS VIGUE** couldn't make it). The seven of us have been Zooming every other month since before COVID-19.

"We stayed overnight in Playa del Rey, Manhattan Beach and Susan's house in Brentwood. The first morning we had a breakfast visit from **FRANK ARENTOWICZ '69**. Things on the agenda included a day at the Huntington Gardens, where we enjoyed high tea after touring the gardens; the Getty Villa, the highlight being a concert in the Hollywood Bowl: Dudamel conducting Beethoven's 9th Symphony with an elegant dinner in our box seats."

PATTI BURKE KUHN's husband and soulmate, **GERALD "JERRY" HOTTINGER '77**, died Oct. 22. She is grateful for each day of their lives together, which were filled with adventure and enthusiasm, as their Facebook friends can readily attest. While together, Jerry and Patti completed their bucket list of sailing the seven seas and hiking the seven continents.

Several Bison have been on the move lately. **BOB '69** and **JILL PFIFER MARTUZA '69** moved down the block and around the bend to Newton, Mass.; **BOB ROVEGNO** and Judy abandoned Florida for Loudon, Tenn., and the biggest migration was **JIM REESE '69** and **LINDA KELLEY** leaving New

Orleans after 30-plus years for the suburbs of Kansas City, Kan.

I was able to chat with several other Bucknell friends, including **DAVID DEYSHER, JOHN BUCK '70, BOB BRUSH, BOB BARTUNE, JIM VARGA '69, BOB MARTUZA, BILL JACKSON** and **STEPHEN YEATMAN**. — *George Vince*

1970

PHIL JOHNSON was the 2024 recipient of IP Watchdog's Pauline Newman Award, given each year to recognize the achievements of a patent attorney over their career. Phil has been a leader in the intellectual property (IP) field for two generations. He first gained recognition as one of America's preeminent patent litigators and then as chief IP counsel for Johnson & Johnson. Today, Phil is a private consultant and expert witness and testifies on IP matters at hearings on Capitol Hill. — *Lydia Haller Dodd*

1972

DEBBIE STRATTON MOTT reports, "Our longtime group of Bucknell friends who often get together shared a river cruise in the Netherlands and Belgium in April 2024 to see the beautiful tulips. The group included [myself], **NICKI DREW CAMPBELL, PAM SCHWARTZ DICKSON**, and **ROBIN BITTERLICH MOLL** and spouses. **ELLEN PERCY KRALY** and **SUSAN CONN RIPPLE** 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."

LESLIE PEOPLES LEONARD '73 writes about the passing of **JEFFERY SOBAL** in August: "Jeff was a groomsman in our wedding. My husband, **BOB**, was honored to be a pallbearer at his funeral and to share some memories from Bucknell and beyond. People thanked him for the welcome humor he brought to the service — each story funnier than the next. Jeff was simply a delight and will be missed."

Jeff earned a bachelor's in biology, followed by a master's and Ph.D. in sociology from the University of Pennsylvania. He added a master of public health in behavioral science, nutrition and epidemiology from Johns Hopkins University. He was a sociologist who applied social science theory and methods to the understanding of food choices, eating and nutrition. He advanced the understanding of why weight is so strongly stigmatized in our society.

Jeff moved to Cornell University in 1989, having spent earlier years teaching at Gettysburg College and the University of Maryland. He was a key contributor to the rise of scholarship, teaching and practice in community nutrition at Cornell. Colleagues and graduate students valued Jeff as a generous and skillful collaborator in their work. Before he passed, Jeff succeeded in visiting all 63 of our national parks, finishing with New River Gorge earlier this year.

Jeff was predeceased by first wife, **ROBIN TREON '73**, who died from cancer

POWERING PROGRESS

Using data and AI, Uttam Kumaran '18 helps businesses make smarter decisions

by **KATIE NEITZ**

RETAILERS IMPROVING CUSTOMER experiences, manufacturers streamlining supply chains and marketers crafting targeted campaigns all rely on advanced data and AI. **Uttam Kumaran '18** helps businesses maximize these technological advancements.

In 2023, he founded Brainforge, a company that helps organizations uncover insights, cut costs and grow revenue. For Kumaran, Brainforge represents the culmination of years spent solving complex problems and improving decision-making. As a leader, he prioritizes fostering a culture of continuous improvement and a fail-fast mentality. "Every day, we challenge ourselves to be better than we were yesterday," he says.

Kumaran traces his entrepreneurial mindset to Bucknell, where mentors and resources from the Small Business Development Center (SBDC) helped shape his approach to problem-solving. "The collaborative environment at Bucknell gave me the tools to think critically and creatively about real-world problems," he says.

The son of first-generation immigrants, Kumaran planned to attend college in his native California but followed his father's vision for a liberal arts education on the East Coast. A chance meeting with a professor during an impromptu tour of the Dana Engineering building convinced him Bucknell was the right fit. "Getting a one-on-one tour was a game-changer," Kumaran says. "It showed me that Bucknell was a community where people care."

Kumaran majored in computer engineering but explored beyond his field. As a sophomore, he approached Professor Curtis Nicholls, the Kiken Family Chair in Management, about joining Bucknell's Student Managed Investment Fund, which is



Uttam Kumaran '18 majored in computer engineering but took advantage of opportunities to learn about finance and entrepreneurship at Bucknell.

typically reserved for senior management students. With the help of Nicholls, Kumaran took summer courses to acquire the prerequisites for the capstone course. He also got involved in the SBDC and co-launched Maker EDU, a venture that helped schools build makerspaces, which gave him his first taste of entrepreneurship.

After graduating, Kumaran worked in data roles at startups like WeWork and Flowcode, managing projects from sales analytics to scaling data teams. Seeking more independence, he launched Brainforge, leveraging his network — including Bucknell connections — to build the business. Today, Kumaran leads with a focus on empowering clients and exceeding their expectations. "Our goal is to be indispensable to them," he says.



In 2024, the Center for Alumni & Family Engagement named Uttam Kumaran '18 as one of Bucknell's 30 Under 30. Learn more and nominate a 2025 honoree at go.bucknell.edu/30Under30

in 2015. He is survived by wife Andrea Volckmar, a teaching colleague at Cornell, his three brothers, their wives and children. His obituary includes a page for writing about memories, and Andrea would love to hear from you via the Tribute page: online-tribute.com/JefferySobal.

On a lighter note, **MARTHA COATS VAN HISE** reports, "The Tri-Delts enjoyed their fourth annual three-day gathering at Lake Nuangola, Pa. (summer home of Martha).

Although the weather prevented our usual swimming, kayaking and boating adventures, we managed to have a wonderful time sharing news of our retired lives, our families and travels.

Present this year were **KAREN ANDERSON, PATTI GIBBONS, JOAN HIRT, SALLY HENDERSON MARBURGER, IRENE KOHUT MOSIAS, BARB KRUGMAN TEIGER** and **MARTHA**. We missed former attendees **ANNETTE LORD** and **PATTI O'BRIEN** but are counting on their presence next

year at our fifth annual vacay."

In October, Pi Phi and Kappas assembled in Great Barrington, Mass., for a long weekend. Staying in a funky old home, we enjoyed the outdoors, shopped in the lovely small towns and spent time at the Norman Rockwell Museum. Our group was comprised of **DOTTY FRIES JOHNSON, CINDY BLAND LESKER, PAM DINGWALL HERRING, SUE MARTELL BAIRD, HELLY SCHWALM BULLWINKEL, LORRIE CANGELOSI ZORBO, PAM**

SILKWORTH FINN, me (**ANNE**) and honorary group members, **STEVE BAIRD** and **ALAN SHARPE**. A "party animals" theme was adopted one evening, when the group was kind enough to celebrate my birthday. There was much laughter and sharing of family photos throughout. Our gathering in 2025 will be at the Jersey Shore.

Please remember that your classmates love hearing what you are up to. — *Anne Smith Benbow*

1973

TOM HANNAN reported that a group of '73ers and one '74er gathered in Jamestown, R.I., at the home of **NILES WILCOX** for what has become an annual trip. Most gatherings have been east of the Rockies. Most of the group formed while living on 2nd Trax or 2nd Kress freshman year. All but one were members of SPE. While dining out and visiting local attractions, stories from college days are retold over and over. Along with Tom and Niles, this year's attendees

included **STEVE HOPE**, **BEN BYRNSIDE**, **PHIL EGAN**, **ANDY ROLFE**, **SCOTT CHURCHILL**, **KEN PHELPS** and **RICH BIANCHETTI**. **JOE TAMBURINI** was home in Florida dealing with hurricane damage.

They're considering making the reunion a semi-annual event.

DIANE FAIRCLAUGH passed away March 2, 2024, after a short illness. She was a member of Alpha Phi and graduated with a degree in chemistry. Her career was directed toward research and mentoring young women in the field. Diane also received a master's from Virginia Polytechnic and a master's and Ph.D. in public health from the University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill. Her personal health issues led her to focus on cancer research. She was named professor at the cancer center of the University of Colorado in 2002. Diane had lifelong passions for travel and fostering dogs. — *Susan Latimer Curlett*

1975 REUNION

STEVE AHMUTY shared the sad news that **TOM BLANKLEY** passed away Aug. 23 after a long illness. Steve writes, "Following a very successful Wall Street career that took him to postings in New York, London, Hong Kong and Tokyo, Tom retired to the island of Kauai [Hawaii]." Just before his passing, Steve visited Tom, who was his usual upbeat self despite his illness. They reminisced about their friendship that began 53 years ago as roommates in Trax Hall. Tom is survived by wife Leona

and stepchildren David, Jason and Tiffany.

Steve, after practicing law in New York City, retired with wife Cindy to Palm Beach, Fla., where they never lack for company.

HENRY "HANK" FELLOWS is a trial attorney in Atlanta whose practice has been devoted to complex business litigation for 44 years. He is a founding partner of Fellows LaBriola, which celebrated its 31st anniversary. For the 16th consecutive year, Hank was voted by his peers as one of Georgia's Top 10 Super Lawyers. — *Nancy Quay Bradley*

1976

GAY HUEY EVANS, **SHELLEY STERNAD DEMPSEY** and I (**GAIL**) had planned a hiking reunion at my place in the North Carolina mountains for the first week of October. Unfortunately, Hurricane Helene struck. While my house was undamaged, the surrounding area was hit hard and everything came to a halt, including electricity. Our plans shifted, and we spent a couple of active days around the Cary-Raleigh area. Hopefully, next year will be another adventure.

JOHN GOLDMAN had a busy year. He did a solo 1,000-mile bike ride from Rome to London in the spring — in time to see the tulips outside Amsterdam. Bad weather did cause some parts of the trip to be by train. A full trip journal can be found by searching for his name at crazyguyonabike.com. John and wife Liz Walton went to Aruba in November-December and

had some of their best kiteboarding ever. It wasn't all travel, though. Grandchild number two was born in October, so each of their children have one child each, both boys. — *Gail Waterbury Ferri and Mary Lou Kupfer*

1977

ALLAN WEINER and his wife, Mindy, welcomed their first grandchild, Olivia Jane Weiner, born Oct. 19 to son Aaron and his wife, Ali. Now retired and living in Delaware, Allan and Mindy have plenty of time to visit their granddaughter on Long Island, N.Y., as well as their other sons, Adam and Alex, who reside in Boston and Connecticut, respectively. When visiting Long Island, Allan and Mindy stop in on Allan's Bucknell roommate, **BART CITTERBART**, and his wife, **BARB GARY CITTERBART '78**.

Class Reporter's note: Susan's 99-year-old mother, **DORIS JENKINS HUNSICKER '46**, shares an Oct. 19 birthday with Olivia. **DOUG BURNS** reported that the Bucknell men's swimming and diving brethren gathered on campus in October to celebrate the 1974 undefeated conference championship team. That team might have been the pinnacle of the greatest era in Bucknell aquatics history, with nine consecutive conference championships. Thank you to Coach Dan Schinnerer, Associate Athletic Director **TODD NEWCOMB '88** and Bucknell for the recognition and hospitality. Attending in addition to Doug were **TOM CAHILL**,

DON MOLL, **JIM STOREY**, **JOHN LYONS '75**, **M'79**, **ROGER SCHWANHAUSSER '75**, **TED SPOONER '75**, **MARC SICKLE** and **DAN RICHARDS '78**. It was an incredibly beautiful fall weekend. "Whenever I visit campus, I feel like there should be a cloud bank and double rainbow above Bertrand Library with a choir of angels singing the 'Hallelujah Chorus.' It's that idyllic."

ROBIN SUYDAM and husband **PAUL CORKERY** continue to live in their farmhouse in Somerset County, N.J. "We've been fortunate to travel quite a bit in Europe, most recently with family this summer at an 18th-century farmstead. There were 20 of us with three rosé vineyards within two kilometers.

"I continue to do what I can for our planet, serving as the vice chair of the local environmental commission and on the board of the New Jersey League of Conservation Voters. The State Theatre of New Brunswick, where I serve as the development chair, is near and dear to me. In between, I am an elder and chair the Green Team at our historic church in Franklin Park.

"My French major comes in handy with trips to France and a 50-year friendship with **CHRISTINE LAURENT**, who came to my family as an exchange student in 1974. We made a big fuss of that anniversary this past summer and got to visit **JAN POTDEVIN MUNIER** along the way.

"Paul and I now have a pied-à-terre on East 79th Street in New York City and a condominium we both use and rent out in Jackson Hole, Wyo. So, if

you are near Somerset, Jackson or the Upper East Side, please let me know." She is at robin.suydam@suydamassociates.com.

CHRIS TINKHAM has moved west and is at 163 White Cloud Drive, Sandpoint, ID 83864. His many-windowed home has spectacular views that his kittens enjoy. In the upper panhandle between eastern Washington and Montana, it is near a great ski area, Schweitzer Mountain, and awesome Lake Pend Oreille. He continues to work remotely for a New York ad agency and is a ski instructor at Schweitzer. Chris would welcome your visit and is at ctinkham26@gmail.com and 203-219-7743.

MARTY MARRA wrote that a group of Sigma Chi alumni met in Naples, Fla., in May, including **JOHN** and **DEIDRE MEHL KUKUCKA**, **ELLEN** and **VINNY FREY M'77**, **KAREN** and **JACK RECCO**, **PEGGY** and **RALPH TURRI** and **MARTY**. Most of the group have residences in or around Naples.

AUDREY HARNIMAN visited with her roommate, **JUDY HEATON SMITH**, on her way up and back to Lake George in July. They enjoyed a fun meal together but mostly just chatted.

Audrey participates in in-person education sessions and Zoom lectures with the Institute for Retired Persons (IRP) in Chambersburg, Pa. Lecturers include retired IRP members sharing their passions and/or career work and a wide variety of presenters from local universities, historical reenactors, performing musicians and

more. It's a wonderful way to keep the brain engaged, to meet new people and learn new things, all for only \$50 per year. Visit irp-online.org (only members can receive a Zoom link).

— *Susan Hunsicker and Brian Knapp*

1978

Greetings from a cold, wintry January morning when I wrote this. It's hard to believe another year has passed and we're all another year older — ugh! I was reminded of this in September when I attended my 50th high school reunion. It was a fun event, full of memories, catching up and sharing photos of grandchildren, pets and travels. Please share your memories, your travels and your reunions with one another. Let us know how you're doing.

With that in mind, I'm happy to share a reunion this past summer when **KATHY BENTZ SCHWARTZ M'81** met up with **GIGI NEFF-MASCIOLI, KATE ZORN JONES, JEFF '76** and **WENDY RAAB ROBBINS** and **SUSAN KELLEY FASNACHT** at the home of **JON** and **MARGO HOFF PENNOCK** for what has become an annual summer reunion. Kathy noted that Margo's home is on a lake in Maryland, which allowed them to enjoy endless hours of fun and relaxation while swimming, boating and taking walks. Between the water activities and conversations, there was an abundance of food. According to Kathy, "catching up with friendships formed 40-plus years ago is always the best."

Please keep in touch and send me updates.

— *Kathy McDonald Adelberger*

1979

As I write, the calendar has turned another year and we've entered 2025. For most of us, this year will celebrate 50 years since high school graduation and 50 years since the fall of 1975 and our freshman year at Bucknell. As one of my favorite rock groups once sang, "What a long strange trip it's been."

PETER CHRISTIANO, who has lived in the St. Petersburg, Fla., area for over 40 years, noticed in a Class Notes column the mention of **JOHN WEITZ** who, along with his wife, moved to St. Petersburg. I was able to forward John's contact information to Peter. I hope they were able to reconnect — I'm looking for confirmation from John or Peter.

I had a video call with **DAVE STODDARD**, who was and continues to be a good friend. He retired at the end of October after 42 years in the assistive technology field providing custom wheelchair seating. Dave and wife Marge love spending time with their two grandsons, who live in nearby Harrisburg, Pa. In November, the couple traveled to Kenya to visit their daughter for the birth of her second child. From Dave's description, Kenya sounded like a very fascinating place to visit. I reminded him that Kenya is not far from Israel, where I have been living since 1985, and maybe next time, he can stop by.

That goes for all fellow 1979 classmates.

PETER BURY wrote that the website for his band, Pariah, is still active: atpariahback2023.com. The band is comprised of **THOM JAYNE '80, KATHLEEN BREITENFELD '80, JOHN GOODMAN '81, CONNIE CURRIER '81** and, of course, **PETER**.

SCOTT STEVENS retired in August from the faculty of the University of Delaware after 42 years. He'd completed a six-month sabbatical, which came after concluding his turn as director of the university's English Language Institute and administrator of the School of Education's graduate program in Teaching English as a Second Language (ESL). The board of trustees honored Scott with the Medal of Distinction for his contribution to internationalizing the campus and for his research in ESL throughout his academic career. Scott has enrolled in a master's program in clinical counseling. He visited **JEFF BROWN** in Roselle Park, N.J., in the summer, followed by visits to **IRA LEFF** in Atlanta and **DICK WERTHER** in Michigan.

Speaking of Dick, he wrote that he retired from Blue Cross Blue Shield of Michigan in 2016 and has been studying American revolutionary history. He's written over 25 articles published in *Journal of the American Revolution*. His writings are at allthingsliberty.com/ author/richard-j-werther/. Dick and Ann have been married for 38 years and have three children and two grandchildren. The

couple also act as surrogate parents for teenaged hockey players from the U.S. National Development Team Program. Their first surrogate player made the National Hockey League's Boston Bruins and the other two are in college.

DAN GALLAGHER reported a great turnout in September for the eighth annual KDM weekend for the Class of '79. Hosted by **JOE BARMAKIAN** at his Spring Lake, N.J., summer home, the informal social/athletic organization was started in 1975 on 4th Trax and the group went on to win the 1979 Bucknell intramural championship. Among those attending were **TOM WALESKI M'80, HENRY CHESKO, BILL COR-RINGTON, JEFF STONER, DAN, ANDY KARPUK, JACK MEHL, TOM DEW, JOHN THORNBURGH, BILL ANDERSON, JOHN GILL, AL KRASNER, DAN NORTH, SANDY SHERRARD, MIKE SCHUTZER, PETE DIMMIG, WES LANG, JIM MORGAN** and **TOM SANDERS**.

Finally, **BETH DONOVAN MALMBERG** was among a number of our fellow classmates who wished me and my family prayers as Israel entered its 15th month of war. We have several sons who were on active duty and one was starting in March. — *Alan Schrager*

1980 REUNION

Hopefully when you get this issue, you will have already made plans to return to campus for Reunion Weekend, May 30–June 1. I look forward to seeing you there.

SIBYL GARDNER

reached out from Colorado to tell me about her new memoir, *Sibyl Rights*, which details her life as a writer and all the twists and turns of doing what she loves. Her post-Bucknell resume includes everything from TV news to paralegal work, as well as TV production and TV screenplays. She's also been an educational consultant and is working on a novel and movie screenplay. In the mix, she's raised a family and is also a foster mom. This is only the Cliff Notes version, so if you want to know more, buy her book or reach out to Sibyl directly at P.O. Box 208, Glen Haven, CO 80532. Sibyl keeps in touch with **KELLY MELOY**, another 4th Harris freshman hall classmate, and maybe there's a chance that both will be at Reunion.

ALLISON KNOX BLANKENSHIP writes, "After years of putting my kids through graduate school, it was my turn. I completed a bucket-list item by earning a health science doctoral degree from George Washington University School of Medicine and Health Sciences this past May. I own Bloom Again Health, a health-coaching company, where I use lifestyle medicine to help patients achieve longevity, brain health and dementia-risk reduction. I also teach medical students at the University of Texas Southwestern School of Medicine's simulation center. My spare time is spent traveling, hiking, playing with four preschool grandchildren and volunteering as a board member of the

30 UNDER 30 HONOREE

NO BUSINESS LIKE SHOW BUSINESS

Alex Golden '17 keeps the music alive on Broadway

by MATT JONES

AT BUCKNELL, Alex "Goldie" Golden '17 was always busy — working as an orientation leader, music directing an a cappella group or directing music as part of her senior thesis. "I look back and wonder, 'Did I sleep?'" says Golden, who majored in theatre. That fast-paced schedule prepared her for life as a music director.

"Young music directors tend to take on a lot of far-flung contracts. I've done theatre in Indiana and Massachusetts. I've toured with *Beautiful: The Carole King Musical* and *Mamma Mia!*," says Golden, who has hit most of the continental U.S. while touring on productions. "But all of that adds up. Every job I've had has led to the next job, which has now led me to New York City."

During *The Notebook's* 10-month run on Broadway in 2024, Golden worked as the production's associate music director and associate conductor. If there is a dictum that undergirds her work, it is that practice makes perfect.

"It begins with three weeks in the rehearsal room, where I teach music to the actors and act as a liaison with the rest of the creative team," she says. Then comes tech rehearsal, where she helps integrate design elements — like a scene featuring live rain on stage — and works with the orchestra. When the production went live, Golden attended eight shows weekly. "Even after our 250th show, we were still refining things," she says.

Golden's role came full circle when she found herself working alongside composer, singer and songwriter Ingrid Michaelson, who composed *The Notebook's* music. "At Bucknell, my



As an associate music director, Alex Golden '17 makes the Broadway production of *The Notebook* really sing.

a cappella group, Two Past Midnight, performed Ingrid Michaelson songs," says Golden. "Years later, I was able to translate her new music into the show and teach it to the actors."



In 2024, the Center for Alumni & Family Engagement named Alex Golden '17 as one of Bucknell's 30 Under 30. Learn more and nominate a 2025 honoree at go.bucknell.edu/30Under30

Dallas Delta Delta Delta alumni group." Talk about a big second career. Check out Allison's website at BloomAgain-Health.com.

Christmas cards from classmates have news about retirements, travel, kids, grandkids and mini-reunions. Keep in touch. — *Deborah I. Hennel*

1981

I love it when I hear from a classmate who has never been in touch before, especially when their news includes connections with others in our

class. **LIBBY GRANT BALDWIN** sent a great note with news of multiple Bucknell reunions.

First, Libby and husband Gary spent time with **DON FECHTER** and his family in Cincinnati in 2023. Also in that year, they hosted a summer party that included Don and wife Earline, Tom and **DEBBIE MOTYCKA DOWNIE, MATT** and **LINDA WETZSTEIN ROSENBERG, JOAN CARAGHER** and Debbie and **DART STRAYER**. In 2024, Libby hosted another summer party with the same crew plus **DEBBIE SAUERLAND STILLMAN**. I asked Libby

to connect the dots for us on how this crew knows each other. She and Linda were on 3½ together our freshman year and both were civil engineers. I loved this line from Libby: "Interestingly, we're both still practicing engineers, but if you'd known us in college, you would have thought that was unlikely. I wasn't a very good student. It was a rude awakening to realize that there were an awful lot of smart people in the world and at Bucknell, and I was very much overwhelmed. But I made it through and graduated."

Libby also keeps in

touch with and saw **JANICE PAULISON-KEATING** when they both lived in Houston at the same time after graduation. Sadly, Libby reminded me that she lived all four years at Bucknell with **ALISON CORVINGTON DICKARD**, whom we lost in 2007.

Here's Libby's post-Bucknell story: After graduation, she moved to Houston and roomed with **DEBBIE MOTYCKA DOWNIE**, who was working at Citgo. Libby met her husband, also a transplant from New England, in Houston. They stayed there until 1988,

when they moved back to New England, settling in Southampton, Mass. The couple have two sons, Jack (30) and Dan (27). Libby worked for the engineering consulting firm Tighe & Bon for 34 years, retiring at the end of 2024.

Other fun news is that my dear friend **BILL CUSICK** purchased a home in Montoursville, Pa., on Loyalsock Creek. It's the perfect spot for his many outdoor interests — kayaking, hiking, fishing and cycling — and gives him a chance to get to Bucknell often to see friends, swim in the

Kinney Natatorium and catch some Bucknell sporting and cultural events. He's hoping that friends will visit him when they are in the area.
— Carol Christie Rosner

1982

SCOTT THISTLE shared that in April 2024, 44 alumni of the Bison Chips, along with their families, returned to campus to celebrate the 50th anniversary of the founding of the group and had a three-day reunion. Present were members of the 1974-75 founding group, all the way up to current members. "It was great to see and sing with friends whom I sang with while at Bucknell, as well as friends I have come to know during the eight reunions the Chips have had, starting in 1989. Highlights included lots of receptions around town, a packed concert by the current group in Bucknell Hall, singing at Lewisburg's Arts Festival and a Reunion Dinner Concert during which smaller groups of alums from the same time periods and the entire group gave a wonderful performance. Kudos to all the planners, and many thanks to the Center for Alumni & Family Engagement for its support and efforts."

TROY PAPPAS is in his 23rd season as the boys' track coach at Moorestown (N.J.) High School. He's thankful that his former teammates **BOB BICKEL '79** and **GARY BARTLETT** have shared their time, skill and passion for the sport as volunteer assistant coaches. Troy's son, Sean, was the co-captain of his lacrosse team at

Community College of Baltimore County Essex in Baltimore. His team was the national runner-up in the junior college national championship game, and Sean finished his career as an Academic All-American. Troy has been in Mount Laurel, N.J., for 27 years but is looking at options after his son finishes college. He has kept in touch with

BARBARA COULTER POLLEY, STEVE SKOLNICK, JOE LEE, JODY MEANS ZIMMERMAN M'90 and **NANCY DURAN EVANOFF.**

KENT KESTER sent me news for the first time ever. After Bucknell, he attended Jefferson Medical College in Philadelphia, did his residency in internal medicine at the University of Maryland and completed an infectious disease fellowship at the Walter Reed Army Medical Center. He served for nearly 25 years in the U.S. Army providing clinical care and working in the area of vaccine development, leading clinical studies to develop the first approved malaria vaccine. During 16 years at the Walter Reed Army Institute of Research, he led a lab team, oversaw clinical trials, was responsible for the production of vaccines and served as the institute's commander. Kent spent time at the Uniformed Services University of the Health Sciences, from where he deployed to Afghanistan to assess the operational posture of U.S. and NATO partners as regards infectious disease diagnosis and treatment.

After retiring from the Army, he spent almost eight years at Sanofi

Pasteur, where he led a team focused on the development of new vaccines. His interest in global public health then took him to the International AIDS Vaccine Initiative. Most recently, he was appointed the executive director for vaccine research and development at the Coalition for Epidemic Preparedness Innovation, which has a mandate to rapidly develop vaccines in response to emerging infectious disease threats that have epidemic or pandemic potential.

Kent has a clinical practice at the University of Maryland, where he's worked as an attending physician for over 27 years in the Maryland shock trauma center. He's also provided support to the Department of Veteran Affairs, where he serves as a volunteer infectious disease clinician at VA Wilkes-Barre Health Care. He writes, "I'm not looking at retirement anytime soon. There is too much to do."

BOB DESOUSA shared with me that the Army Heritage Center Foundation has announced his election as board chair. The foundation helps the center realize its full potential as a hub of knowledge and expertise for the military, government, academia and American public. — *Becky Goodwin Kangos*

1983

Congratulations to Brian and **KAREN FRACAS MONAGHAN**. They are grandparents! Their oldest, Tommy, and his wife, Cate Wobbe, had Elouise Marguerite Monaghan June 28. Brian

and Karen also joined the ranks of the retired, and after a long search, found their new home in Brevard, N.C. They plan on keeping a presence in Marlton, N.J., to be close to two of their three adult children and their precious grandbaby.

In August, **JIM '82** and I celebrated our 40th anniversary with a hiking trip in the Canadian Rockies. We spent six days around Banff enjoying gorgeous views and challenging trails. We were delighted that Mark and **LAURIE HOLBEN FINE** joined us on our adventure. One of the highlights was cheering for Laurie as she conquered 35-degree Moraine Lake on a rainy afternoon to join the hardiest souls in our travel group for a polar plunge. I was very happy to sit onshore and record their bravery.

A few weeks later, we were back with the Fines, this time in Pennsylvania. In mid-October, Mark and Laurie helped host a Bucknell wedding. Their youngest, **KEVIN '17**, married his longtime love, **CATHERINE BIANCO '16**, on a picture-perfect fall day in a lakeside ceremony in New Tripoli, Pa. There were many Bucknellians in attendance, but the one who traveled the farthest was Kevin's brother, **ANDY '11**, who came all the way from Vietnam to help celebrate. While in Pennsylvania, we enjoyed a wonderful evening with Scott and **MEG BARRON BORN**. We also had a delightful lunch catching up with **DOUG '82** and **KRISTEN FOSTER CONNORS '82** and Ann

and **BILL BAKER '82** at the Lehigh Country Club. Send me news of your celebrations and get-togethers. — *Tracey Trusk Eick*

1984

ROBBIE WEAVER wrote from sunny Florida, where she has been enrolled in the competitive Greater Naples Leadership program, which provides residents the opportunity to learn about city government, the cultural arts, development, etc. Her current project is related to Immokalee, a low-income agricultural area of Collier County that is 75% Hispanic. In addition, Robbie completed two levels of Collier County Sheriff's Office Citizens Academy as well as Federal Emergency Management Agency training for the Community Emergency Response Team. Since graduating from Bucknell, Robbie has moved 14 times, but she expects to be in Florida for the foreseeable future and is enjoying the opportunity to put down some roots.

DAVE GOSHORN, RICK GRINDROD and **BILL KROKOWSKI** gathered in Charleston, S.C., in October for Rick's daughter's (Caroline) ordination into the Presbyterian ministry. Caroline's first official act was to baptize her nephew, Dean.

HARRY MATHIAS M'96 was honored last October by the Columbia-Montour (Pa.) Council of the Boy Scouts of America as its 2024 Citizen of the Year. A recap of Harry's career and community service makes it clear why. He

Honor your GRADUATE



From the anticipation of move-in day to the relief of them completing their last final, you have guided your student to this exciting milestone: Commencement!

Celebrate their accomplishments and support the next generation of Bucknellians by making a gift in your graduate's honor. When you give by May 1, you'll have the opportunity to record a congratulatory video message for your student. Detailed instructions will be provided, and messages will be shared with your student before Commencement.

We look forward to celebrating the achievements of the Class of 2025 at the University's 175th Commencement on May 18!

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retired in 2019 after 35 years at Central Columbia School District (Bloomsburg, Pa.), the last 19 as superintendent. Since then, he has consulted with school districts and worked with Columbia County, Pa., distributing COVID-19 relief funds to nonprofits and small businesses. He is the president of the Community Giving Foundation board. He also helped raise funds and coordinate construction for a veterans memorial for Columbia County veterans, helped raise \$2.5 million to upgrade programs and facilities at the Danville Area Community Center and helped raise funds for the Bloomsburg Children's Museum and the Columbia-Montour SWAT teams. On top of all that, he is president of the Harry C. Mathias Sr. Charitable Foundation, which supports needy causes in the Warrior Run School District area, in memory of his father, who was a former teacher and coach. Harry lives in Orange Township with

wife Bridget and son Nathaniel.

Lastly, my husband, **JEFF '82**, and I joined the historic Georgetown Presbyterian Church in D.C., where fellow parishioners include Bill Krokowski, his wife, Sherry, and children Katie and Will as well as **ALEX CAMERON** and his wife, Ann. — *Allison Abouchar Cross*

1985 REUNION

1986

CHRIS VAN HOUTEN writes, "My daughter, **CHRISTINA '28**, is in her first year at Bucknell and intends to major in international relations. She is participating in the Army ROTC program. The campus looks amazing. I wish I were starting over." (Don't we all, Chris!)

Most of us celebrated the big 6-0 last year. What did you do? Here is what **CARRIE STYLES TOBIAS** did: "When my mother asked me what I wanted for my 60th birthday, I wasn't sure. Then an alumni travel brochure arrived in my mailbox, and

I was sure. I just came back from two weeks in Southeast Asia, visiting Bali, Singapore, Thailand and Cambodia. What a fantastic trip to a culturally rich, dynamic and vibrant part of the world. I'd never met the other Bucknellian on the tour. But **JULIE SMITH '85** and I clicked right away, and everyone thought we had known each other for years. From the Grand Palace in Bangkok to the top of the Marina Bay Sands in Singapore to Angkor Wat in Cambodia, everything was breathtaking. The trip was the perfect combination of relaxation, exploration and education. I can't wait to see what shows up in my mailbox next."

PHYLLISS KREIS HILL and **DONNA GAETANO PEARSON** have always celebrated their birthdays together, and many times from afar, via phone, as they were born three days apart in early March. Last year, in celebration of turning 60, they decided to celebrate throughout the year. Phylliss's celebration began with friends in NYC, including **THEZA GRIESMAN FRIEDMAN '85**, while Donna's celebration began in Austin, Texas, the same week. The following month, they met in NYC, this time with Carrie and **KATHY OSTROM BRECKER**. They wined and dined together, and took in a Broadway show (*Suffs*), and caught up with **YANCY GARRIDO**. They're planning another weekend in NYC this summer.

Phylliss lives in Wellesley, Mass., and is a business systems analyst with MIT. Donna lives in Austin and NYC. She is a

project manager for The Next Practices Group, an integrated digital marketing communications agency.

Carrie lives in Wilton, Conn., and has her own college consulting business and works at the town library. Kathy lives in NYC and is a director of strategic partnerships with Dun & Bradstreet. Yancy works at a foundation in NYC. Theza lives and works near Princeton, N.J., where she is a real estate agent licensed in New Jersey and Pennsylvania.

JENNY FRAGNETO CONDAME also maintains her Bucknell friendships. "In June my son was married in Buffalo, N.Y. The following Bucknellians were in attendance: **KERRI SMITH SPECK**, **BETH METKO**, and **LINDSEY O'CONNOR** and **DOUG FASTUCA '87**. All three of these lovely ladies were in my bridal party in 1988. It reflects the strong friendships we build as Bucknellians. We were even able to recreate a picture from my wedding. During COVID-19, we started doing Zoom calls to keep in touch and have continued four years later. I received the information for the Beta Gamma reunion in the spring. Beth and I are planning to attend and are looking forward to seeing our sorority sisters."

JAY TALSANIA was featured on WFMZ-TV to discuss the trips he has made to Guatemala over the last 20 years as a volunteer. Jay is an orthopedic surgeon who specializes in the hands and upper extremities. He and other medical volunteers perform surgery for children who

have hand injuries or deformities — truly life-changing work. You can see the interview on WFMZ's Facebook page.

It's great to see Bucknell relationships lasting for 40-plus years. How did you celebrate your birthday? — *Joan Daughen Cadigan*

1987

ANDY LOVE M'89 reports, "This summer **PAMELA GIBSON LOVE '88** and I were in central Pennsylvania and visited Bucknell for a day. We toured the new parts of the campus, visited Professor **JAMES BAISH '79** at his office and had dinner with Maurice Aburdene (professor of electrical and computer engineering, emeritus) and his wife, Laurie (I used to babysit their kids back in the 1980s, and he was my thesis adviser when I was a grad student)."

MARK WORMS writes, "Please save Aug. 25 for the third annual **JIM TOPOR** Memorial Golf Outing at Morris County Golf Club in Morristown, N.J. Founded by Mark and with the help and support of countless friends and family, this event has raised close to \$100,000 in its first two years with all proceeds going to Good Grief, a nonprofit that provides grief support to children and families who have lost loved ones. Jim was passionate about and heavily involved with Good Grief, having served as a board member for several years.

"The outing has attracted dozens of Bucknell alumni, and we'd like to make the 2025 event even bigger and better. Contact Mark at

mworms@comcast.net for more information or visit 2025toporgolf.givesmart.com to learn how you can help support this great cause."

In November, **COLLEEN DEVANEY CRAIG** received the Golden Osprey award for outstanding chamber service from the Jersey Shore Chamber of Commerce, an organization she was introduced to by **DEB ZAPOTOCKY RIZZI '94**. Since 2021, Colleen has been involved with marketing activities to promote the chamber. She is the owner of Jersey Shore Marketing & Insights and lives in New Jersey with husband Jim and their three children. At a recent Gamma Phi reunion, Colleen saw many sisters from 1981–88, including her sorority "big" **DEBBIE HULL SULLIVAN '86** as well as **LINDA JACOWITZ, CATHY MOREUS, SHARON LINK O'SHAUGHNESSY** and **CHERIE STUNTZ**. During a trip to Boston, Colleen caught up with **JOHN '88** and **HALLIE COOKE VITOLO '88**. Colleen is at colleen bcraig33@gmail.com. — *Lauren Slavin Wrobel*

1988

During Homecoming Weekend in October, we celebrated the 40th anniversary of the colonization of Kappa Alpha Theta at Bucknell. On hand was charter sister **PATTY ALBRIGHT JOHANSEN '87** along with **HEATHER MCBRIDE LEEF, ALISON BEECH VALLI** and me from the first pledge class and **ALISON ABELS '89** and **MICHELE CATINO '89** from the second pledge class. We were joined by many sisters

from over the years as well as a bunch from the current membership. 'ray for Theta!

MEL BLOUNT reports, "**KAREN [BAILEY BLOUNT]** and I and our Bucknell quartet, **MELISSA '18, SAMANTHA '20, CAROLINE '22** and **KATHRYN '26**, spent July 4th week in Goose Rocks Beach, Maine, with **LINDA FLEMING ZOLPER, PAUL and CINDY PHILLIPS FREUD, DAVE FEHNEL** and **ANDE GABRIEL** and all of their kids. We got together again with this crowd in early September in Kennebunkport [Maine] along with **LEIGH SMITH PETRAS, KAREN DETWILER BASCOM, NANCY PAYNE BRUNS** and **SUSAN ORTH CLEARY** to celebrate Paul and Cindy's oldest daughter's wedding. We did it again in Florida in December for **KATIE SIMPSON CASTE's** oldest daughter's wedding."

Mel made his annual trip to Lewisburg for the Bud Ranck-Tom Gadd Memorial Kickoff Classic Golf Outing (an event the late **DOUG WILLIAMS '63** loved) and caught up with **DAVE HENRY '86, WILL MCFARLAND '86, BRIAN CALLAHAN '86, JOHN HEUER '87, SHANE SNYDER '84, BOB SILL '84, GARY SCOTT '86, KEITH JANSEN '85, DOUG FASTUCA '87** and **PAT FRANCIS '87**.

He hit the road for golf in Philadelphia at Union League Liberty Hill with **SCOTT LILLIS, CHRIS HACKLEY '89** and **DAVE HENRY** and then played golf at Ridgewood Country Club in Danbury, Conn., with **BOBBY LE BLANC** and his son, **BRIAN '18** (who married **KORTNEY KLINGERT '18** in

September), and **GREGG SMITH '87**. Next, Mel went to Connecticut's Pine Orchard Yacht and Country Club for dinner and golf with **TOM COLLINS '87, JACK BAKER '20** (Tom's nephew) and **STU FRANK**. This golf round "became epic when I hit my second lifetime hole-in-one on the second hole of the day. I got to bask in glory for the remaining 16 holes before having a fantastic Chardonnay overlooking Long Island Sound and the Thimble Islands." The group crossed paths with **TODD MCKIERNAN**, who is also a Pine Orchard member.

Mel was at Rutgers' opening football game in late August with **JIM MARSHALL** and ran into **BRIAN MULHALL '89** and **KEITH** and **CAROL GUSCOTT JANSEN '84** as well as the final home game, this time with **MATT DELOCA, HARRY BUELL** and **DOUG FASTUCA**. At both games, the team's head coach, **GREG SCHIANO**, was visible throughout the game.

"We missed our first Family Weekend in a decade to attend the Freuds' Maine wedding but made up for it by making it back for Homecoming where we saw **STACIE DE LA PARRA, HEATHER MCBRIDE LEEF, ALISON BEECH VALLI, ANNIE SEIBOLD DRAPEAU, ED ROBINSON '86, H.J. WILLCOX, SUSAN WALLACE M'93, KYLE MCGEE '04** and **CHRISTINE ZAPOTOCZKY KELLEHER '91**."

Mel was invited to a Bucknell basketball event in Philadelphia with a panel that included head coach **JOHN GRIFFIN III '08**, former head coach

PAT FLANNERY '80, M'83 and Villanova coaching legend **JAY WRIGHT '83**. At the event, he met up with **GARY SCOTT** and saw **PETE BLACK '82** and **PATTI STRUBLE FLANNERY '86**. "Gary and I made an epic trip to Rupp Arena in Lexington, Ky., in mid-November for Bucknell vs. Kentucky where I ran into **DOUG SMITH '84, MIKE JOSEPH '90** and **MALIK MALONE '91**."

He also traveled to the College of the Holy Cross for a huge football game and tailgated with **ANNIE SEIBOLD DRAPEAU, HEATHER DAHL MARTIROS '89, NANCY SALPIETRO CRATE, JOHN LEWIS '89, DAVE FEHNEL, CHIP SCULLY '90, ERIN O'CONNELL LANGTON** and **GREG '89** and **SHELLEY GLOWACKI WHY '89**.

"I caught up with fellow FJJs **JOSH TRAGER '90, LEE EBERDING '89, CRAIG KELLY '89, GEORGE WILLIAMS '89, HJ WILLCOX** and **MATT DELOCA** at a New York Rangers game."

He had holiday lunch, coordinated by **CHRIS REALE '90**, in NYC with fellow FJJs, including **ED ROBINSON, H.J. WILLCOX, JON LEEF, JIM MARSHALL, STEVE DURYEE** (who flew in from London that morning), **BOB BERNARDUCI '89, JOSH TRAGER, BOB FORESMAN '90, PAUL D'ALOIA '90, DENNIS WUYSCIK '90, JOE DE PIRO '90, CHRIS HARVEY '91** and **PETE ROSSI '92**. — *Stacie Velisaris De La Parra*

1990 REUNION

Just a quick note to encourage everyone to come to our 35th Reunion in May. The pandemic put a damper on our 30th, so

it's been way too long. Come back to Lewisburg and visit our old stomping grounds! — *Laura Michalec Olszewski*

1995 REUNION

2000 REUNION

MICHAEL FOX writes, "I'm a tenured associate professor of business law at Mount Saint Mary College [MSMC] in Newburgh, N.Y. After serving as business school chair last fall and assistant vice president of Academic Affairs for the college last spring, I've been appointed as acting dean of the School of Business here at MSMC for the 2024–25 academic year." — *Brian Baxter*

2002

ERIC CHRISTOPHER shared that **DREW MCCARTOR** was named president and CEO of Pure Earth, a nonprofit environmental health organization dedicated to protecting people and the environment from the harms of toxic pollution. Drew has been with the organization for over 15 years and has been directly responsible for countless projects. He's made significant impacts on the health of communities around the world.

The following news is from **SCOTT ALLEN** about **KATE DURTAN ALLEN**. Our hearts go out to the Durtan and Allen families.

Kate, 43, passed away in Charlottesville, Va., April 5, 2024. She received her bachelor's in education from Bucknell. Scott adds, "Kate and I met freshman year. Kate

A MUSICAL LEGACY

BUCKNELL CHOIRS REUNITE

by **KATIE NEITZ**

In October, Bucknell hosted a historic Choral Reunion, bringing together over 120 participants, including students and alumni from the Bucknell University Choir, Rooke Chapel Choir and other choral groups, for a weekend of music and memories.

The event, led by University Choir Director Caleb Hopkins and Rooke Chapel Choir Director Emeritus **Bill Payn P'00**, was the first of its kind in more than a decade. "For many alumni, singing in a choir was a seminal part of their Bucknell experience," Hopkins says. "This was an opportunity to celebrate the shared legacy of choral excellence between them and the current students."

The weekend included rehearsals, social events and a banquet. The highlight, Hopkins says, was a joint performance featuring works beloved by alumni and students, including Elaine Hagenberg's "O Love," Ola Gjeilo's "The Ground" and Payn's own "Walk Humbly." The concert also premiered "Who Walk This Way," a newly commissioned piece by Professor Emeritus Jackson Hill.



Plans are underway to make the Choral Reunion, which was held on campus in October, a biennial event.

Despite limited rehearsal time, Hopkins says alumni arrived well prepared, blending seamlessly with students. "It was amazing to see everyone connect and make music together," he says.

was a devoted student at Bucknell. She worked harder than most to be a great student and earned her degree. She was proud of the family lineage at Bucknell and all that it represented.

"All in the Bucknell community who knew Kate loved her. As a friend, she was the one who made everyone feel better when she was around, and you also knew you would not want to mess with her.

"Her career was dedicated to education in Pennsylvania as a reading specialist. All of her peers looked up to her as a leader. The children she taught had a special relationship with her. I think they saw the child at heart in her and related to her in a unique way. She valued those relationships throughout her life. Even as the children she taught grew and moved on from her classrooms,

she stayed in touch with them and their families.

"Kate will be remembered by me for all that she taught to me. Our life together did not follow a prescribed straight-line path that maybe some expect. Her life ended far too soon. But I am forever grateful to her because I would not have ever grown to the person I am today without her. She gave so much more than she took from this world and will forever be missed." — *Katy Zachry Vandegrift and Janelle Weaver Foster M'04*

2003

In September, **JENNIFER BOWER DAWSON** checked off a major bucket-list item by running the Marathon des Châteaux du Médoc in the scenic Bordeaux region of France. She writes, "Known for its beautiful vineyard views, festive

costumes and wine tasting along the route, the race was an unforgettable experience. It also provided me with a special opportunity to reconnect with fellow Alpha Phi Omega alumna **ALINE BALLY '02**, who led a team of 50-plus volunteers at the Château Clerc Milon refreshment stop, offering runners a delightful selection of wines and local snacks. It was a true joy to reminisce about our Bucknell days while surrounded by the beauty of one of the world's most iconic wine regions."

In April 2024, **MELISSA MILANAK** presented the talk "Sleep: NOT the Impossible Dream!" for TEDx Charleston. In 2018, she founded MIND Impact Consulting and has been traveling around the world speaking to organizations such as Barron's Financial and the African Centers for Disease Control, helping individuals to

sleep better and stress less. Her talk is available on YouTube. — *Paige Nicole Wiederspiel Baskwill*

2005 REUNION

On Oct. 26, **TODD CERVINI** married **JANEEN ABDELNOUR** on an afternoon in beautiful Tilghman Island, Md. The wedding was attended by **BRYAN** and **LAURA WINTER LEIBOWITZ** and **LARS JOHANSON**. — *Nikki Hollister Olszyk*

2008

Thank you to everyone who contributed news to this column. I live outside Baltimore with my husband and three boys (6, 4 and 18 months). After graduating from Bucknell, I pursued my master's in speech-language pathology at the University of Virginia and worked in a pediatric

setting for over 13 years before deciding to stay at home full time with the boys. Life is crazy, but I wouldn't have it any other way.

KATIE ASMUNDSON is married to **ROB RHOADES '05**, and they have four daughters (9 to 19 months). They live in Wynnewood, Pa., and welcomed puppy Cookie Dough into their already insane life. Katie ran into **KATHERINE BATCHELOR BARTH** at a school function, then a few months later saw **AMANDA STEWART** in a Target parking lot.

NATALIE CUBBON CROTTE visited Bucknell this summer with husband Kevin and children Tommy (7), Rosa (5) and Oscar (4). They were joined by many family members including **STU CUBBON '78**, **STU CUBBON JR. '07** and **PHILLIP CUBBON '12**. **CHRISTINA TVARDEK**

BREAKING BARRIERS

A LONG-AWAITED INDUCTION

Once overlooked due to gender bias, Marilyn Ekiss Fries '59 has been awarded her place in Tau Beta Pi

by KATE WILLIARD

Marilyn Ekiss Fries '59 was among the first women to pursue a chemical engineering degree at Bucknell University. Although she earned a place in the prestigious Tau Beta Pi national engineering honor society, the association did not admit women at the time. Instead, Fries was made an honorary member and awarded the Tau Beta Pi Women's Badge from the national organization — a gesture of recognition but not official membership.

Fries pursued a master's degree in computer science at the University of Washington, leading to a remarkable career that advanced the cause of women in technology.

In the June 4, 1979, issue of *Computerworld* magazine, an article titled "Women vs. Chauvinism: A DP Showdown" documented one of Fries' quiet advocacy efforts. Frustrated by a clerical computing task she suspected was assigned due to her gender, Fries crafted a report deliberately using feminine pronouns to challenge the status quo. Her thoughtful approach blended technical expertise with a quiet stand for equality, leaving a clear message without disrupting her work.

Though Fries excelled professionally, she had yet to receive official recognition of her academic achievements at Bucknell. Tau Beta Pi began admitting women as full members in 1968 and extended an invitation to Fries in the early 1970s, but she was living in Seattle with young children and unable to attend the induction ceremony.



Marilyn Ekiss Fries '59 (first row, second from right) was welcomed into Tau Beta Pi by her classmates and professors.

It wasn't until the fall of 2024 that Fries received her due. She reached out to Bucknell with a simple request: Could she be inducted?

Thanks to the efforts of Erin Jablonski, director for the Perricelli-Gegnans Center for Entrepreneurship & Innovation, and Wendelin Wright, head of Tau Beta Pi at Bucknell and professor of mechanical and chemical engineering, Fries was formally inducted into the honor society. On October 6, she finally received her Tau Beta Pi pin — a long-overdue recognition for her academic excellence and an acknowledgment of her groundbreaking contributions to women in engineering and technology.

STOTZ is a small-animal veterinarian and the owner of Bluffing Goat Farm in Poolesville, Md. Visit bluffinggoat.com to purchase soap (cheese is in the works).

J.B. PETERMAN III lives in Bedminster, N.J., on a farm with his wife of 10 years. They have two kids with one on the way, an English bulldog, a rabbit and eight chickens. He's an orthodontist in Chatham, N.J., and treats a lot of Bucknell grads and their future Bucknellians.

BRETT IRWIN, wife Erika and daughter Eliot (9) moved back to the U.S. after spending eight

years in Zurich, Switzerland. He's enjoyed getting to know some Bucknellians in and around D.C.

KRISTINA KASK KIISK, her husband and two daughters bought a house in southern Estonia last year, where they built an air-gun range and a yoga studio. Kristina is a full-time shooting coach, a shooter and a certified yoga instructor.

JAYNE KUBAT is in her fifth year teaching at Bucknell. Her family has a new puppy named Rupert, who is very cute.

JESS SCOTT lives in her tiny house in Rockport, Maine, and is embarking on a hyper-local project

to build community. She believes that person-to-person relationships can help chart a path through the intense division facing our country. Feeling similar? Jess would love to hear from you at jesspscott@gmail.com.

ERIC WEAVER celebrated the Fourth of July with **KEVIN MACLEOD '09** and his family in Indian Harbour Beach, Fla. They all live near Melbourne, Fla., and work at Kennedy Space Center supporting NASA's Artemis and International Space Station programs.

MIKE CONTINO decided to pursue his passion in

residential real estate. Together with his dad, they have The Contino Group, which services southeastern Pennsylvania and southern New Jersey. They've consistently been recognized as top sales producers in the region, ranking in the top three small teams in the state of New Jersey and nationally in the top 10 small teams across the entire Berkshire Hathaway Home Services National Network. Mike also enjoys working out, playing sports and hosting, traveling and catching up with his classmates, especially all of his great friends from

the Bucknell track & field team. Mike lives in Newtown Square, Pa., and Ocean City, N.J.

STEPHEN M'09 and **KATE LAHNER PARKER '09** had son Henry Gordon Parker in May. Stephen had two chance Bucknell encounters: one in the Pittsburgh airport, where he ran into **JONATHAN GRAINGER** for the first time since college, and another one month later where he saw **CAMERON O'REILLY** walking around a gift shop in Disney Springs, Fla.

HUGH WELLES welcomed his first child over the Christmas holiday. An experimental

celiac vaccine that he designed in collaboration with colleagues at Barinthus Biotherapeutics entered a first-in-human study late in 2024.

VICKIE HAU completed her training in anesthesiology with a fellowship in obstetrics. She passed her medical boards this past spring and is practicing in Seattle. She and husband Mike became parents in 2022 and had their second child in the summer.

MORGAN JOHNSON BAUER and her husband welcomed their second child this past fall. She lives outside Philadelphia and has been working at Comcast as an industrial design project manager.

MATT and **AMY HOFMANN DIETERT** had daughter Mia on Valentine's Day 2024, joining sister Chelsea. — *Laura Leviski Hyde*

2009

SARAH MOHL SLOCOMB had son Blair Dec. 22. His 3-year-old brother, Caleb, was thrilled to meet him, and the family was looking forward to settling in as a group of four.

JEFF MANNING is engaged to his partner of nine years, Shane Mueller. **CHRISTINE YAGED VAN HORN**, entrepreneur and founder of Launch Potato, an Inc. 5000 digital media company, had Astor Akiko Van Horn with husband Greg Sept. 11.

I'm saddened to share **MEG WYATT O'ROURKE** passed away in the fall. Her husband, **MATT '07**, shares, "Meg passed away Nov. 11 in Dublin, Ohio, after a courageous battle with breast cancer. A lifelong, voracious reader and gifted writer,

Meg double-majored in English and Spanish at Bucknell. Following a brief career in publishing, she earned a master's in education from Drew University and became a beloved teacher of high school English and creative writing. She had many friendships during her time at Bucknell and was involved in Kappa Kappa Gamma, the Bison Girls dance team and InterVarsity Christian Fellowship. Those who knew her will remember her as a bright light with a huge heart and glorious laugh. She is survived by her loving family, including husband Matt and four children." — *Nikki Seaman Iselin*

2010 REUNION

ABBY ATKINSON CHINAULT and husband Bryce had their third child, Beau, in September, joining Lucy (5) and Jude (3). They moved to Connecticut in 2022 after living in the D.C. area for 12 years.

TOBY '11 and **CASEY HUBERT COMER** welcomed their second son, Hayes, in October, who joins brother Cole (2).

MIKE WAGNER and wife Michele had their fourth child, Amanda, in November. Siblings Maria (5), Chris (3) and Vince (2) were excited about having a little sister. They live in the Denver suburbs.

JEN BUTLER and **ROBERT KELLY** are engaged and live in San Francisco. Katy and **LUKE TRAFTON** are expecting their first child in June.

I'm looking forward to seeing many members of the Class of 2010 at our 15th(!) Reunion at the end of May. — *David Iselin*

2014

WILL COYNE will finish his time on active duty as a medical service officer in the Army this July. Up next, he is headed to the Tepper School of Business at Carnegie Mellon University to pursue an MBA. Will is looking forward to getting back to Pennsylvania, transitioning from the military to the business world and continuing to serve in the Army Reserves. — *Kaitlin Marsh*

2015 REUNION

2018

CHLOE BROWN CARSON married in October. **JAKE DIXON** embarked on an incredible adventure, backpacking through Machu Picchu. **ALI BRENNAN** was on track to graduate with her Ph.D. in clinical psychology in May.

ASHLEY JONES-QUIADOO had her first child with her husband; they are both U.S. diplomats living in France. **JESS GIBSON** and **SCOTT DRUMMOND** married. **BAYLY JARRETT FRYE** (my sister-in-law) lives in the Washington, D.C., area and has worked as a labor-and-delivery nurse for the past five years. She's also pursuing her nurse practitioner degree.

ANNA GOULD bought a new house, started a new job with the U.S. Patent Office and got engaged. **JUSTIN CARR** graduated from The Ohio State University law school, moved to Newport Beach, Calif., and was practicing law there. **JASON CORRIVEAU** got married in 2020, has a

one-year-old son and a dog, ran his first marathon last year and is the director of data engineering at The Hartford Insurance Group.

KAT SOKIRKA got married, is director of events at the Mohegan Sun Arena and had a baby girl. I (**ANNA**) had a baby girl named Millie in October and still live in Charlotte, N.C. Please give a shout if you're ever in the area. It's great to hear from everyone and see how far we've come since graduation — looking forward to more updates in the future. — *Anna Millar*

2019

NATHAN ORTIZ is finishing his last year of his Ph.D. program at the University of Utah. Last year, he founded a small business, Sorption Water Solutions, which builds on his research, focusing on developing atmospheric water harvesters to supply drinking water in arid climates. **DABREON DARBY** graduated magna cum laude from American University in May 2024 with an MBA and a graduate certificate in data science and analytics. Dabreon moved from Washington, D.C., to Chicago to join JPMorganChase's leadership development program. **DALTON STEWART** completed his Ph.D. in environmental engineering at the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign in August. In September, he started an appointment as an analyst engineer and Presidential Management Fellow with the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation in Denver. He was splitting

his time between Denver and Tucson, Ariz., where his partner, Xingxing Wu, is on faculty at the University of Arizona. — *Ella Ri*

2020 REUNION

The Class of 2020 is gearing up for its fifth Reunion and **WILL GREENBERG, ANNEMARIE MARKS, CHRISTINE WEEKS MOORE** and I (**CHANDLER**) have been meeting monthly as members of the Reunion Committee to help make sure the weekend is special. Mark your calendars for May 30–June 1.

BROOKE SCHECHTER enjoys working as a teacher in Philadelphia. **LILY COURTS** went back to school for her bachelor's in nursing and is a step-down intensive care unit nurse. **PARKER HULA** was promoted to captain in the U.S. Army as a signal officer in Fort Stewart, Ga. Perhaps, most excitingly, **ENRICO CHHIBBER** is working as a super yachting journalist! — *Chandler Houldin*

2021

I hope everyone is happy, healthy and ready for a beautiful spring. It's always the season for engagements with congratulations to **AMY YOWELL** and fiancé **PATRICK SWAIN**; **CALEB BROUGHTON** and **MEGAN KEENEY**; **MEG MACNEILLE** and fiancé **JOEY LASUSA**, and **SHELBY UMBARGER** and fiancé **RYAN MUHLENFELD**.

In exciting professional news, **TAYLOR OXLEY** is an associate at Bressler, Amery & Ross. She is an alumna of its summer

associate program and earned her law degree from Tulane University Law School.

It was a big year for **JULIA KHRAKOVSKY**, too. She graduated from Tufts University with a Master of Science in engineering management. "This past November, I had the joy of marrying my now husband, Rob [Kollmer], surrounded by family, friends and a special group of Bucknellians. Having my college friends and sorority sisters there made the celebration even more meaningful — there's nothing like sharing life's biggest moments with the people who've been there since the beginning. One of my favorite parts of the ceremony was including a passage we used to read during our Theta chapter meetings — a nod to the lifelong bonds I formed at Bucknell. It was a day filled with love, laughter and countless memories I'll cherish forever."

HAMZA JETER proposed to **MANNING MARTUS** at a family gathering on Jan. 4 and, of course, she said "yes!" The couple met in Vedder Hall during their first year at Bucknell, began dating the summer of 2019 and have been inseparable since.

I'm happy to share an update on one more Bison love story. I met **KYLE COHICK '20** through Bucknell theatre my first semester, and we are just a few months away from our wedding as I am writing this. Kyle, you are the greatest person I've ever met. I love you more than words can ever express, and I am forever thankful that we found each other in the beautiful

little town of Lewisburg. Thank you, Bucknell, for bringing us together; I'm eternally grateful. 'ray Bucknell. — *Mackenzie Gross*

IN MEMORIAM

1946

MARION TURNER CLUMP, Oct. 13, Pawtucket, R.I.

JEAN BROCK WALLACE, June 26, Whitehouse Station, N.J.

1947

ALBERTA NOVICK KILLIAN, Sept. 1, Lancaster, Pa.

1948

JESS DAVIS, July 21, Yeagertown, Pa.

PEGGY ROWE HARRISON P'81, July 12, Rochester, N.Y.

MARION RODAN STEELE, July 11, Willow Street, Pa.

1949

AL FISCHER P'77, June 15, Chambersburg, Pa.

MARION MAYFIELD-JOHNSON, Sept. 23, Asheville, N.C.

1950

BETTY DEISROTH CLARK, Aug. 6, Fort Pierce, Fla.

LESTER MURRAY P'82, July 13, Anderson, Ind.

1951

RICHARD REIGLE, July 3, Severna Park, Md.

1952

ROBERT CARMAN, Aug. 10, Minneapolis

JOSEPHINE "DODIE" HILDRETH DETMER P'76, Aug. 23, Cumberland Foreside, Maine

GEORGE "BUD" KEEN, Aug. 16, Virginia Beach, Va.

DREW SEIBERT P'91, G'20, Aug. 23, Lakewood, N.J.

IN MEMORIAM

BILL GRAHAM '62



Bill Graham '62, a generous benefactor and successful business leader who co-owned *The Philadelphia Inquirer*, passed away Jan. 29. As chairman and CEO of The Graham Company, one of the largest insurance firms in the U.S., he built a thriving enterprise while also dedicating himself to philanthropy.

In 2004, Graham and his wife, Fran, made a \$5.6 million donation to Bucknell, helping to reinstate varsity wrestling, which fulfilled his vision of a packed Sojka Pavilion. His contributions extended beyond wrestling; an \$8 million gift supported the creation of Graham Field for field hockey and women's lacrosse and an endowment for women's athletics. In recognition of his contributions to Bucknell Athletics, he was named Univer-

sity Division Donor of the Year in 2007 by the National Association of Athletic Development Directors. In 2018, he was named to the Bucknell Athletics Hall of Fame. Graham also served on Bucknell's Board of Trustees for nine years.

He is survived by his wife, two children and four grandchildren. Donations in his name can be made to Bucknell wrestling at give.bucknell.edu/Graham.

1953

ISABEL AITKEN BROOKER, Oct. 15, Kingsport, Tenn.

ROBERT COOPER, July 16, Charlottesville, Va.

MARY ANN FAIRCHILD DILWORTH, Aug. 31, Pittsburgh

LYNN GORDON, Oct. 28, Ossining, N.Y.

NANCY SCHREINER HUBLEY, Aug. 15, Harwich, Mass.

EDWARD KNORR, June 16, 2023, Indianapolis

HOMER MIDDLETON, July 29, Nashville, Tenn.

JEANE WHITE SPOOR, Oct. 16, Saint Johns, Fla.

DOLORES "DEE" STALEY STOVER, Oct. 19, Pittsford, N.Y.

MICHAEL SUBER P'81, Nov. 28, Princeton, N.J.

JOHN TROAST P'79, P'85, P'87, G'06, G'08, Sept. 19, North Palm Beach, Fla.

1954

JOSEPH "STU" BOLDRY P'80, July 15, Dayville, Conn.

THEODORE "TED" BULEY P'82, Oct. 4, New Paltz, N.Y.

RICHARD KERN, Aug. 8, Upper Saddle River, N.J.

MASON LINN, June 24, Frederick, Pa.

VINCENT "GEORGE" MCMANN P'90, Oct. 25, Mendham, N.J.

ARTHUR SIMON, Sept. 7, Suffern, N.Y.

1955

JULIUS "BOB" KELZ, Aug. 21, Southbury, Conn.

CLAIRE MARSHALL MCLEAN, Sept. 25, Shady Side, Md.

SUSAN FLEMING ROBERTS, April 23, 2024, Audubon, Pa.

1956

MARY LOU ADAMS, Aug. 31, Margate City, N.J.

PATRICIA QUINN BEHRE, July 13, Gettysburg, Pa.

JOHN HAYES P'81, Oct. 26, Phoenix

JANET POPE KNORR, Aug. 15, Indianapolis

KEN LARSON, Dec. 22, Montoursville, Pa.

MERRILL LYNN, Nov. 3, Morton, Pa.

WILLIAM MARTENS P'79, G'11, Dec. 4, Pownal, Maine

JOHN MCKEE P'86, Aug. 29, Rockville, Md.

FLOYD NAUGLE, May 12, Smith River, Ore.

POLLYANN KELLER OWEN P'81, P'84, P'86, G'22, G'28, Dec. 2, Trumbull, Conn.

LORRAINE SORESI TWEED, Dec. 26, Richmond, Ill.

1957

MARY WOODWARD BERINGER, July 13, Richmond, Va.

BECKY CECIL BROWN, June 22, Baltimore

IN MEMORIAM

JOSEPHINE "DODIE" HILDRETH DETMER '52, P'79



Josephine "Dodie" Hildreth Detmer '52, P'79, a lifelong Bucknell supporter, passed away Aug. 23 at the age of 94.

She was the daughter of **Horace Augustus Hildreth H'56, P'52, G'79**, who served as Maine's governor before becoming president of Bucknell University in 1949. Detmer began her college education at Vassar College but transferred to Bucknell, where she earned a degree in political science.

In 2017, she and her daughter, **Zareen Taj Mirza '79**, made a transformative gift to the University, funding the creation of Hildreth-Mirza Hall, home to Bucknell's Humanities Center. Detmer and Mirza also established the Josephine Hildreth

Detmer & Zareen Taj Mirza Professorship in Islamic Studies, Bucknell's first position dedicated to the study of Islam. Her experience living in Pakistan while her father served as the U.S. ambassador from 1953 to 1957 informed her commitment to cross-cultural understanding. Detmer spent much of her career teaching history and religion at Waynflete School in Portland, Maine.

She is survived by her daughter.

CAROL CHRIST STEELE,
March 27, Jupiter, Fla.

PETER TILLOTSON, Aug.
31, Towaco, N.J.

1958

GERALD "BLAINE" BARDO,
Aug. 31, Lounsberry, N.Y.

ROBERT BIGLOW P'91,
Dec. 7, Naples, Fla.

GEORGE BROWN, Aug. 22,
Wernersville, Pa.

**ELLEN CAMPBELL
CHAMPLIN M'60, P'94**,
Sept. 19, San Francisco

GAIL MCMULLEN MCCAIN,
Nov. 13, Stowe, Vt.

**NORMA JEAN RENNINGER
REED P'84, P'97**, July 10,
Lewisburg, Pa.

MERRETT STIERHEIM, July
7, Pinecrest, Fla.

CORBIN WYANT, July 2,
Naples, Fla.

1959

**ANNAMARIE NEFF
ANDERSON P'92**, Oct. 9,
Ft. Washington, Pa.

FREDRIC CAMPBELL, June
26, Milton, Pa.

HELMAR NIELSEN, Nov. 20,
Saint Petersburg, Fla.

GREGORY OGDEN, June
16, 2023, Tampa, Fla.

WILLIAM SHARKEY, June
29, Midlothian, Va.

1960

ROBERT AYMAR, Aug. 6,
Folly Beach, S.C.

**CHARLES DEVEREAUX
P'85**, July 11, Scott
Township, Pa.

**RICHARD GOELLER P'91,
P'98**, June 25, Towson,
Md.

**EDWARD "TED" TREAD-
WELL**, Oct. 26, Blowing
Rock, N.C.

1961

JACKSON "JACK" FOX,
June 17, Tampa, Fla.

**JANE KRIMSLEY MATCHA
P'85**, Sept. 16, Sugar
Land, Texas

**ISABEL FLEMING
MILLWARD**, July 6,
Seneca, S.C.

LYNNE PAWLITZ PENNELL,
Nov. 7, Jacksonville, Ill.

LAWRENCE RAJNIK, July
8, Corning, N.Y.

1962

CAROL KURTZ CHAPMAN,
July 14, Shoreline, Wash.

**DEANNA ROSEN GERBER
P'90**, July 22, Stamford,
Conn.

DIANE BOWLES PUCKO,
Nov. 14, West Chester,
Ohio

**PATRICIA GEORGE
SCOLARO**, Sept. 5,
Syracuse, N.Y.

1963

JAMES CUSICK P'93, P'10,
Nov. 1, Shrewsbury, N.J.

MARK KAPLAN, Sept. 24,
Branford, Conn.

CLEMENT NOBLE P'95,
July 21, Wilmington, Del.

1964

ROGER BEARDSLEE M'68,
June 20, Hector, N.Y.

**ROBERT DRETAR P'89,
P'94, G'22**, Dec. 20, Vestal,
N.Y.

JAMES HICKS, Aug. 6,
Stokesdale, N.C.

NANCY TALBOTT IAK,
Sept. 19, Franklin, N.C.

JOHN TOZIER, Oct. 10,
Greensburg, Pa.

1966

JOAN REICHLEY SCOTT,
Nov. 8, Golden, Colo.

CONSTANCE TIMM, Dec.
12, Lewisburg, Pa.

1967

**BARBARA BODEN
CHAMBERLIN**, Aug. 5,
Mountain Top, Pa.

MATTHEW MCMONIGLE,
Sept. 19, Ashland, Va.

1968

PETER HENDER, Oct. 17,
Barnegat, N.J.

**GEORGE "DOC"
ROENNING**, Oct. 19,
Sevastopol, Wis.

ROBERT VATER, Dec. 10,
Greenville, N.C.

**RICHARD WILDONGER
G'28**, July 12, Landen-
berg, Pa.

SUSAN FOSTER WILLET,
Dec. 30, Stone Harbor,
N.J.

1970

PETER ARON P'02, Dec. 3,
Centerville, Va.

GREGORY BOCK, Dec. 9,
Stratford, Conn.

DENNIS BRADISH, Sept.
14, Franklin, N.H.

GEORGE WARMATH, July
11, Glen Allen, Va.

1971

THOMAS FICKLIN, Oct. 9,
New Haven, Conn.

BRUCE MORTIMER, Dec. 1,
Lutherville, Md.

PAUL PICKARD, Sept. 7,
Oak Bluffs, Mass.

PHIL REESE, May 31,
Leesburg, Ga.

PAMELA SPRENKLE, Aug.
21, Valentine, Neb.

1972

LESTER BECKER, Nov. 15,
Springfield, Va.

THADDEUS PRUSIK, Aug.
2, Stroudsburg, Pa.

1973

DIANE FAIRCLOUGH,
March 2, 2024, Denver

FRANK SAWICKI P'95, Dec.
28, Atlas, Pa.

1974

WILLIAM FREEMAN, Aug.
10, Elko New Market,
Minn.

**ROBIN HUMMEL KENNER
P'03, P'08**, Dec. 13,
Allentown, Pa.

1975

THOMAS BLANKLEY, Aug.
23, Princeville, Hawaii

1976

DOUGLAS STARR, Dec. 16,
Merrimack, N.H.

1978

TIMOTHY CHERNEY, Oct.
19, Brewerton, N.Y.

1979

DENISE HARTLEY BADEN,
Dec. 6, Friendswood,
Texas

1980

WILLIAM MATTHEWS,
Sept. 27, Malvern, Pa.

STEVEN YOUNG, Sept. 15,
Sayville, N.Y.

1981

KAREN HAUPTLY DUBOIS,
July 16, Madison, Wis.

1983

CHERYL MCINROY P'20,
July 3, Ridgewood, N.J.

1984

THOMAS JACOBSON, Oct.
30, Spring Lake, N.J.

1985

JOANNE GEHAS, Oct. 22,
Bradenton, Fla.

1990

VIRGINIA HOOD DREIER,
July 11, Barrington, R.I.

1991

JOHN WIGGER, Sept. 28,
Mechanicsburg, Pa.

1993

**CORNELIUS "ALLEN"
BOTTOMLEY,** Sept. 13,
Hanover, Mass.

KEVIN KANE, Aug. 12,
Easton, Pa.

1996

KEVIN SCHILLING, Dec.
18, Pitman, N.J.

2003

**KENNETH "RONNIE" LIGHT
III,** Dec. 14, West New
York, N.J.

2009

**MARGARET "MEG" WYATT
O'ROURKE,** Nov. 11,
Dublin, Ohio

2010

THOMAS ERTEL, Nov. 3,
Williamsport, Pa.

2018

JOHN "JACK" NAPOR,
June 29, Conshohocken,
Pa.

2028

CALVIN DICKEY, July 12,
Land O' Lakes, Fla.

MASTER'S

WILLIAM BOSSO M'64,
Aug. 1, Macungie, Pa.

PAUL FARNSWORTH M'54,
Sept. 19, Elysburg, Pa.

NORMAN FOSTER M'03,
Oct. 20, Selinsgrove, Pa.

DAVID GREEN M'62, June
1, York, Pa.

**BETTY RICHWINE
GUIDARA M'66,** Nov. 25,
Dillsburg, Pa.

JOHN "DAVE" HENRY M'64,
Sept. 2, Mecosta, Mich.

H. GEORGE HINSTON M'65,
Nov. 30, Montoursville, Pa.

JOHN IRVING M'71, Aug. 2,
Louisburg, Kan.

GEORGE LOWRIE III M'69,
Nov. 2, Ann Arbor, Mich.

JAMES MATZ M'77, Oct.
27, Fairport, N.Y.

PAUL OTTOSON M'66, Feb.
22, 2024, Springfield, Ill.

**CHRISTINE KURUNA
REHRIG M'78,** Dec. 13,
Middleburg, Pa.

MARK WAGNER M'98, Oct.
26, Millersburg, Pa.

CARL WINEY G'09, M'64,
Nov. 22, Lewisburg, Pa.

**ATSUKO OUCHI YAMAMO-
TO M'56,** Dec. 14, 2023,
Piedmont, Calif.

FACULTY AND STAFF

ROBERT ALBERT, Jan. 6,
Milton, Pa.

JEFFREY BOWEN P'15,
Nov. 23, Ithaca, N.Y.

ANN DE KLERK, Nov. 8,
Verona, Pa.

JOHN FERNSLER, July 10,
Urbana, Ill.

TODD HOLLENBACH, Nov.
27, Selinsgrove, Pa.

JEFFREY HOLMES, Sept.
24, Lewisburg, Pa.

ANDRIA LAURENCE, Oct.
13, Milton, Pa.

TERRY LLOYD, July 9,
Williamsport, Pa.

EVELYN MABUS, Sep. 27,
Turbotville, Pa.

JOHN MURPHY P'90, Oct.
10, Lewisburg, Pa.

DAVID PEARSON P'94, May
26, Lewisburg, Pa.

FRANK SILER, Nov. 5,
Lewisburg, Pa.

ROBERT SLOAN, Oct. 6,
Gratz, Pa.

HOWARD SMITH, Oct. 21,
Wales, U.K.

BARRY SOLOMON, Aug.
14, Watsonstown, Pa.

FRIENDS

DANIEL GAMACHE P'28,
Sept. 25, Lynnfield, Mass.

TODD HACK P'28, Sept.
12, Staten Island, N.Y.

MELISSA KIRBY P'27, Oct.
10, Towson, Md.

CASIMIR PIERZ P'28, May
5, Yonkers, N.Y.



CLASS REPORTERS

EMERITI

NICOLE CONNOR TAYLOR '01
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

1952

CAROLYN KNIES ERDLE
liberty384@comcast.net

1953

CHRISTINE HILL KILLOUGH
chkillough@gmail.com

JOHN MANBECK
manbeckj7@yahoo.com

1954

BONNIE MACKIE ASPINWALL
bmaspinwall@gmail.com

1955

ELEANOR MACKIE PIGMAN
empigman@gmail.com

1956

JOSEPH EBERHART
jdocyardley@aol.com

1957

CAROLYN "CALLIE" MEYER
meyerwrite@comcast.net

1958

ROBERTA BAYER SCHLACKS
robertaschlacks@gmail.com

1959

If you have news to share,
please email Heidi Hormel,
Class Notes editor, at
hjh006@bucknell.edu.

1960

PETE FRITTS
petefrittsr@att.net

1961

JAN POWERS
jpowers0135@earthlink.net

1962

If you have news to share,
please email Heidi Hormel,
Class Notes editor, at
hjh006@bucknell.edu.

1963

PENNY WEST SURITZ
pennysuritz@gmail.com

1964

BETH WEHRLE SMITH
bethdonsm@aol.com

1965

JACKIE HONOR PLUMEZ
Plumez.dr@gmail.com

1966

**JACKIE PEARSON
WEIDENFELLER**
theweids@verizon.net

1967

CHUCK GILLILAND
cdgilliland45@gmail.com

1968

GEORGE VINCE
gvince@madriver.com

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

1973

SUSAN LATIMER CURLETT
slcurlett@aol.com

1974

NORBERT W. CHURCH JR.
churchandchurch@yahoo.com

1975

NANCY QUAY BRADLEY
nancy.bradley6@gmail.com

1976

GAIL WATERBURY FERRI
waterburyferri@gmail.com

MARY LOU KUPFER

maryloukpr6@gmail.com

1977

SUSAN HUNSICKER
8elsiemarie@gmail.com

BRIAN KNAPP

cbknapp@charter.net

1978

**KATHY MCDONALD
ADELBERGER**
tedkathy@comcast.net

1979

ALAN SCHRIGER
altam@netvision.net.il

1980

DEBORAH L. HENNEL
dhennel@aol.com

1981

CAROL CHRISTIE ROSNER
ccrosner@aol.com

1982

BECKY GOODWIN KANGOS
rgkang@aol.com

1983

TRACEY TRUSK EICK
tteick@bellsouth.net

1984

ALLISON ABOUCHAR CROSS
14380th@gmail.com

1985

CAROL RHEAM TEVIS
rheamtev@ptd.net

1986

JOAN DAUGHEN CADIGAN
jcadigan@mac.com

1987

LAUREN SLAVIN WROBEL
laurenwr@optimum.net

1988

**STACIE VELISARIS DE LA
PARRA**
svdelaparra@yahoo.com

1989

RENEE LEAVITT BARLOW
reneebarlow999@gmail.com

1990

**LAURA MICHALEC
OLSZEWSKI**
laura.michalec@gmail.com

1991

LISA DuBUSC MILLER
lisa@dubusc.com

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

1995

JENNIFER BLOB BONER
jenboner@gmail.com

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

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**
prnjacobson@gmail.com

2004

JENNIFER BUNCH WEBLER
jen.webler@gmail.com

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
laura.leviski@gmail.com

2009

NIKKI SEAMAN ISELIN
Nseaman006@gmail.com

2010

DAVID ISELIN
dtiselin@gmail.com

2011

LINDSAY MACHEN
lindsay.machen@gmail.com

2012

If you have news to share,
please email Heidi Hormel,
Class Notes editor, at hjh006@
bucknell.edu.

2013

MASHA ZHDANOVA
mz008@bucknell.edu

2014

KAITLIN MARSH
kaitlinmarsh@gmail.com

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

2020

CHANDLER HOULDIN
cwh021@bucknell.edu

2021

MACKENZIE GROSS
mag052@bucknell.edu

2022

JASMINE MINHAS
jkm030@bucknell.edu

2023

KATELYN COLLINS
kec019@bucknell.edu

2024

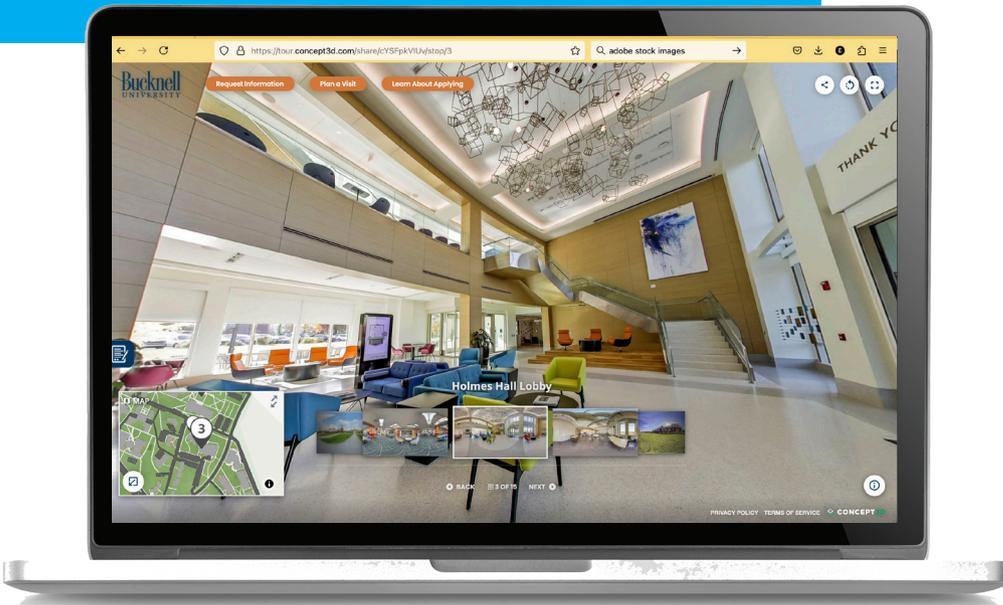
MEGAN COLLINS
mlc048@bucknell.edu

DO

JOIN THE CONVERSATION

We're grateful to everyone who participated in the 2024 Alumni Engagement Survey. The results are providing valuable insights that are helping us shape our path forward.

 See what we learned: go.bucknell.edu/AlumniEngagement



EXPLORE CAMPUS

Bucknell has introduced a new interactive 360-degree campus tour, giving prospective students the opportunity to explore campus remotely. Visitors can navigate key locations like Malesardi Quadrangle and academic buildings, gaining a glimpse of campus life

from anywhere. Since launching in December, the tour has been viewed more than 1,600 times with the average viewer spending more than five minutes exploring the tour.

 See it for yourself: go.bucknell.edu/tour



GET CAREER ADVICE

Schedule a free, confidential meeting with our alumni career coach to develop your search strategy.

 Connect with us bucknell.edu/ACS



Attention members of Pi Mu Epsilon! This mathematics honor society is celebrating its 100th anniversary at Bucknell. The Department of Mathematics & Statistics is collecting memories and photos that will help sum up a century of excellence.

 Share submissions at: go.bucknell.edu/mathmemories

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

"Physics 211 and Physics 212 were both extremely challenging and incredibly rewarding courses. Not only did I gain a broader understanding of different subtopics within the discipline of physics, but I also strengthened my abstract thinking skills and was able to apply what I had learned to better understand biochemical processes in the fields of cellular and molecular biology. The support I received from the physics department, particularly during office hours and extra help sessions, was extraordinary, and without a doubt enhanced the success of my learning."

Morgan Thomas '23

"English 243 with Professor Marilyn Mumford M'59 was one of the more difficult courses I took as an undergrad at Bucknell. We read *The Canterbury Tales* in Middle English, had to learn the correct pronunciation of the dialect and were tested on it! At the end of the semester, we were rewarded for our hard work with a 'medieval feast' at Professor Mumford's house. It was a difficult course, but I learned a lot about how to be a good writer."

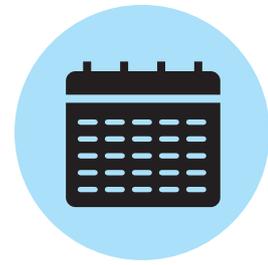
Jason Snyder '95, M'98

"Sparks & wires!! Only passed it after two tries by promising not to take another electrical engineering course."

Matt Dominy '69

"In English literature, it was assumed that freshmen had already mastered college-level writing, so the emphasis was on classical reading and analytical writing. My first assignment for Professor Withim was marked up in so much red critique that I could barely decipher it. With each assignment, the red marks diminished. By the end of the semester, my writing had finally caught up with the quality of thought I was trying to convey. I passed the course with a C, but I believe Professor Withim had given me a learning gift far outweighing any academic grade."

Kim Onsdorff '69



Mark your calendar!

Plan ahead to join us for our signature campus experiences this fall.

**BUCKNELL
FAMILY WEEKEND**

Sept. 19-21, 2025

**BUCKNELL
HOMECOMING**

Oct. 3-5, 2025



Learn more: go.bucknell.edu/familyweekend; go.bucknell.edu/homecoming

ANSWER THIS: IF YOU COULD VISIT BUCKNELL RIGHT NOW, WHAT'S THE FIRST THING YOU'D DO?



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

**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.

WATCH COMMENCEMENT

Bucknell's 175th Commencement, celebrating the Class of 2025, is scheduled for 10 a.m. Sunday, May 18, on Malesardi Quadrangle. The ceremony will feature **Jessica Livingston '93**, a Silicon Valley investor and startup leader, as the keynote speaker (see P. 37) and will be livestreamed.



Watch the ceremony at bucknell.edu/commencement or facebook.com/BucknellU

NOMINATE A BUCKNELLIAN

THE BUCKNELL UNIVERSITY ALUMNI ASSOCIATION IS SEEKING NOMINATIONS TO JOIN ITS BOARD, A DIVERSE GROUP OF PASSIONATE ALUMNI WHO CARE ABOUT MAINTAINING A STRONG BOND BETWEEN ALUMNI, THE UNIVERSITY AND ITS STUDENTS.



Learn more and make a nomination today. bucknell.edu/BUAA

Witty Winners

Here are our favorite caption submissions from the fall issue:



"WHEN PEOPLE LITERALLY START THROWING SHADE."

Sarah EnDyke Yeager '02

"Environmental majors research fully compostable celebration materials."

William C. Miller '72, P'02

"Jamie laughs with delight as her roommate, who foolishly forgot her safety glasses, is permanently blinded by a fusillade of leaves to the face during the fall showcase of Sorority Amazon Rampage. Cleverly, Jamie plans to rearrange their dorm room furniture daily until her roommate has to return to the safety of her home, leaving Jamie with a single."

Gary Treible '80, M'84

"Between classes, there's always time for a little comic re-LEAF."

Jay Sullivan '69

"See, you can have fun AND collect leaf mold samples for your bio project."

Bob Owen '74

"We promised our parents that we'd turn over a new leaf once we graduate."

Ruairi Palmer '17



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



Beyond Unison A Cappella Group



“Music has always been important to me, and Beyond Unison gives me a place to share that passion with others who feel the same way.”

For Marlee Olsson '27 (center), Beyond Unison isn't just about singing; it's about creating, connecting and belonging.

by **MARLEE OLSSON '27**
photograph by **EMILY PAINE**

The first time I saw Beyond Unison perform was during Admitted Student Day. When I walked into the Weis Center auditorium and heard them, a feeling washed over me — I just knew that I belonged there.

Music has always been an integral part of my life. I played the piano, played guitar and sang in a variety of choral groups throughout middle and high school. I decided to major in both biology and environmental studies at Bucknell, which don't include music in their curriculum, but I knew I wanted music as part of my college experience.

Flash forward to my first year on campus: I saw Beyond Unison again at the Activities Fair. A tall, enthusiastic guy named Caiden approached me. “Can you sing?” he asked. I told him that I liked to sing, so I signed up to audition and got in. From

the moment I joined, it felt like I was part of a family. We have different backgrounds and come from different places, but we are all united by our love for music.

Music touches that part of your heart where passion lives. When we sing together and create amazing music, that energy fosters a deep sense of connection.

What I love about our rehearsals is that everyone arrives tense from their day at school — you can feel it — but then when we start singing, we click. We lock in. And soon, everyone is smiling.

The power of 18 voices together is incredible. In Beyond Unison, every person has an important role. We might be each singing our own parts, but the way those parts connect makes the music beautiful and the experience special.



YOU MAKE BUCKNELL'S WINNING TRADITION POSSIBLE

Bison Athletics supporters help student-athletes excel in competition and in the classroom. When they bring home big wins and league championships, we cheer for the impact of donors like you.

FALL 2024 BISON STUDENT-ATHLETE EXCELLENCE

8

Patriot League
Players
of the Year

1

Patriot League
Rookie
of the Year

32

All-Patriot
League
selections

2

Scholar-
athletes
of the Year

12

Academic
All-Patriot
League
selections

3

Patriot League
Coaches
of the Year

74%

Bucknell
Win Percentage
in Patriot
League Play

- Bucknell football finished 4-2 in Patriot League play and were in contention for a league championship up to the final day of the season. With a strong roster of returning talent for the 2025-26 season, the program is primed to make a championship run.

Coach Dave Brandt's amazing rebuild of the men's soccer program culminated with Patriot League regular-season and tournament championships. The Bison dominated Colgate 3-0 in the title match before nearly 1,500 fans at Emmitt Field.

- Women's soccer won the Patriot League regular-season title, advancing to the tournament championship final for the fourth straight year.
- The Michael C. Pascucci '58 Team Center officially opened its doors in April 2024, featuring team meeting spaces, a sports medicine center, a dedicated men's lacrosse locker room and a state-of-the-art strength and conditioning space overlooking new turf practice fields.

>>> Read more about the impact of your generosity: bucknell.edu/YourImpact

FOLLOW @BUCKNELLU



Men's basketball head coach John Griffin III '08 earned Patriot League Coach of the Year honors after leading the Bison to a 13-5 conference record and the No. 1 tournament seed. The summer issue will spotlight his coaching partnership with former teammate Pat Behan '10, who is now battling ALS.

photograph by JAMES T. GIFFEN