

# BUCKNELL

FALL 2025



## The Curator of Cool

Inside Cris Bierrenbach '96's world of rare finds and quirky treasures



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What a season for Evelyn Bliss '27! After earning gold at the USATF Outdoor National Championships, the Bison javelin star (left) scored silver at the World University Games in Germany. She followed that with gold at the NACAC Senior Championships. Bliss capped her international run in September at the World Athletics Championships in Tokyo, where she placed 19th among the world's best.

photograph by  
EUGENE GOH







**BY WAY OF BUCKNELL**

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**FALLING FOR FALL**

Leaf it to Bucknell to bring  
the autumn magic.

photograph by EMILY PAINE

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# PATHWAYS



FROM  
BILLBOARD CHARTS

to

ROOKE CHAPEL

by **BELLA JOHNS '27**  
photograph by **APRIL GAMIZ**

In Rooke Chapel, Rev. Angela Jones can often be found at the piano, guiding students and community members through gospel harmonies — while also creating something larger than music: belonging.

Now in her third term as Bucknell's Gospel Music Fellow, Jones sees the role as a natural extension of her life's work in music ministry, mentorship and higher education.

"I wanted to work with a diverse group of students and the community members, and I knew that this would be the place to do it," she says.

Jones organizes community events and leads weekly rehearsals with a small group of students and local singers. The daughter of two pastors, Jones says she has long viewed music as both a refuge and a bridge — a way to unite people across faiths, cultures and generations.

A Washington, D.C., native, Jones is a singer, songwriter, producer and faith leader who has shared the stage with gospel icons. With her group, Brandon Camphor & OneWay, she has earned four top-30 positions on the *Billboard* Gospel Airplay charts. In 2025, she received a Stellar Gospel Music Award, one of the highest honors in gospel music.

"Gospel music is more than just a performance," Jones says. "It's about recognizing the importance of African American history, cultural experience, community engagement and artistic expression."

➞ **Don't miss the opportunity to see Jones perform. Visit [go.bucknell.edu/gospelfellow](https://go.bucknell.edu/gospelfellow) for information.**









# GATEWAY

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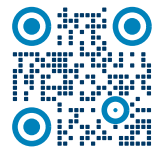
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### ONLINE EXCLUSIVE

*Taylan Stulting '16, featured in our Spring '25 issue, completed the 2,800-mile World's Toughest Row across the Pacific Ocean — and made history. Stulting's team set the world record for the fastest trio on the mid-Pacific route, and Stulting became the first openly transgender person to row any ocean. Read their update and see photos in our online edition.*



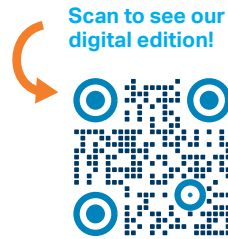
On the cover: Cris Bierrenbach '96 with his treasures. Photograph by Kevin Gaddis Jr.



**BEFORE YOU DIVE** into this issue, I want to give you a quick heads-up about what's coming next. Each winter, *Bucknell Magazine* shifts gears for a special "University Report" edition, which is dedicated to highlighting major initiatives and progress happening across campus to advance Bucknell's strategic goals. Because of this focused format, Class Notes will take a break in the winter issue — but don't worry, they'll return in the spring. We know how much you enjoy reading alumni updates, and we look forward to sharing them again soon.

**KATIE NEITZ**

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**BUCKNELL**

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**The Price of Plastic**

Thanks so much for "The Plastic Paradox" (Spring, 2025). It's timely, beautifully written and illustrated, and important. I'm proud of the good work Bucknellians are doing to bring awareness to our plastic problem.

A few years ago, my team — Jonathan Sprout's Force For Good Music and Films — created a short music video called *Plastic* to shed light on this issue. It's available on YouTube if anyone's interested in taking a look.

I've made sustainable living a personal mission. I own a net-zero home in Bucks County, Pa., and recently gave a presentation called "Net Zero Living: Ways to Lower Your Carbon Footprint." If Bucknell ever forms

a net-zero alumni group, you can count me in.

Thanks for creating cover-to-cover must-read magazines!

I'm a proud member of the Class of 1974 with deep Bucknell roots. My parents met and graduated from Bucknell. My dad's parents met and graduated from Bucknell, and my 97-year-old uncle, **Bob Sprout '49**, is also a proud Bucknellian.

**Jonathan Sprout '74**  
*Southampton, Pa.*

I was very glad to see the plastics crisis, an important and complex topic, get top billing in the Spring 2025 issue and to learn how Bucknellians are involved. It's an issue that I've been studying for the past four or five years. In addition to the points addressed in "The Plastic Paradox," there are a few areas people could think about more:

Numerous studies show the concerning health impacts of plastic, especially for younger generations who are exposed to plastic beginning at birth. Microplastics are generated everywhere and by so many of our day-to-day products, such as synthetic clothing and food and drink packaging.

Chemical and "advanced" recycling of plastic are extremely toxic and energy-intensive processes, as well as inefficient. We can't recycle our way out of this problem.

Strong legislation, such as New York's proposed Extended Producer Responsibility and expanded Bottle Bill laws, is needed, as well as whatever can be done at other government levels to protect us and our environment.

And as if all of that is not enough of a challenge, the petrochemical industry is on track to increase production of plastic threefold by 2060.

Helping people connect the dots and understand the entire lifecycle of products from the extraction of the resources (including labor) needed to build them to their disposal in a landfill or toxic incinerator could be a good starting point. It would also help if we could get away from our throw-away culture of single-use disposable products.

Thanks for your time and for producing a great magazine.

**Kathy Lynch '87**  
*Skillman, N.J.*



# New Leadership Joins Board



Four alumni have been elected to membership in the University's Board of Trustees. Each will serve a five-year term, bringing expertise from careers in education, finance, venture capital and private equity. Their collective experience will help guide Bucknell's continued growth and mission.



## Jaynemarie Angbah '03

is an educator, consultant and adjunct lecturer at CUNY School of Professional Studies, specializing in equity-centered leadership and program design. She has spent nearly two decades helping young people and organizations thrive.

## Fondest Bucknell memory

"Many of my experiences were in and around 7th Street House. That space served as a nexus of community, legacy, fellowship and joy. Even now, when I'm on campus and I mount that first porch step, I smile."

## What excites me

"Bucknell has been a part of shaping me as a scholar, practitioner and advocate for social change. I'm excited to join others who are deep in the trenches of thinking about how Bucknell grows and evolves."



**Barbara Rose O'Connor '89, P'20** served for 25 years at the Baupost Group, one of the world's largest hedge funds, where she rose to partner and CFO. She is now part-time CFO of the Klarman Family Foundation, a Boston-based family office, and holds the title of partner emeritus at Baupost.

## Fondest Bucknell memory

"Going down the hill from Roberts to the UC (Elaine Langone Center) for an ice cream study break during finals week with my freshmen roommates."

## What excites me

"I am grateful for all the ways Bucknell prepared me for a meaningful life. I am eager to give back in a small way to help ensure that opportunity is broadly available for future generations."



**Steve Wise '94** is a partner and co-head of Americas Corporate Private Equity at the Carlyle Group, where he leads over \$20 billion in global investments, and serves on several health care company boards.

## Fondest Bucknell memory

"Looking back on my time at Bucknell, I am reminded of what a special place it really is. The glue of it all was the social interactions. And of course, meeting my wife, Ellie '94."

## What excites me

"Lee Idleman '54, P'86, G'16, G'22 mentored me and inspired me to give back. I look forward to helping Bucknell navigate this important time for higher education."



**Paul Wythes '90** is a principal at Oakdell Capital, where he invests in climate tech and clean energy startups. He is also a principal partner in the ownership group of the San Francisco Giants. He has advised student entrepreneurs focused on climate innovation and sustainability.

## Fondest Bucknell memory

"Taking geography classes with Professor Richard Peterec P'82, P'84, P'86, P'01 and then traveling with him to Eastern Europe in 1988."

## What excites me

"Bucknell opened up many opportunities for me, and I've never forgotten that. The next few years will be an interesting time for higher education. I hope to help the school thrive during this time."

## NEWS TICKER

### CAREER-READY GRADS

Bucknell has been named the nation's top liberal arts college and No. 21 overall in LinkedIn's inaugural "50 Top Colleges in the U.S." ranking. The list, based on alumni career success, job placement, senior-level advancement, internships and post-graduation entrepreneurship, highlights Bucknell as a leader in preparing students for long-term professional achievement.

### BUCKNELLIANS WIN FULBRIGHTS

Two recent graduates — **Marion Duval '25** and **Rebecca Heintzelman '24** — earned highly competitive Fulbright U.S. Student Program grants. Duval will complete a 10-month fellowship at the University of Sydney, while Heintzelman will pursue a master's in creative writing at the University of East Anglia in Norwich, England. Additionally, Professor Matthew Higgins, civil & environmental engineering, has been named a Fulbright U.S. Scholar and will spend spring 2026 at the University of Technology Sydney.



# 'burg and Beyond

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



## Lima, Peru

In the hills outside Lima, Peru, MEDLIFE's mobile clinics bring health care to communities often overlooked. Among the volunteers was biology major **Allan Alas '26**, who discovered in those clinics how his passion for medicine and service could come together in a single path.

Alas learned about the international non-profit, which partners with low-income communities to improve access to health care and education, through a campus email. He signed up to join a one-week service-learning trip to Lima, Peru, in 2024. It was an experience he describes as life-changing.

"I always knew I wanted to be a doctor," says Alas, who grew up in Slootsburg, N.Y. "But that trip made it real. It showed me how I could use medicine to directly support people who are often overlooked."

## What He Did

Inspired by that initial experience, Alas returned to Peru last summer for several weeks in a larger role with MEDLIFE. He worked alongside doctors, community leaders and local volunteer organizers in mobile clinics serving remote villages, provided Spanish-English translation for patients and helped lead outreach projects addressing local health disparities.

## What's Next

The experience, he says, confirmed his career path. "I've seen what compassionate care looks like in action," he says. "Now I'm focused on becoming the kind of doctor who brings that mindset to every patient I meet."

— *Bella Johns '27*



▲ Aspiring physician Allan Alas '26 spent the summer delivering medical care to remote villages in Peru.



## Lewisburg

When **Marie Victoire Alexis '26** stepped into Transitions, a crisis center in Lewisburg for survivors of domestic violence and sexual assault, she realized this internship would be unlike any classroom experience. Within days, the work was already shaping her — and the lives of the survivors she served.

## The Role

As a summer intern, Alexis' responsibilities went beyond providing a listening ear. She answered crisis calls, offered emotional support and connected those in need to community resources. Her approach was grounded in empathy and affirmation.

"I learned the importance of listening and validating their experiences," says Alexis, who is originally from Haiti.

## The Impact

As a psychology major who arrived at Bucknell after participating in the Bucknell Community College Scholars Program, Alexis says the skills she honed — particularly active listening — will benefit her both on campus and in her future career as a counselor. Her experience reinforced the essential role advocates play

in helping survivors receive not only emotional support but also practical guidance and access to resources. "This internship experience reinforced my goal of becoming a counselor," she says. "I want to use the skills I'm developing to empower survivors and build a more compassionate world." — *Bella Johns '27*



▲ Marie Victoire Alexis '26 is preparing for a career in counseling.





Students in the 1960s  
Bertrand Library  
lounge catch up on  
the news, back when  
"scrolling" meant  
flipping pages.

# The Heart of Campus: Bertrand Is Turning 75

by KATIE NEITZ

➔ For nearly 75 years, Bertrand Library has been more than a quiet place to study — it's been Bucknell's unofficial student center, a cozy crossroads where ideas spark, friendships grow and generations of Bucknellians feel right at home. From its postwar opening to today's modernized study spaces, Bertrand has evolved with the times while remaining a constant in campus life.

## The Birth of Bertrand Library

Before Bertrand Library opened in 1951, Bucknell's collection was housed in the Carnegie Library, dedicated in 1905 in gratitude to industrialist Andrew Carnegie. By the late 1930s, the space was bursting at the seams, with a quarter of the collection boxed away and inaccessible. Then came **Ellen Bertrand H'54** — a trustee and dachshund-breeding socialite — who generously donated \$800,000 to help fund a new facility. The building expanded capacity from 120,000 volumes to room for up to 500,000, with seating for

500. Featuring grand reading rooms and a welcoming entrance, Bertrand quickly became a beloved campus centerpiece.

## A Grand Opening

Bertrand Library opened its doors Sept. 26, 1951, with celebratory events, including a talk on book collecting by the Folger Shakespeare Library's Louis B. Wright, student movie nights, faculty tea and tours for librarians from 74 Pennsylvania colleges. Two special exhibits — one tracing the evolution of the printed book, the other showcasing Pennsylvania artists — set the



tone for decades of dynamic programming. From pirate lore and ocean voyages in 1953 to prison art in 1959 and Zimbabwean-style student paintings in 1960, Bertrand has always been a place where ideas, cultures and creativity meet.

### A Home for Bucknell's History

In 1956, Bucknell took its first official steps to preserve its history by appointing Professor J. Orin Oliphant, history, as the University's first archivist and establishing the University Archives within Bertrand Library.

### Christmas Eve Close Call

On Dec. 24, 1960, a fire broke out in Bertrand's clock tower. Thanks to quick action and the building's sturdy construction, no books were lost — just a few soaked by fire hoses. The damage was estimated at the time at between \$250,000 and \$300,000.

### A Rare and Remarkable Gift

In 1975, Lafayette L. Butler left Bertrand Library a generous bequest and 2,500 rare books and manuscripts,

## THE STATS BEHIND THE STACKS

| YEAR | COLLECTION                                             | ANNUAL ACQUISITIONS BUDGET | BOOKS/MATERIALS CIRCULATED  |
|------|--------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------|-----------------------------|
| 1951 | 122,000 volumes                                        | \$28,000                   | 39,000                      |
| 1986 | 500,000 volumes                                        | \$650,000                  | 111,500                     |
| 2025 | 778,000 physical volumes;<br>2,300,000 digital volumes | \$3,000,000                | 94,000 physical and digital |

including treasures like a Shakespeare Second Folio and letters from Irish literary legends — forming the foundation of today's Special Collections (see P. 64 to learn more).

### Bigger, Brighter, Better

As a result of the Campaign for Bucknell, Bertrand Library underwent an \$8.2 million renovation between 1983

and 1986. The expansion more than doubled the library's size. Updates included a new Mac lab with 18 computers, revamped circulation and reference areas, expanded exhibit space and refreshed Special Collections and instruction labs.

### Going Digital

In 1987, Bertrand launched its first online public access catalog, transitioning catalog searches, checkouts and acquisitions from a paper-based process to a fully computerized system.

### Fueling Campus Life

Responding to student demand for convenient dining, the "Bison Express" food truck launched beside Bertrand in spring 2002 — paving the way for a popular café that opened on the library's first floor in 2003.

### Advancing Research

In 2012, Bucknell kicked off its journey into digital scholarship with a GIS and spatial thinking conference, soon followed by over \$1.7 million in Mellon Foundation

grants that continue to fuel cutting-edge research and innovation on campus.

### Bertrand Today

Bertrand Library buzzes with activity — from Orientation's lively "Library Unbound" event to late-night study sessions. Since the 1960s and 70s, the role of the academic librarian has changed tremendously. Today, staff join in the process of teaching and learning by sharing their expertise in information literacy sessions. In 2024–25 alone, staff led 396 instruction sessions for more than 3,659 students and held hundreds of one-on-one research consultations. Bertrand's Digital Pedagogy & Scholarship team also helps bring tech into the classroom, partnering with the Dominguez Center for Data Science and others to support innovation across campus.

➞ **Want more library lore? Check out our digital edition at [magazine.bucknell.edu](http://magazine.bucknell.edu) for a gallery of historic photos.**



▲ President Horace Hildreth H'56, P'52, G'79, Ellen Bertrand H'54 and Trustee Joseph Henderson, Class of 1908, H'44 (L to R) at the library's 1951 dedication.





U.K. native Freddie Lapworth '26 was named Patriot League Goalkeeper of the Year in 2024.

# There's No Stopping Him

by BRYAN WENDELL

**AT 7 YEARS OLD**, Freddie Lapworth '26 slid on his first pair of goalkeeper's gloves. While many kids imagine scoring the winning goal, Lapworth found joy in denying them.

He jokes, "Some of us are evil. We want to stop people from scoring."

So he was stunned when, during the 2024 Patriot League Championship semifinal, men's soccer head coach Dave Brandt shared an unexpected idea. With the match headed into penalty kicks, Lapworth wouldn't just be asked to stop them — but to take one too.

"I'm not sure about taking a penalty," Lapworth told his coach. But Brandt countered: "I trust you." So Lapworth stepped up. The ball blazed past the American University keeper. Moments later,

Lapworth dived right to save American's third attempt, sealing Bucknell's place in the final and, ultimately, its first Patriot League title since 2014.

That's quite the storybook moment for Lapworth, who left Banbury, England, at 16 to train in English academies. A recruiting agency connected him to Bucknell, and a coach on the Bison staff sealed the deal — all without Lapworth ever visiting Lewisburg.

"I chose on gut instinct," Lapworth says. "The degree, the alumni network, the chance to play — it felt right."

It still does. Now double-majoring in economics and history with a real estate minor, he spent the summer of 2025 in Baltimore at Continental Realty, an internship arranged through **JM Schapiro '91**.

Back on campus, Lapworth's alarm rings before sunrise. Twice weekly, he leads a 6:45 a.m. high-intensity interval training class for faculty and staff.

He's also president of the Student-Athlete Advisory Committee, elected by his fellow athletes on a promise to strengthen Bucknell's school spirit and bring more energy to the stands.

Lapworth does plenty of that on the field, using a mix of instruction and praise to support his teammates.

For his final season, Lapworth says he hopes for another title and a school shutout record. But his legacy goal is far simpler: "I want people to say I cared. That I was fully engaged in everything Bucknell offers — and helped them do the same."

## THE GOLD STANDARD

On the world stage, these Bison delivered

Javelin star **Evelyn Bliss '27** won gold with a 57.77-meter throw at the 2025 Toyota USATF Outdoor Championships in July, just days after she earned silver at the FISU Summer World University Games in Germany (see back cover). She finished her season in September at the World Athletics Championships in Tokyo.

**Prizila Negrete '27** earned three top-five finishes at the 2025 Central American Championships in Athletics in August, representing Honduras, highlighted by gold in the shot put with a 13.10-meter throw in the final round. She added a silver in discus and placed fifth in the hammer throw.

**Rayven Sample '24** collected two gold medals in August at the 2025 Toyota USATF Para National Championships. The sprinter posted wins in the T45-47 100- and 400-meter dashes. Sample is a T45 runner — the classification for athletes with double upper limb impairments.



# An Artist's Homecoming

With support from two alumnae donors, an acclaimed video artwork finds a permanent home at Bucknell

by MATT JONES

**B**rooke Molinaroli '90 and Lindsay Macdonald Danckwerth '02 always knew they wanted to give back to Bucknell. It was just a question of finding the best way to do it.

"I work with a lot of emerging artists, so I thought it would be cool to help the Samek expand their collection," says Molinaroli, who runs BAM Art Advisory in Larchmont, N.Y. When she reached out to Rick Rinehart, director of the Samek Art Museum, he says the perfect artist came to mind: **Le'Andra LeSeur '10**.

"We presented an exhibition of Le'Andra's art in 2021, and one of the standout works was *Superwoman*," says Rinehart. Together, Molinaroli, Danckwerth and the Samek contributed funds to acquire the video as part of the museum's permanent collection.

For LeSeur, who graduated with a degree in business administration before attending the Savannah College of Art and Design, the acquisition feels like one of life's rare, full-circle moments. "I used to work at the Samek as a student, so having my piece acquired by the museum is just perfect," says LeSeur, currently a Tulsa Artist Fellow in Oklahoma.

LeSeur has worked across a variety of mediums. *Superwoman* is a three-screen video installation that portrays her performance of self-baptism. The video represents both the passage of time and the processes of renewal.

"Life is full of phases of unraveling and becoming undone. This piece asks what it means to show ourselves grace in that process of returning to rework who we are," says LeSeur. "I call it a 'continuous becoming.'"

For Rinehart, video art is a signature form of modern art, and the acquisition strengthens the Samek's representation of this important medium. "Le'Andra is a rising star," he says. "The museum is honored to add this work to the collection for future Bucknellians to study and enjoy."



Multidisciplinary artist Le'Andra LeSeur '10 creates immersive work that explores themes of renewal and transformation.



Eli Foster '27, Matt Lamparter '06 and Aiden Cherniske '27 (L to R) collaborated to develop the fifth evolution of the Portal Box.



# Plug Into Possibility

A student-built system has transformed how Bucknell's makerspaces manage access — and now it's ready to share with the world

by KATE WILLIARD  
photography by EMILY PAINE

**B**ucknell's makerspaces operate under a guiding philosophy of open access,

empowered creativity and smart accountability. That approach is most clearly embodied in the Portal Box — a student-built access system that has evolved through multiple generations of makers and engineers.

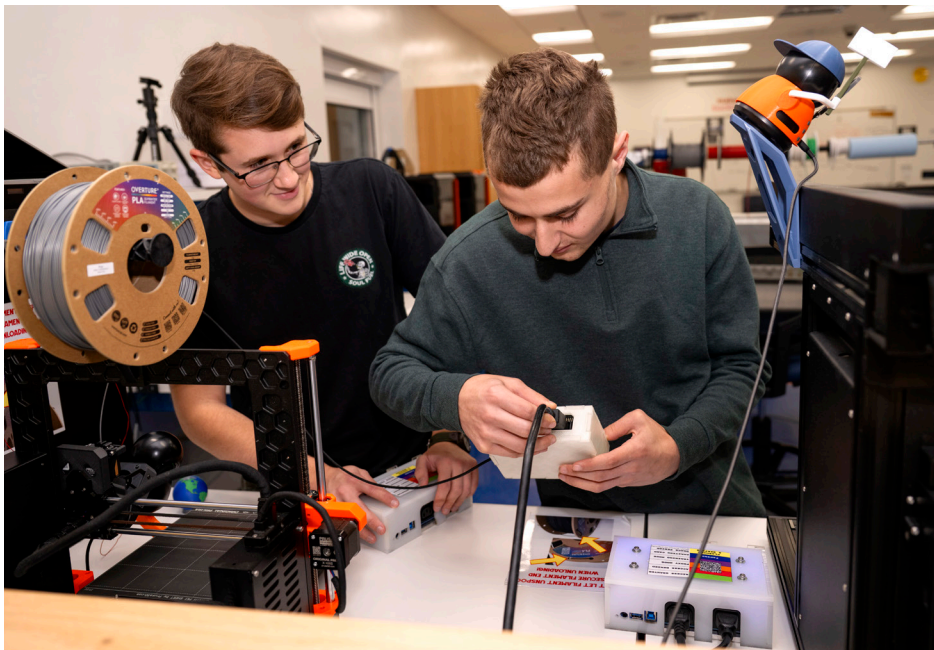
It started in 2015 as a Senior Design project mentored by Professor Margot Vigeant, chemical engineering. Her vision was simple: create a device that

could grant or restrict access to equipment based on the training the user had completed. The team succeeded, and the first Portal Box was born.

A decade later, that prototype has become a fully integrated access platform used in several of Bucknell's makerspaces, including the Maker-E and Mooney Innovative Design Laboratory, as well as in the chemistry department's electron microscopy suite.

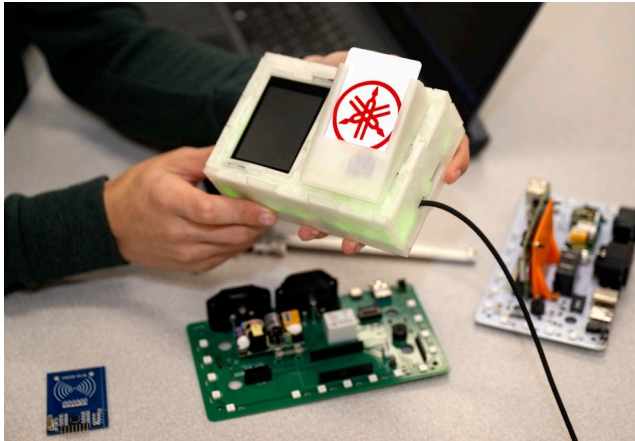
In summer 2025, **Aiden Cherniske '27**, a computer engineering major, and **Eli Foster '27**, an electrical





## BUILD A PORTAL BOX, SHARE YOUR WORK

Hardware designs, software and documentation for the Portal Box project are freely available under Creative Commons and Apache 2.0 licenses. Explore the project at [portalbox.blogs.bucknell.edu](https://portalbox.blogs.bucknell.edu)



▲ Eli Foster '27 (left) and Aiden Cherniske '27 fine-tune version five of the Portal Box, the smallest and most modular iteration yet.

▲ The Portal Box lights up green when a student with verified training taps their RFID card.

with interchangeable parts that allow users to swap out components and customize the setup.

"If another university or makerspace wants to implement something that will serve them better, they can design new pieces for the sides of the case," says Foster. "Then they can share it to keep expanding the project."

Lamparter presented the latest iteration of the tool at the International Symposium on Academic Makerspaces in August. He found that all makerspaces face the same problem — balancing access against accountability. "There are a lot of similarities in how we operate," he says. "I'm excited to explore ways to collaborate."

"Our work feels like continuing a legacy of everyone who has ever worked on this box," said Cherniske. "It just keeps getting better and better."

engineering major, led the development of its fifth and most recent evolution — one focused on accessibility, efficiency and wider deployment.

### How It Works

The Portal Box system controls access to equipment that requires verified training. It includes a physical access point (glowing acrylic boxes), embedded software that manages user interactions, and a database and web portal that tracks training and usage. Users insert radio frequency identification (RFID) cards into the box to activate equipment. If

training is complete, the box glows green and grants access.

Maker-E staff and managers oversee the system online, adding users, updating access and tracking usage.

As it has evolved, the project has embraced the collaborative spirit of the maker community — it is open source, free and available to any lab in need of a smart access solution.

"The Portal Box is effective and inexpensive," says **Matt Lamparter '06**, director of electrical & computer engineering laboratories and current leader of the Portal

Box project. "We know the broader maker community could benefit from our design."

### New Developments

In spring 2025, Lamparter guided Senior Design students in adding a touch-screen display for user feedback and multi-factor authentication.

Cherniske and Foster developed version five of the system, upgrading the micro-controller, installing the display and reducing component costs. By remapping the circuit board and redesigning the box, they created the smallest, most modular version yet,



# Finding Their Way

by KATE WILLIARD



➔ In summer 2025, 12 Bucknell students set out across the Spanish countryside, following the winding paths that have guided pilgrims for centuries. Their journey was part of Pilgrims, Tourists and the Modern World, an immersive, interdisciplinary study abroad course exploring pilgrimage through the lenses of religion and tourism. Now in its fifth year — having launched in 2019 and resumed after a pandemic hiatus — the program is led by Professors Brantley Gasaway, religious studies, and Collin McKinney, Spanish.

The students began their study abroad in Granada with a week of classes and training walks before covering more than half of the nearly 500-mile Camino de Santiago to the historic city of Santiago de Compostela on foot. Along the way, they contemplated their answer to the course's questions: What makes a journey religious — and how is a pilgrim different from a tourist?

Thanks to **Lauren Godfrey '27, Brooklyn Edmonds '27, Sara Ketron '27, Bradley Weldon '27 and Dara Dimitrova '27** for sharing photos from their Camino journeys.

## A CAMINO CHAMPION

Over the past 14 years, **Ann Loar '75** has hiked about 2,500 miles on various Camino pilgrimages — journeys that changed her life. In 2024, she endowed a scholarship to make the Bucknell on the Camino program more accessible, emphasizing its focus on independence, self-discovery and community.



Bucknellians began their 221-mile Camino journey in Roncesvalles, Spain.



### The Route

The Camino Francés spans 490 miles from Saint-Jean-Pied-de-Port in France to Santiago de Compostela in Spain. Bucknellians begin in Roncesvalles, the first Spanish town on the French Way, and walk to Logroño (about 81 miles). They then take a bus to León Cathedral before heading to Molinaseca for a time of academic reflection and rest. From there, they complete the final 140 miles to Santiago de Compostela on foot.

### Self-directed

Unlike traditional study abroad programs with strict itineraries, Bucknell on the Camino de Santiago gives students the freedom to chart their own path. Provided with daily destinations, lodging options and meal stipends, they choose where to eat, sleep and walk, and with whom. Each evening, they reconvene at the day's destination.

### Physical Demand

What do you get for walking approximately 20 miles daily? Blisters. Students are coached to remove their shoes during periods of rest, routinely change their socks and just keep going.

➡ **Want more? See additional photos and listen to an audio story from one of the participants at [magazine.bucknell.edu](https://magazine.bucknell.edu)**

## SPEAK THE LANGUAGE

**Peregrinos:** The Spanish word for pilgrims, a title bestowed on all Camino travelers

**The Way:** A reference to one's journey along the Camino

**Buen Camino:** The common greeting between peregrinos on the trail

**Camino Francés:** The most popular Camino route; the one taken by Bucknell peregrinos

**Me duelen los pies:** "My feet are sore."

**1.** Students encounter the Alto de Perdón (Hill of Forgiveness), an iconic Camino location just past Pamplona.

**2.** Brooklyn Edmonds '27 (left) found purpose in the journey. "I can say with 100% certainty that the Camino was one of the hardest things I have ever done but also one of the most rewarding."

**3.** "A lot of students are surprised at the physical challenge," says Professor Collin McKinney, Spanish. "But when they get to the end, they say, 'I cannot believe I did that. That was amazing!'"

**4.** On their last day, Bucknellians attend the Pilgrim Mass at the Cathedral of Santiago de Compostela, believed to house the remains of St. James, an apostle of Jesus Christ. The culminating experience drives home the academic concepts and experiential learning of the course.





# FEATURES

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LEARNING

# WALL STREET JOURNAL





# JOURNAL.



**BREAKING IN** EMMA YORKE '26 COMPLETED A SUMMER INTERNSHIP IN NEW YORK CITY AT *THE WALL STREET JOURNAL*

photograph by JAMES T. GIFFEN



# Intensely Interdisciplinary

by CALEB DANILOFF | illustrations by BRIAN AJHAR

What do you get when you blend baking with engineering, improv with data science, or choreography with physics? Something smarter, stronger and far from ordinary. These Bucknellians prove that taking the interdisciplinary route leads to extraordinary destinations.

## Thinking Outside the Bread Box

### Melissa Funk Weller '95

chemical engineering + international relations + culinary arts

If you glance at Melissa Funk Weller '95's LinkedIn profile, it reads like a greatest hits of New York City's baking scene: chef-partner at High Street on Hudson; head baker at Per Se, Bouchon Bakery, and Roberta's; and co-founder of Sadelle's. She later brought her talents to Philadelphia as lead baker at Walnut Street Café. She's even been nominated for a James Beard Award for outstanding baker.

But scroll a little further, and the story shifts. Before mastering soft peaks and laminated doughs, Weller was troubleshooting fuel cells as a test and process engineer.

What animates Weller's unlikely career pivot is an integrative mindset. Her chemical engineering background wasn't abandoned; it followed her into the kitchen, where she applies the same methodical rigor to the complexities of baking. Unsurprisingly, her latest cookbook is titled *Very Good Bread: The*

*Science of Dough and the Art of Making Bread at Home*.

Growing up, Weller excelled in subjects like chemistry and math, and at Bucknell, she double-majored in chemical engineering and international relations. Her early career featured well-paying but ultimately unsatisfying engineering roles. Memories of dinner parties with friends and culinary experiences while studying abroad in France kept tugging. Gradually, she pivoted toward the food industry, working in restaurants and eventually attending culinary school. Since the early 2000s, she's built a thriving career in New York's food scene, opening bakeries and publishing acclaimed cookbooks.

Weller's latest venture, the Manhattan-based Bub's, is an ambitious allergen-free bakery — no gluten, dairy, eggs, soy or nuts. Recreating the texture and

taste of traditional baked goods using alternative ingredients is where her engineering training comes in. Weller doesn't just bake bread. She reverse-engineers it, approaching recipe development like a scientist: testing hypotheses, altering variables and recording and analyzing results.

"I'm probably the only chef who uses Excel spreadsheets," she chuckles.

Weller remains committed to learning and reinvention, no matter how seasoned her career. She values an open-minded approach to life and often works through challenges, baking and otherwise, while running through Park

Slope or cycling along the East River.

"Do what you enjoy," she says, "but also study everything you can."

#### WHO KNEW?

"I'm probably the only chef who uses spreadsheets."









## Investing in Ideas

# Ben Wellington '02

finance + data science + improv comedy

**Ben Wellington '02 isn't your typical "yes man" — he's a "yes, and" man.**

As deputy head of feature forecasting at Two Sigma, a financial sciences company in New York City, Wellington draws on principles from his comedy improv days to shape how he works and thinks. He points to a fundamental technique called "yes, and ..." which

means accepting an idea and building on it. "If a scene starts with: 'Are you my babysitter?' you don't say, 'No, I'm your neighbor,'" he explains. "You say, 'Yes, and I'll let you eat all the ice cream you want.'"

Wellington, a quantitative researcher, brings that same mindset to collaboration. Embracing ideas invites

creativity, he says, while shutting them down stalls progress. For Wellington, being a "yes, and" person matters just as much in meetings as it does on stage.

The two worlds — improv and science — might seem at odds, but Wellington sees them as complementary.

"Science doesn't have much impact if you can't explain it well," he says.

Though he always leaned toward logic and analysis, discovering improv as a teen at summer camp hooked him.

"I loved performing on the spot and engaging with an audience," he recalls.

At Bucknell, he double-majored in computer science and mathematics — and founded an improv troupe. More

### WHO KNEW?

*Wellington has performed improv in New York City nursing homes, hospices and homeless shelters.*

than two decades later, We Brake for Nobody still thrives on campus.

After Bucknell, Wellington earned a doctorate in natural language processing at New York University, where he founded another improv group before joining Two Sigma.

His work aims to invest by using math and science to predict where prices may go.

"Stock prices are driven by narratives about CEOs, financials and markets," he says. "If you find the science behind those stories, you can measure their impact over time and apply it to future predictions."

That narrative instinct also powered his blog, I Quant NY, which used public datasets to reveal patterns in New York City life — from parking tickets to bike lane safety. The blog drew national attention, inspired a TED Talk and led to contributions to *The New Yorker*. He's now writing a book for Riverhead Books that explores the human stories hidden in global data.

At home with three young children, Wellington champions exploration over mastery. "Breadth over depth lets you wander," he says. "I try to apply that to parenting: giving kids chances to explore, not making them the best at X or Y, just offering lots of fun opportunities."



# Choreographing Curiosity

## Todd Rosenlieb '89

dance + mathematics +  
economics + literary studies

**"Dance is math," says choreographer Todd Rosenlieb '89. "And physics and geometry and storytelling."**

Raised by a NASA engineer father and a multi-instrumentalist mother, Rosenlieb grew up in a household where technical precision met artistic expression.

"That mix of problem-solving and imagination brings creativity to a higher level," he says. "That's what I bring to every dance."

Rosenlieb didn't discover the art form until his junior year at Bucknell. A former gymnast, he was used to movement, but his background in English helped him see dance as narrative — with a beginning, middle and end.

"For someone who talks nonstop, telling a story without words, with just your physicality, was a huge curiosity to me."

When Rosenlieb arrived in the mid-'80s, Bucknell had no formal dance program. He and fellow students petitioned to create one. He became president of the Bucknell Dance Company, a student-run group that continues today. He funneled his creativity into a double-major in economics and English.

"I came to Bucknell thinking I'd be a lawyer," he says. "I loved researching, discovering and the idea of using the law to protect or defend somebody."

Rosenlieb was curious about everything — from geology to economics, and "about how the world worked." That openness became creative fuel. One moment in an English class left a lasting impression: Watching a professor with arthritis carefully turn the pages of a poetry book, he saw how intellect could take physical form. "Watching her read Tennyson — her voice, her body, her knowledge all came together," he says. "Her art form was the English language. That was remarkable to me."



After Bucknell, Rosenlieb earned a Master of Fine Arts in dance and performance from New York University's Tisch School of the Arts, founded a professional company and studio, and became an advocate for adaptive dance and inter-generational learning, creating classes for older adults and dancers with disabilities.

As an artistic director, he drew on his economics background. "You're managing a board, writing grants, balancing a budget," he says. Even choreography, he says, is math. "You're counting music, aligning movement to rhythm, building tension off the

beat. Lifts and partnering require timing, leverage and angles. But that kind of math is infused with humanity."

For Rosenlieb, dance is a lens for understanding the world and a reminder that creativity, when guided by curiosity and intellect, can lift people in literal and profound ways.

"I'm forever grateful that Bucknell let students be their best selves through opportunities to learn and explore," he says. "That was the foundation for my life's voyage."

### WHO KNEW?

*A second-generation master teacher of Pilates, Rosenlieb traces his training lineage directly to Joseph Pilates.*





ASUR



# Designing Meaningful Encounters

## Roger Perry-Stovall '02

mathematics + engineering + hospitality + design

### For Roger Perry-Stovall '02, it all started with a clock.

It was a work anniversary gift, given at the five-year mark, and his colleagues were buzzing.

"People were excited," he says. "But I worried: If I get that clock, I'll probably get the 25-year gift too. And I didn't like what that future looked like."

He wasn't unhappy with his job — an associate dean and math instructor at a New York City-area college — but with the sense that the path ahead was prewritten.

"I was at risk of quietly settling into something that didn't quite fit," he says. "So I turned to entrepreneurship. It felt like the solution."

As a kid, Perry-Stovall loved taking things apart to see how they worked. He also apprenticed for a venture-minded cousin who built a mobile concessions business for street festivals like Harlem Week and the West Indian Day Parade.

"That experience shaped my sense of what was possible," he says.

At Bucknell, he double-majored in electrical engineering and mathematics, squeezing in courses on sound design, sculpture and entrepreneurship. After graduation, he earned advanced degrees in applied mathematics and computer science and worked as a researcher at the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration and the National Security Agency.

When he moved into academia, he brought with him a desire to reimagine traditional structures. He launched "Is This Really Math?," a workshop series that turned abstract concepts into lived experiences. A Cirque du Soleil contortionist demonstrated geometry, a jazz drummer unraveled rhythm and an economist broke down music royalties.

"I wanted to dive into anything that let me create interactive experiences," he says.

Beyond the classroom, he built side ventures like textbook sales and accelerated learning groups outside the traditional classroom structure.

"Students saw asking for help as failure," he says. "So we didn't wait. We practiced 'intrusive advising' — supporting students before a crisis emerged. That spirit of proactive care is something I carry into everything now."

Eventually, Perry-Stovall left academia to pursue creative ventures full time. He settled in Las Vegas, bringing along his compassion, leadership and technical skills. First came Designa, a custom design company born from a Google incubator. Then he founded Professional & Reliable Bartending,

**"I wanted to dive into anything that let me create interactive experiences."**

an immersive hospitality outfit with clients like Ferrari, Rolex and Formula 1.

"It's far more than bartending," he says. "It's human-centered design — every detail curated for connection."

When the COVID-19 pandemic paused in-person events, he developed a multi-sensory installation exploring technology, nature and human connection. His Immersive Art Space became Kickstarter's highest-funded art installation campaign.

Asked how his business card might read, Perry-Stovall says, " 'Experiential designer.' "

It's what I bring to everything I do. Storytelling and emotional design can spark transformation."

That five-year clock turned out to be a gift after all — one that pointed him toward a life of meaning, not milestones.

### WHO KNEW?

*Perry-Stovall led the most successful art installation campaign on Kickstarter to date.*









## Drawing Connections

# Summer Grenyion-Smith '17

biomanufacturing + graphic design + illustration

### For Summer Grenyion-Smith '17, everything begins with a question:

**How?** How do microorganisms bloom in a jar of river water? How does sickness move through the body — or across the pages of a children's story? How do spring ephemerals rise and vanish in just days? Her curiosity drives her to explore the microscopic as well as the narrative worlds. As both a biopharmaceutical engineer and a multidisciplinary artist, Grenyion-Smith fuses method and wonder.

Her journey reflects a lifelong fascination with how things work — visually, biologically and emotionally. Often inspired by nature, she's passionate about using her artistic skills to simplify and humanize complex scientific concepts.

Growing up in both Jamaica and the U.S., Grenyion-Smith was drawn to biology and art from an early age. Children's books like the Frog and Toad series sparked her love of illustration, while her mother — a microbiologist and avid gardener — brought science to life

thanks to those early book illustrations. Taking Biology of Aging and Longevity deepened her interest in the intersections of biology and human experience.

After graduating from Bucknell, she returned to MCC to complete an intensive program in biotechnology and biomanufacturing. She then joined GSK, a global biopharma company, as a biopharmaceutical engineer and soon recognized that her art practice echoed the structure of scientific experiments: a methodical approach to solving problems and bringing ideas to life.

In the lab, she follows rigorous standard operating procedures, where precision is non-negotiable. She sees strong parallels between this and her work in design and illustration, where clarity is equally essential.

"If someone looks at it, they should instantly understand what it means, like a sign," she says.

She's also considering ways to redesign technical diagrams to make them more understandable. That same clarity drives her current efforts to improve communication at GSK by developing employee spotlights that highlight life on the production floor.

Outside work, her creative process remains rooted in curiosity and observation. During visits to Norristown Farm Park outside Philadelphia, she collects soil, water and plant life to create eco-spheres at home, studying how microorganisms develop. These experiments fuel ideas for children's books that blend science and storytelling — tackling topics like microbiology, weather patterns and the physiology of illness. Her goal: to demystify science for young readers.

Ultimately, Grenyion-Smith is driven by connection — between fields, between people, between ways of seeing. "It's not art versus science," she says. "They're both a way to explore, to celebrate and to understand." ■

### WHO KNEW?

*"I once found a baby catfish in a puddle some distance from a river and gave it a home in my art studio."*

through time spent outdoors. She often raced ahead in science workbooks and explored rivers and woods, marveling at ecosystems and the relationships between organisms.

After two years at Montgomery Community College (MCC), she transferred to Bucknell as part of the Bucknell Community College Scholars Program and majored in studio art. She developed her skills in drawing and watercolor, mediums she gravitated toward





# THE COLLECTOR





Cris Bierrenbach '96  
with his eclectic collection  
of memorabilia in his  
Dallas home.

HE KNOWS WHAT WE TREASURE — AND WHAT WE'LL PAY FOR IT.  
INSIDE THE COLLECTING EMPIRE OF **CRIS BIERRENBACH '96**.

by MATT JONES // photography by KEVIN GADDIS JR.



# A little more than two decades

after leaving Bucknell to pitch full time for the New York Giants and just a decade or so before his induction into the National Baseball Hall of Fame, **Christy Mathewson, Class of 1902, P1927** made a donation to his alma mater. He wrote out a check from his account at the Adirondack National Bank. It was dated Oct. 13, 1924. Check number 893. Endorsed with his signature, a looping, cascading script that sloped slightly downward from left to right. Written out in the amount of exactly \$121. Nearly a century later, that check, with its vertical center fold line and yellowing hue so common in aged paper products, sold at auction for \$18,000.

"In my business, this is called relative value," says **Cris Bierrenbach '96**, a partner at Heritage Auctions, the company that executed the sale of Mathewson's check in 2019. "Nothing has a specific value or a retail price or anything like that. It's all subjective, and final prices are ultimately decided by the bidders."

Bierrenbach has spent the last two decades immersed in the world of collectibles, helping build Heritage Auctions into a \$1.9 billion global powerhouse. He specializes in uncovering cultural artifacts that command surprising — and sometimes staggering — prices. From ancient coins to video games and designer handbags, he knows how to find value where others might see clutter. For him, collecting is not just a profession, but a way of understanding what people treasure — and why.

## Number One Phan

In the early weeks of the spring semester of his first year at Bucknell, Bierrenbach heard unfamiliar music filtering through the shared wall of his dorm room.

"The guy next door in Harris Hall was blasting a song, so I asked him what it was," says Bierrenbach. The band was called Phish, and they would be playing live in Bloomsburg in just a few weeks. Did he want to see the show?

"I said, 'Definitely. Let's check it out.'"

The Bloomsburg show not only transformed Bierrenbach into a bona fide Phish fan, or Phan, but it was there that he also noticed something unique about that particular fandom: People in the audience were recording the live concert. At the end of the night, Bierrenbach paid \$2 for a copy of the evening's performance. That purchase would launch his first collection.

"I didn't realize it at the time, but I essentially started my first business in the computer lab of Bertrand Library," says Bierrenbach, who began trading bootleg Phish cassettes on online message boards.

At first, the business administration major viewed trading as something like a game. He enjoyed having to think through the many variables that would help him produce a high-quality collection of cassettes. He studied the input costs of blank cassettes, and he learned why chrome tapes allowed for higher quality sound reproduction than lower fidelity ferric tapes. He learned that some concerts were rarer than others and, therefore, in higher demand.

"Sometimes, I would do a three-to-one exchange because one rare show was more valuable than three other shows," he says.

By the time he graduated, Bierrenbach had, to his knowledge, built the most comprehensive Phish cassette library in existence. An international student from Brazil, he had no practical way to transport the hundreds of tapes in his possession back home, so he posted an ad in the mailroom of the Elaine Langone Center. A fellow Bucknellian purchased the collection for \$2,500, and Bierrenbach returned to Rio de Janeiro.

It was the end of the Phish saga, but the collector was just getting started.

**"MY COLLECTING TASTES ARE PRETTY CHAOTIC. ... I DON'T REALLY HAVE A THEME TO WHAT I COLLECT. I JUST REALLY LIKE PRETTY THINGS."**

## The Young Numismatist

Home in Brazil, Bierrenbach experienced a familiar rite of passage for new graduates: a first "real job" that didn't quite fit.

"I worked in insurance, and I didn't like it at all. I didn't like being behind a desk or the politics of the corporate world," he says. "So that is when I decided that I would buy and sell coins for a living on eBay."

Whereas trading Phish cassettes was relatively niche, coin collecting — or numismatics — was a global, well-established market where there was serious money to be made.

"I could source coins across Brazil and sell them on eBay to international buyers for really good profits," says Bierrenbach, who went on to become the youngest technical director of the Brazilian Numismatic Society at age 30. After 10 years building his

From Nintendo 64 video games to rare figurines, Cris Bierrenbach '96's collection pays homage to pop culture.









business, he felt he'd reached a ceiling in Brazil, so he took a big swing.

"There was a company I admired called Heritage Auctions. I introduced myself and reminded them who I was because we had done some business," he says. "I basically sent them an email asking for a job."

Heritage Auctions was the creation of Steve Ivy and Jim Halperin, two competitors-turned-partners who, like Bierrenbach, had each launched their coin collecting careers in college — and quickly established themselves as the top coin and currency auction house in the nation. When Bierrenbach joined the team in 2007, he took over auction sales for World and Ancient Coins.

"I was in charge of developing the market for non-U.S. coins going back to the fifth century B.C.," he says. "That included everything from the Ionians to the Romans, all the way up through the medieval era and modern Europe."

Under Bierrenbach's leadership, Heritage's World and Ancient Coins auction sales grew from nearly \$13 million to more than \$41 million in 2011, the year he became a partner in the company.

## The Collectibles Industry

Heritage Auctions, which recorded nearly \$1.9 billion in sales in 2024, occupies a unique space within the collecting industry. The British-born auction houses of Sotheby's and Christie's, both established in the 18th century, have long specialized in the sale of fine art, while the comparatively young eBay operates more like an online swap meet. Heritage Auctions, a global company that's headquartered in Dallas, has built its success on a different insight: that value can stem not just from prestige and pedigree, but from novel fandoms and nostalgic sensibilities alike.

In 2024 alone, Heritage sold the debut Superman comic for \$6 million and a pair of Dorothy's iconic ruby slippers from *The Wizard of Oz* for \$32.5 million. A three-day *Game of Thrones* auction generated more than \$21 million in sales from mostly first-time bidders.

Pop art icons like Andy Warhol and Keith Haring share space with contemporary collectibles.



Visit [magazine.bucknell.edu](https://magazine.bucknell.edu) to try your hand at guessing the sale price of some of Heritage Auctions' rarest and most eclectic items.



Heritage's history is full of record-breakers. This is due not only to the provenance of the objects themselves, but also their attached cultural weights. Entertainment memorabilia, such as the infamous floating door from the movie *Titanic* and even filmmaker David Lynch's personal espresso machine, now share the same playing field with Old Master paintings from the 18th century and rare literary manuscripts. Value is a product not only of high culture but of popular culture.

"There's an entrepreneurial aspect to working within this company," says Bierrenbach. To succeed, you have to be willing to explore new opportunities. Such was the case when a young hire presented him with an old, sealed Barbie video game and pitched it as the next big collectible category.

Bierrenbach supported her and ran with the idea. During the pandemic, small, weekly video game auction sales evolved into dedicated auction events that generated sales of \$50 million in two years, including a \$1.56 million sealed copy of *Super Mario 64* issued in 1996. It turned out that video games were not unlike books or wine. Buyers sought out first editions and pristine copies. Not to play, but to display.

"Trophies," Bierrenbach calls them. "A trophy is essentially what most collectors are after."

## The Aesthete

In his Dallas-area home, Bierrenbach has a trophy room of sorts where, with his wife's blessing, he has complete artistic license to display his most prized possessions.

"My collecting tastes are pretty chaotic, so she has good reason to keep it all contained," he says.

Works of pop art icons Roy Lichtenstein and Andy Warhol adorn the wall alongside the contemporary creations of Nina Chanel Abney and Takashi Murakami. So too are there records and posters of the Beatles, brilliantly colored skateboard decks, limited edition sneakers and striking figurines.

"I don't really have a theme to what I collect," says Bierrenbach. His tastes span styles, eras and countries of origin — the unifying thread is beauty. As he puts it: "I just really like pretty things."

This does not mean that he buys on a whim. His professional insights shape his personal pursuits. What he calls "pretty" often reflects a deeper knowledge of history, culture and market trends.

This is evident in one of his most recent preoccupations: assembling the complete collection of the original Nintendo Entertainment System (NES) titles released in New York in 1985.

For Bierrenbach, the modern video game industry was born in 1985 with the release of 30 "black box" NES titles. While companies like Atari had beaten Nintendo to the punch, their games lacked staying power.

"Atari was a disaster of a company," he says. The games were so overproduced that when the company went bankrupt, there was a surplus of sealed

boxes and cartridges. "They destroyed their own potential for becoming a collectible."

Bierrenbach has tracked down most of the NES titles, but one remains elusive. His proverbial white whale is a complete in box copy of *Donkey Kong Jr. Math*, an educational game in which players collect digits and arithmetic symbols to reach specific totals. By all measures, it was a commercial failure — panned by critics and ignored by buyers. However, it was the game's lack of popularity that transformed it into a highly valued collector's item today.

"A game like *Donkey Kong Jr. Math* is almost impossible to find," says Bierrenbach, without a hint of exasperation. For him, all these years later, collecting is still like a game. He relishes the challenge. He enjoys the chase. He loves to play. ■

# Collector's Lingo

## PROVENANCE

A chronological record of origin and ownership that pertains to the quality and authenticity of an object.

**VALUE** Primary value is derived from an object's intended purpose, while secondary value emerges when an item's importance extends beyond its original purpose.

**GRADING** Grading systems help authenticate and validate the condition and value of objects, and different grading systems are used for different categories of collectible objects.

## CERTIFIED GUARANTY

**COMPANY (CGC) comic books and trading cards.**  
**Numeric scale from 0–10**

**Letter grades:** NM (Near Mint), VF (Very Fine), FN (Fine), VG (Very Good), GD (Good), FR (Fair), and PR (Poor)

**Example:** In 2022, Heritage Auctions sold a 1961 *Fantastic Four* comic with a CGC NM-9.2 grade for \$1.5 million.



**NUMISMATIC GUARANTY COMPANY (NGC) coins and currency**  
**Numeric scale from 1–70**

**Two-letter codes:**  
MS (mint state coins),  
PF (proof coins),  
SP (specimen coins)

**Example:** In 2021, Heritage Auctions sold a 1794 Flowing Hair Silver Dollar with an NGC MS66+ grade for \$6.6 million.

**WATA video games**  
**Numeric scale from 0–10**

**Letter scale for seal quality:**  
C, C+, B, B+, A, A+, A++

**Example:** In 2021, Heritage Auctions sold a 1987 copy of *The Legend of Zelda* with a Wata 9.0 A Sealed grade for \$870,000.





# SUMMER SCHOOL

**"So, what did you do this summer?" It's a classic question, and Bucknell students have some pretty impressive answers. Their summer break experiences included everything from faculty-guided research on campus to internships in major cities. Here's a glimpse into how they spent their time — and why at Bucknell, learning never takes a vacation.**

by MATT JONES and KATIE NEITZ





Through a Shepherd Higher Education Consortium on Poverty internship, **KATIE SCHADLER '26** deepened her commitment to social justice and public health in Washington, D.C. The English — literary studies major from Wyoming, Pa., worked for the National Alliance to End Homelessness, contributing to donor communications and researching Foster Youth to Independence vouchers. Her interdisciplinary coursework — spanning medical anthropology, cultural geography and carceral studies — has shaped her understanding of justice. "It took time to realize my interests — social work, public health, the arts — aren't disparate. They're all rooted in the same drive: a commitment to justice and equity."





Last summer, **JULIETTE VANLUVEN '26** (on ladder) set out to uncover the ancient story of the Sylvan Dell wetland in South Williamsport, Pa. The geology and women's & gender studies double-major and Katherine Mabis McKenna Environmental Fellow worked alongside Professor Lorelei Curtin (far left), geology, using ground-penetrating radar and core samples to trace when the wetland formed and how it has changed over time. It was muddy, hands-on work, but for VanLuven, of Delmar, N.Y., the thrill of uncovering Earth's secrets made it worthwhile.





What can 60,000 flights in a single day reveal about the future of aviation? **KADE DAVIDHEISER '27**, a mechanical engineering and biology double-major from Barto, Pa., partnered with Professor Greg O'Neill, mechanical engineering, to analyze a day's worth of U.S. air traffic data, modeling aircraft in CAD software and calculating energy usage to determine how electric planes could reshape the skies.



For **SANDA TAN '28** (right), grammar is a window into how we make sense of the world. The linguistics and computer science double-major from Rockford, Mich., worked with Professor Heidi Lorimor, linguistics, to analyze children's books to better understand how young readers comprehend language. Using Stanza, a Python-based natural language tool, Tan built a database to help educators support young readers. Her research bridges linguistics theory and machine learning — all in service of better literacy.





If you're serious about a future in finance, there's no better place to gain experience than New York City. **BAY HARPER '26**, a finance major from Brookville, Pa., was at the heart of it all as a private equity analyst intern at Brown Brothers Harriman (BBH). He found the opportunity through Bucknell's Center for Career Advancement and landed the role after interviewing with BBH partner **Brad Langer '96, P'26, P'29**. Harper gained experience in due diligence and portfolio support. He credits his Freeman College of Management education for preparing him well. "It's an inch deep and a mile wide — but that broad exposure is exactly what you need in private equity," he says. The summer confirmed it: This is the work — and the city — where he wants to be.



Staying ahead in the fast-paced world of media requires a sharp strategy. That's where markets, innovation & design major **EMMA YORKE '26** found her stride during her second summer on Dow Jones' Strategy and Operations team, contributing to data analysis and competitive research supporting *The Wall Street Journal's* live events. "I looked at what other big players like *The New York Times* and Bloomberg are doing in the events industry and how we can stay ahead," she says. The Hamilton, N.J., native says being in New York City pushed her out of her comfort zone. "I dove straight into projects; it was exciting to feel trusted and capable. This experience helped me grow more confident, build meaningful connections and strengthen skills I'll take with me wherever I go."





An internship with RSM's audit team in Washington, D.C., gave **LAUREN GILLASPY '26** a broader view of the accounting field — and a clearer vision for her future. The accounting major from Bloomsburg, Pa., connected with the firm during a Freeman College of Management networking event, where **Alexander Romango '17** encouraged her to apply. At RSM, she worked on a new client engagement each week, gaining experience in foreign currency translations, accounts payable and revenue testing. She says she especially enjoyed working in the middle market and learning the details that drive businesses. Her Bucknell courses gave her a solid technical foundation, but she credits the University just as much for helping her build the confidence to speak up and connect with others. It resulted in her securing an offer for a full-time role with RSM after graduation. ■



# *'ray* **BUCKNELL**

**40**  
FROM THE  
PRESIDENT

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**46**  
CLASS ACTS

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**48**  
CLASS NOTES





ELEN CLARKE BERTRAND LIBRARY

**READ. RELAX. REPEAT.** BERTRAND LIBRARY'S  
NEW PATIO IS A WELCOMING SPACE

photograph by **EMILY PAINE**





# Unlimited Possibilities

**AT CONVOCAION IN** August, I welcomed the Class of 2029 and new transfer students to our family of Bucknellians. Their arrival on campus was particularly resonant for me, given that this fall marks 50 years since I was a newly minted freshman, as first-year students used to be called.

Whether you arrived at Bucknell 50 or five years ago, the world has changed in ways you couldn't have imagined during your orientation. Fortunately, a Bucknell education has never been simply about preparing for a career. It has always been, as I told our new students, about the ability to think critically, to debate with both conviction and humility, and to cultivate deeply the life of the mind.

The next four years of their lives will not be defined solely by the academic paths they take, the papers they write, the research they conduct or even the friendships they forge. This is the opportunity for them to begin to author the stories of their lives — stories they cannot even imagine today.

Here at Bucknell, these students will broaden their world views, come to understand themselves as never before and begin to discover the limitless possibilities that await. Entire technology and career categories will both disappear and arise in the years ahead. But they can approach and embrace the future knowing that they have the capacity to grow, to adapt and to overcome.



As they pursue their degrees, they'll be able to experiment in seemingly unrelated fields and discover what lies within the depths and at the intersections of disciplines. Our faculty will encourage them to stretch themselves well beyond the limits of their previous experiences. In doing so, they will grow not only their intellect but also their sense of self and the values that will define them.

This will not come easily. Failure will be an inevitable — and vital — part of the process of building their futures. Today's Bucknell students have access to a robust support network that will help them see that their willingness to learn from their struggles is the difference between temporary setbacks and real failure. Our alumni have an opportunity to be part of that network, and I know that many of you have given generously of your time to support subsequent generations of Bucknellians — thank you.

While today's students may inhabit a radically different world from the one you did when you arrived on campus, their excitement, nervousness and sense of possibility would be very familiar. However many years it has been since you began your Bucknell journey, I hope that the education you received and the relationships you built here have sustained the never-ending evolution of your own life.

**John C. Bravman, President**



STAY INFORMED. STAY CONNECTED. 'RAY BUCKNELL!

Do

The Orchestra of Indigenous Instruments and New Technologies will perform on the Weis Center stage April 17.



#### ROOTED IN ART

## Tap Into Nature

*Discover, listen and grow with the Weis Center's 2025-26 season*

BUCKNELL'S WEIS CENTER for the Performing Arts has announced its 2025-26 season, themed around trees. The season will feature performances, creative projects, walks and lectures that explore their cultural, scientific and historical significance. The Samek Art Museum will partner on the theme, offering exhibitions and programs that invite reflection on our relationship with the environment.

Charly Lowry  
Nov. 13, 7:30 p.m.

An Indigenous singer/songwriter from Pembroke, N.C., Lowry draws on her Lumbee/Tuscarora heritage and her passion for social justice.

Bang on a Can All-Stars featuring the Bucknell Choir  
March 1, 2 p.m.

Inspired by environmental books, this ensemble's performance reflects on humanity's relationship with nature.

Orchestra of Indigenous Instruments and New Technologies (Oiant)  
April 17, 7:30 p.m.

Oiant brings long-forgotten Indigenous instruments — many crafted from wood — to life in an immersive audiovisual experience.

For additional information, visit [Bucknell.edu/WeisCenter](https://Bucknell.edu/WeisCenter)





“

Professors Edmund Searles and Michelle Johnson inspired me and changed the way I see the world through a dedication to the principles of anthropology. From candid stories of arctic adventures, philosophical debates of the past and the ripples of history today, their dynamic and raw teaching style and friendship pushed me to embrace risks and the other, challenge convention and continue to always be curious.”

BRANDON NEALE '13

“

PROFESSOR NANCY WHITE: MANY STUDENTS KNEW HER AS A RIGOROUS ECONOMICS PROFESSOR, BUT I KNEW HER AS A DEDICATED ZEN BUDDHIST WHOSE WEEKLY ZAZEN MEDITATION WAS MY FIRST GLIMPSE INTO MINDFULNESS, WHICH ALTERED MY LIFE.”

MEREDITH KAUFMAN '13

“

I will always remember my first research experience in Karen Castle's physical chemistry lab. I loved learning about the equipment, problem-solving, data analysis and finding hardcopy journal articles at the library. I am thankful to have had such amazing mentorship and formative science experiences early on!”

CARMEN GHERGHISAN  
VANDERHOOF '05

#### CROWDSOURCED

WHO AT  
BUCKNELL  
INSPIRED YOU,  
CHALLENGED YOU  
OR CHANGED THE  
WAY YOU SEE  
THE WORLD?

#### ANSWER THIS

Which Bucknell building holds your favorite memory?

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

“

Rev. Kurt Nelson: Through his multifaith and interfaith coalitions, and as both a student and TA in his Food, Faith and Justice in Baltimore course, I was inspired and challenged to think more deeply about community, justice and the power of human connection. The spaces he created at Bucknell changed the way I see the world.”

GLORIA SPOREA '24

## Celebrate Bucknell's Rising Stars

→ The wait is over — this year's Bucknell 30 Under 30 honorees have been announced! From artistic visionaries to entrepreneurial innovators, these young alumni are making bold moves and leaving their mark on the world. The second class of honorees was announced and celebrated at a special event at Bucknell's Homecoming in October. Check out their stories: [go.bucknell.edu/30under30](https://go.bucknell.edu/30under30)



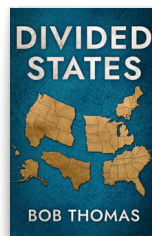
## READ THIS



### JENNIFER PERRINE M'03

#### *Beautiful Outlaw*

Perrine presents her fifth poetry collection, which confronts the pervasive presence of gun culture in American life — from mass shootings and war to the violence embedded in homes and relationships. Weaving together language from pop songs, Buddhist teachings and experimental forms, Perrine explores how violence intersects with anti-Asian racism, xenophobia and heteropatriarchy. Through wry humor and inventive structures, the collection transforms stories of othering and loss into affirmations of community, resistance and healing. Perrine received her master's in English at Bucknell and is the equity & racial justice program manager at Metro in Portland, Oregon. (*Kelsey Street Press*, 2025)



### BOB THOMAS '75

#### *Divided States*

In his debut novel, Thomas envisions a near-future America fractured by authoritarian control. When David Evans agrees to help stage a New Year's Eve celebration in Pennsylvania, he unwittingly sparks a series of events that lead to the country's unraveling. This dystopian speculative fiction explores freedom, resilience and how ordinary people can become catalysts for extraordinary change. Thomas double-majored in English and art history at Bucknell. (*Willow River Press*, 2025)

## DID YOU KNOW?

### A Bucknell Cameo in Stephen King's Latest

Isabelle "Izzy" Jaynes, a detective first introduced in Stephen King's Bill Hodges trilogy (*Mr. Mercedes*, *Finders Keepers*, *End of Watch*), makes a return in his latest novel, *Never Flinch*, where it's revealed she went to Bucknell.

## WATCH THIS

### ANIA JASTREBOFF '98

#### *The Oprah Podcast*

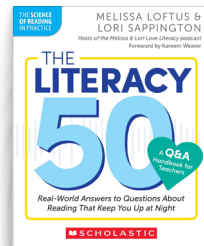
The Yale School of Medicine endocrinologist joined Oprah Winfrey to discuss how obesity medications impact weight loss. A leading specialist in obesity and weight management and the director of the Y-Weight Yale Obesity Research Center, Jastreboff has been studying obesity for nearly 20 years. Her research focuses on GLP-1-based medications. Watch the conversation on Oprah's YouTube channel or listen on major podcast platforms.

## LISTEN TO THIS

### SUSIE MERSELIS PETTIT '93

#### *Love Your Life Show: Personal Growth, Mindset + Habits for Moms*

A life and wellness coach, Pettit, who majored in French at Bucknell, shares actionable strategies on topics ranging from mindset and habit formation to codependency recovery, midlife reinvention and emotional wellness through perimenopause and beyond. The show is available on all major podcast platforms.



### MELISSA LOFTUS '03

#### *The Literacy 50: A Q&A Handbook for Teachers*

Loftus co-authored this handbook for Scholastic's *The Science of Reading in Practice* series. Drawing on insights from her podcast, *Melissa & Lori Love Literacy*, the book provides research-based answers to teachers' questions about reading instruction. Loftus, who double-majored in education and English at Bucknell, taught in Baltimore public schools and served as an adviser at Johns Hopkins University. (*Scholastic*, 2025)

## 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 [bmagine@bucknell.edu](mailto:bmagine@bucknell.edu)





#### CAPTION CONTEST

**Compose a clever caption.  
Our favorites will win  
a cool Bucknell T-shirt.**

[BMAGAZINE@BUCKNELL.EDU](mailto:BMAGAZINE@BUCKNELL.EDU)

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](mailto:bmagazine@bucknell.edu)

#### FREEMAN COLLEGE OF MANAGEMENT

REPORT 2025



#### COLLEGE OF ENGINEERING

REPORT 2025



## Stay Informed

This fall, Bucknell published annual reports for the Freeman College of Management and the College of Engineering, highlighting how each college is delivering an exceptional educational experience for students. The reports showcase distinctive programs, initiatives and accomplishments that advance the University's strategic priorities. Read them at [publications.bucknell.edu](http://publications.bucknell.edu)

### SUBMIT A PHOTO

Have a vintage Bucknell image that deserves captioning? Send high-resolution images to [bmagazine@bucknell.edu](mailto:bmagazine@bucknell.edu) for consideration.



## WRITE TO US

We love to hear from readers. Send your feedback, insights, compliments and complaints. Write to us: [bmagazine@bucknell.edu](mailto:bmagazine@bucknell.edu)  
Bucknell Magazine,  
One Dent Drive,  
Lewisburg, PA 17837

## LIGHT UP THE SEASON

Free tickets for Bucknell's Christmas Candlelight Service are available through the Campus Box Office. Presented by the Office of Religious & Spiritual Life in partnership with the Department of Music, this cherished tradition is inspired by the King's College Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols. The services will be held Dec. 5, 7 and 9 at 7:30 p.m. in Rooke Chapel. While admission is free, tickets are required. Get your tickets at [bucknell.edu/boxoffice](http://bucknell.edu/boxoffice)



## See the World

BUCKNELL'S WORLD-CLASS TRAVEL PROGRAM OFFERS OPPORTUNITIES FOR EXPLORATION TO MEMBERS OF THE BUCKNELL FAMILY, INCLUDING ALUMNI, PARENTS AND FRIENDS. LEARN MORE AT [BUCKNELL.EDU/SEE-THE-WORLD](http://BUCKNELL.EDU/SEE-THE-WORLD)

## HONOR A LEGACY

Bucknell will commemorate Martin Luther King Jr. Week 2026 with a series of campus events celebrating King's enduring legacy. Under the theme *The Time Is Always Right to Do Right*, the week will feature performances, lectures, workshops and discussions examining the ongoing relevance of King's call to ethical action and social justice. The program will culminate with a keynote lecture on Jan. 26. Learn more at [bucknell.edu/MLKweek](http://bucknell.edu/MLKweek)



### WITTY WINNERS

Here are our favorite caption submissions from the summer issue:

"Rarely seen photo documenting the experiment responsible for the closing of the human genetics lab."

*Mark Barbour '82*

"LOOK MA, NO HANDS!"

*Lisa Tilton Treible '83*

"Just holding on by the seat of my pants."

*Beth O'Connor Moyles '89*

"DOUBLE HEADER."

*Kirsten McLaughlin Davis '97*

"Whether on the football field or the wrestling mat, conjoined twins Eric and Larry Wheeler were best known for being almost impossible to knock off their feet."

*Linds Adams '89, M'92*

"A RARE SIGHTING OF THE TWO-HEADED BUCKNELLASAURUS."

*Steven Prasinos '75*





# Engineering Better Care

by SARAH DOWNEY '25



**Paden Troxell '15, M'17** is turning complex surgical challenges into practical, patient-focused solutions. As a senior group engineering manager at Globus Medical, a Pennsylvania-based musculoskeletal technology company, Troxell is building an ecosystem of digital health tools to elevate the patient experience and improve long-term surgical outcomes. He's also drawing on his foundation in entrepreneurship and human-centered design forged at Bucknell to reimagine how health care technology serves both providers and patients.

Troxell's career began on Globus' surgical robotics team, where he designed instrumentation for ExcelsiusGPS, a robotic navigation system that assists surgeons in accurately placing spinal implants. He played a key role in advancing the interbody solutions application from prototype to commercialization.

In his current role, Troxell is developing technologies that weave together the fragmented stages of a patient's surgical journey.

"We're thinking about how we can leverage the cutting edge of both software and hardware to make the full continuum of care more seamless and yield better outcomes for patients," he says.

That systems-oriented mindset traces back to his time as a mechanical engineering major. At Bucknell, he worked as part of the Project for Sustainable Eye Care, which aimed to make prescription glasses affordable and accessible in remote, low-resource settings. Under the guidance of Professor Charles Kim, mechanical engineering,



Troxell designed devices to measure prescriptions and cut lenses to match recycled frames, reducing costs and helping ensure the glasses could reach people in remote communities.

"It was always personal for me," he says. "I have reduced vision in my left eye from amblyopia and strabismus. Glasses are vital to my quality of life. For someone living in extreme poverty, glasses can be life-changing."

Beyond the technical challenge, Troxell and his team partnered with the Freeman College of Management to develop the business model and explore the feasibility of deploying the technology abroad. He continued the project through graduate studies at Bucknell, launching a pilot program in Nicaragua at the Nueva Vida Clinic in partnership with the Center for Development in Central America and the Bucknell Brigade, a service-learning program that connected students and faculty with global communities to address health care, education and infrastructure needs.

"These Bucknell experiences have been the cornerstone of my professional career and will continue to shape my path well into the future," he says.

**Paden Troxell '15, M'17** leads engineering teams at Globus Medical, creating technology that improves surgical outcomes and the patient experience.

Photo: Caroline Conrad



# Bridging Communities

by **HEATHER MAYER IRVINE**

→ **Elizabeth “Betsy” Hueser Parmley ‘99** is overseeing the largest infrastructure project in the history of the New York State Department of Transportation: the I-81 Viaduct Project. This initiative will reconnect Syracuse neighborhoods long divided by the elevated highway.

Parmley, who studied civil and environmental engineering, credits Bucknell for providing both a strong technical foundation and essential collaboration and problem-solving skills.

“I had a comprehensive education,” she says. “Bucknell helped me understand teamwork and the importance of community.”

That philosophy has guided her leadership, both in building effective teams and ensuring that infrastructure projects prioritize the needs of the public.

Working in a traditionally male-dominated field, Parmley says she is grateful for the camaraderie she found with fellow female engineering students at Bucknell. She recognized early on the value of having a strong, supportive network, both professionally and personally.

▶ **Michael Chauner ‘08** blended coaching and innovation to launch an indoor cycling league to make cycling more dynamic, accessible and engaging for fans.



## Racing Toward Reinvention

by **SARAH DOWNEY ‘25**

→ At Bucknell, **Michael Chauner ‘08** was never just racing toward a finish line — he was building the foundation for an enduring career in cycling. “Bucknell gave me the space to grow as both an athlete and entrepreneur,” Chauner says. “It helped me become a more well-rounded, opportunity-driven person — something I’ve carried into everything I’ve done since.”

Chauner is a professional cyclist turned coach and entrepreneur who’s working to redefine the sport in the U.S. with his company, World Cycling Limited.

He began racing at age 9 with the goal of turning pro. At Bucknell, he helped expand the student-run cycling team from six to 30 riders, often stepping into a coaching role for newer teammates. “The beauty of club sports — and Bucknell’s team in particular — is that we weren’t just teammates; we were friends helping each other improve,” he says. “It created a supportive, tight-knit culture that’s rare in elite racing.”

Chauner spent his summers competing in races across the country and abroad. By 2011, he was racing professionally in Sweden and the Netherlands. He also launched a coaching business, Vitesse Sport Performance, drawing on his Bucknell experiences.

“I still think about Management 101 and Sports Psychology,” he says. “They shaped how I built my business and coach.”

In 2020, he and his father — a two-time Olympian — began developing a new venture: TeamTrak, a professional indoor cycling league with a modern twist. Their vision includes high-tech velodromes, youth programs and a format that makes cycling more accessible and entertaining.

The first TeamTrak arena, the National Sports and Events Center in Coatesville, Pa., is expected to be ready in 2027.

“We believe cycling can be a true arena sport — a hub of activity, training and fan engagement,” Chauner says. “I’m channeling all my energy into building the next chapter.”



▶ **Elizabeth Hueser Parmley ‘99** is reconnecting communities via the I-81 project.



# Class Notes

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

**EDITOR'S NOTE:** Class Notes will pause for our Winter 2026 "University Report" edition and return in Spring 2026.

## EMERITI

**Christine Schnure Dotterer '70** sent a dictation from her mother, **Elise Miller Schnure '45**: "Jim, Jam, Jive/What's the best class?/'45. I'm still here. I'm in assisted living in Vermont, 15 miles from my daughter. Two of **Dotty Schnure '75**'s daughters live nearby with five of my 11 great-grandchildren. I have a friendship with my late-in-life companion **George Akerhielm '50**. I'd love to hear from people. Until she died recently, **Phoebe Follmer Bacon '45** and I were in touch regularly. Go, Bison!"

**Susan Hunsicker '77** wrote to let us know of the passing of her mother, **Doris Jenkins Hunsicker '46**. (See Class of 1977.) — *Nicole Connor Taylor '01 and Amy Medell Poe '89*

## 1950

We were sorry to hear from **Tom Shahnazarian '80** that his father, **Thomas**

**Shahnazarian**, passed away in New Canaan, Conn., Dec. 31 at age 97. He was born in Summit, N.J., and enrolled in the U.S. Navy before attending college on the GI Bill. He attended Lycoming College before transferring to Bucknell for his senior year. He lived most of his life in Connecticut and was married for 51 years. Granddaughter **Renee '22** also graduated from Bucknell.

Thomas became one of the country's foremost experts in the field of quality control and earned a doctorate from Columbia University. He built three successful companies and worked until the age of 82. Blessed with great health during his retirement years, he was able to travel regularly, exercise pain free and live in his home independently. He was fond of his Bucknell experience, volunteered to raise money on the University's behalf and gave generously. — *Holly Hinchman Reigner '96*

## 1952

It was good to hear from both **Emme Adams Putnam**

and **Lynn Fetterolf Porter**. Emme resides in Fort Collins, Colo. She enjoys having two great-grandsons nearby. Lynn lives in Matthews, N.C.

I'm looking forward to the Air Force Academy's first home game of the season — against none other than the Bison. Having lived in Colorado on and off since 1960, with a son who graduated from the academy and a husband who was the vice dean, I'll wear two shirts.

It's always good to hear from you, so email me or write to me at: 3810 Camels View, Colorado Springs, CO 80904 — *Carolyn Knies Erdle*

## 1953

**Louise Tierney Radak** died Jan. 26, after a life rooted in Canandaigua, N.Y. Lou studied economics and entered the business world before marrying and starting a family. Twenty years later, as a single mother of four, she began a career in public education. In addition to teaching, she ran A Touch of Class Catering. Lou was an avid reader and the family champion at *Jeopardy!*, *Scrabble* and the Sunday *New York Times* crossword puzzle. She enjoyed museums, theatre and European travel, but there was no place like home, where she delighted in her gardens. Lou is survived by four children, 14 grandchildren and seven great-grandchildren. **Ed Beekman** died April

22, having grown up in Englewood, N.J. After graduating from Bucknell, he began his career in advertising in New York City. He later joined his father's firm, Beekman & Packard. Ed became president of the agency and served in that position until his retirement in 2018. Ed spent summers on the Eastern Shore of Maryland, where he and his wife retired. He was a founding member of the Eastern Shore Intercollegiate Patriot League. Predeceased by his wife of 60 years, he is survived by three children, including **Ed '77**, five grandchildren and four great-grandchildren.

**Marjorie Mulhollen Havist** died April 23. She taught high school while her husband completed medical school, then worked at Boeing. Widowed in 1962, she earned a master's in library science and remarried in 1969. She was a librarian at Washington State Library and Seattle Central Community College before becoming the first woman associate dean, and then dean, at Skagit Valley College. She is survived by two children, four grandchildren and three great-grandchildren.

**Sue Miller Strecker** and husband Dan live at Juniper Village in Newark, Del., where, one armed with a cane and the other with a walker, they're enjoying all the activities of the facility. Sue asked if anyone knew about **Jan**

**Elder Hatch**. After some research, I [**Chris**] learned Jan died May 2. Jan and her husband, Tom, moved to Glen Mills, Pa., after living in Severna Park, Md. Tom, an airline pilot, died two years ago. They are survived by four children, including **Laura '88**, and four grandchildren.

I contacted **Joan "JJ" Jenkinson Haag Beiter**. She and husband Jack are in Hershey's Mill in West Chester, Pa. JJ reported her entire family of 29, including six great-grandchildren, gathered in Cape May, N.J.

I also called **Barbara "BeBe" Bennett Wahlquist** in Chatham, Mass., who lives in her home with her dog, drives to exercise classes and plays golf weekly. BeBe attended the graduation of her granddaughter, **Katie Walter '06**, and saw campus again.

I then called **Vivian Abronski LePard**, who said while always a Pennsylvanian, she's happy in a Florida community, close to her daughter and granddaughter. — *Christine Hill Killough and John Manbeck*

## 1954

No classmate news at this time. Cancer surgery kept me busy. — *Bonnie Mackie Aspinwall*

## 1955

I received a note from **John McKee '56** about a clipping sent to him about the late **Phyllis Marcuccio**.



Phyllis was co-founder of the Rockville Science Day, the Rockville Consortium for Science and the Rockville Science Center. I was lucky to know Phyllis in my freshman year in Bucknell Cottage. While at Bucknell, she worked on Cap & Dagger sets and became its president.  
— *Eleanor Mackie Pigman*

## 1956

**Jane Nevling Haenle** writes, "I celebrated my 90th birthday in December and was honored by the North Country Community College Foundation at its annual Scholarship Soirée. I created the foundation when I was vice president of institutional advancement and oversaw the first million-dollar campaign for Niagara County Community College, renamed this year SUNY Niagara. The foundation now has over \$14 million and includes the Jane H. Haenle Scholarship.

"It has been a wonderful year with a birthday party, a trip to New York City and Palm Springs, Calif., and a stay at the Chautauqua Institution, a beautiful cultural center.

"My life has included the loss of my precious husband, Tom; earning, when I was 56, a master's degree from Kent State University; having a fulfilling career as educator and journalist; and reaching the goal of

visiting 55 countries and all 50 states. I loved my years at Bucknell, and a few years ago, I revisited those memories, bringing a dear friend to Lewisburg, to the downtown where my roommate and I modeled for the Lyons Shop, to Hunt Hall, where my sorority, Kappa Delta, once had a suite, to the hill where I took my world literature courses and to the Milton Hotel, where I had my first Manhattan."  
— *Joseph Eberhart*

## 1957

**Billie Jane "B.J." Boyer Maul** and Lew did very little last year because travel has become more difficult, but "our boys and their kids are good about visiting. The grands range in age from 20 to 27 — nobody married, nobody pregnant, nobody seriously ill, all with jobs and two with significant others.

"As for Lew and me, we have a drink every night at 5 p.m.; play rummy, *Five Crowns*, *Greed*, *Play Nine* or *Scrabble*; eat dinner, watch *Jeopardy!* and *Wheel of Fortune*; and fall asleep, wake up, go to bed. (Of course, that's only when the weather is too bad to get to Hard Rock or Borgata to play the slots.) Lew volunteers on repairing the world's largest pipe organ in Atlantic City, N.J. We attended Lew's family reunion in Wilkes-Barre, Pa., but the big event was celebrating Lew's 90th with close friends and family."

## Nancy Edwards

**Fahringer** cannot believe she has made it to 89 and is still doing quite well. "I was a classical music radio announcer for a decade and retired at 60, whereupon my husband and I discovered we could enroll during the summer at various colleges and take classes, sometimes even living in the dorm. It was marvelous. We went all over — to the University of Nevada in Reno; Northern Arizona University in Flagstaff; University of California—San Diego, etc. The highlight was the University of the Basque Country in San Sebastián, Spain, where I joined a group of musicians and lived in a monastery, learning early music and then performing it in the great cathedral in Santiago de Compostela.

"Being a music major gave me the skills to learn new instruments: a stringed instrument called a viola da gamba ("viol of the legs"). Years ago, I played at the University of Arizona when they had a collegium of early music, and now I play in various small groups as there's a huge amount of music to explore.

"It was great to move to Tucson from New York. It's not unusual to see a coyote trotting by or a roadrunner chasing a lizard. I think being able to be outdoors for so much of the year contributes to my staying healthy. But of course, it's good luck, too."

I would say it's your attitude, too — as it is for B.J. — *Carolyn "Callie" Meyer*

## 1958

As I wrote this, I was on an amazing cruise on the five Great Lakes. The Kappa 5 are scheduled to go to Bermuda in September. That group includes **Merle Holden Winstead, Elaine Longenecker Wilson, Willi Rilling Stahura '59, Charlotte Gentry Sisler '59** and yours truly. I've had several conversations with **Cathy Hoffman Doremus** and interestingly enough, there's a lady on this cruise whose husband and the late **Bob Strachan** were in business together.

My next trip will be the coast of Alaska. I've had a few health glitches this year due to atrial fibrillation that included an updated ablation procedure called pulsed field ablation and the insertion of a Watchman that can prevent a stroke by sealing off the left atrial appendage, which often accumulates blood clots — life saving! I'm always looking for news from you. — *Roberta Bayer Schlacks*

## 1959

**Ellen Killebrew** writes, "I finally published my memoir, *The Magic Bag*, which includes my years at Bucknell, with help from **Alice Brewen Acheson '58.**"  
**Molly Wolford Hamilton**

passed away June 3. Her niece, **Claire Hamilton Gilbert '03**, writes, "After being set up on a blind date by **Ted DuPuy**, Molly married **Lee '57**, who later served as a member and chairman of the Board of Trustees. Lee's career led to moves around the world, but no matter the distance from Lewisburg, he and Molly maintained their connection to the University.

"Molly was a Kappa Delta and remained dear friends with several of her sorority sisters. Ardent supporters of Bucknell, Molly and Lee were longtime donors and created the **Barbara Wolford Wyma '62** Memorial Scholarship in memory of Molly's sister.

"Molly delighted in the fact that several younger relatives attended Bucknell: **Shane Wolford '96, Kary Wolford Benedetto '02, Claire and Zach Drawbaugh '04.**

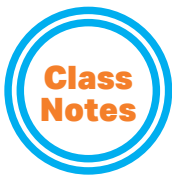
"Molly was preceded in death by Lee in 2012 and is survived by her brother, **Jack Wolford '65**, and sister-in-law, **Karen Horner Wolford '65**, sister Deb Mudry, three sons, seven grandchildren and a large extended family."  
— *Please submit updates at [go.bucknell.edu/classnotes](http://go.bucknell.edu/classnotes)*

## 1960

Sad news: **Ron Kaiser** passed away at home in Lake Nuangola, Pa., Friday, June 13.

**Jane Lydman Emsbo** spends her winters in Lexington, Mass., and





summers on Block Island, R.I. Her husband is deceased, but she has a large family and enjoys painting, poetry and music.

Many of our '60 classmates returned to campus for Reunion. From all reports, everyone enjoyed the fellowship and festivities.

Keep your information coming so our classmates can profit from what you have to share with us. — *Pete Fritts*

## 1961

On a sad note, Gail, second wife of **Donald**

**Dewsbury**, wrote that he passed away March 26 in Gainesville, Fla. Don became a well-respected and well-published psychologist in the field of animal behavior, and later in his career, in the field of the history of psychology. He taught at the University of Florida for 41 years. Gail comments, "I did not know Don when he was at Bucknell but did visit his friend and teacher, the late Douglas Candland. Don always credited Bucknell with a good foundation for his career. His son, **Bryan '92**, also graduated from Bucknell." — *Jan Powers*

## 1963

Stephanie Lindner reported that her husband, **Richard Lindner**, passed away April 27. He had been in memory care at a senior living facility with vascular dementia. He was 83. Rich belonged to SAE and had a successful career with Eastman Kodak, Sullivan Graphics and Capital Engraving, later counseling companies in performance development.

David and **Carol Schellman Lapp** celebrated 60 years of marriage. Carol met David while at

the University of Rhode Island, and together they went to Houston, where he earned his doctorate at Rice, then on to San Antonio, where their two children were born, and another move to Augusta, Ga., in 1971, where they now live. After the children were grown, Carol went back to school and earned her doctorate in endocrinology at the Medical College of Georgia. That enabled her to teach and do research at the Dental College of Georgia. She retired in 2008. And with all that, she still played violin in the Augusta Symphony for about 30 years. They will celebrate their anniversary in California with their children, their spouses, four grandchildren and her sisters and families.

On May 30, my second grandson, Connor William Suritz, joined brother Ryan Wesley Suritz (who was born Oct. 19, 2023). Their father, Adam, is partner manager at Prime Video & Amazon Studios. He manages partnerships with content providers such as Showtime and A&E Global Media's channel portfolio. The boys' mother is an adjunct professor at NYU Stern School of Business and senior strategy initiatives manager and health care specialist at Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center in New York. Their primary jobs, however, are taking care of my two beloved grands. — *Penny West Suritz*

## 1964

**Beth Wehrle Smith** writes, "In the last year or so, your Class Reporter has done a lousy job of keeping up with the comings and goings of fellow students. I apologize. That being said, however, I am relieving myself from this illustrious task and hope someone will pick up his or her pen or stylus and submit three times a year. Those of us who are left would greatly appreciate it." — *Please submit updates at [go.bucknell.edu/classnotes](http://go.bucknell.edu/classnotes)*

## 1965

Bucknell did a great job making it look easy to accommodate 1,500 alumni at Reunion. Highlights included an Introduction to AI seminar and our Emeritus dinner, where President Bravman honored **Forrest Chilton**.

More than two dozen of our classmates attended: **Ron Baer**, Forrest and **Valerie Silbernagel Chilton**, **John** and **Bev Dietz Cox**, **Toby Decker**, **Bob Gatski**, **Bob Gentzler**, **Bill Goulding**, **Ed Hegmann**, **John Karanik**, **Joan Summy Long**, **Ron Marino**, **Bill** and **Betty Ann Cardona McMichael**, **Frank Panczyszyn**, **Jackie Hornor Plumez**, **Mary Sieminski**, **Bev Smith Ryerson**, **Bonnie Smith Leslie**, **Gerry Wagner**, **Bobbie Crehan Waier**, **Jim Warren**, **Don Watts** and **Peter Zschiesche**.

John Karanik and Ron Baer organized a multi-year DU reunion. John adds, "The

**BUCKNELL**  
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*weekend*

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celebration came about because our '65 class wanted to share Bucknell memories with more than our immediate classmates. Our September 1961 arrival and June 1965 departure meant friendships spanned classes from most of the 1960s. So, we enlisted the help of the alumni office, formed a committee and ended up with DU alums from 1964–67: 23 in all, plus five Bucknell spouses.

"Festivities began with a cocktail reception, DU memorabilia display and tour of the old DU House, now Hildreth-Mirza Hall, the University's Humanities Center — aptly described by the University (to the joy of the DU brothers) as a building dedicated to the 'type of learning that takes place outside the classroom, lab or library.' We were honored to have President Bravman join us and update us on many of the changes since our time in Lewisburg.

"Following our reception, we were jitney-ed to the Elaine Langone Center for a private dinner. Most of our group stayed at McDonnell Hall on floors 2 and 3. We commandeered one of the gathering spaces to use as a memorabilia display room and an after-hours adult beverage, snacking and meeting [room]."

Your reporter loves to mention classmates who have done impressive things. While I'm sure many other DUs have,

here are two reported to me: When Ron sold his international check and payment verification service, he and his brother bought and sold a couple other businesses, including the Famous Amos chocolate chip cookie company.

Don owns and operates Mentor Dynamics, which designs, fabricates and installs high-performance polymeric liners for marine, trucking and industrial applications all over the globe.

**Andy Dzurinko** sells insurance in Tempe, Ariz., and has authored a number of self-help books. He generously gave Forrest copies of his latest, *Laugh Out Loud: Feel Good and Live Longer*, to hand out at Reunion as Andy and his wife were in Parker, Colo., for a granddaughter's high school graduation.

Andy keeps in touch with classmates, including **Albert "Mike" Seigfried**, **Brian Caverly**, **Ed Manigan** and practicing attorney **Fred Heather**. Andy meets with **Jim Cantoni**, who lives nearby, for lunch.

Sammies from '62–'65 meet in New York City for dinner several times a year, including **Richard Hirsch**, a retired chief litigator for Time Warner; **Rick Amdur**, who sold his successful arts and crafts business; **Ron Baron**, who still runs Baron Capital; **Jack Posner**, who is a Long Island, N.Y., attorney; and **Mike Weinstein** of the famous Bryant Park Grill.

Richard and Rick also meet with an older Bucknellian and others for a weekly poker game in New York City.

When **Steve Oestreich** died this May, his wife, Kim, donated his golf clubs and equipment to the Bucknell golf team. Don Watts reported that his friend **Bill Headley '64**, who has collected baseball cards since the early 1950s, has donated his collection to Bucknell, which required two 16-foot pickups to transport it. The cards are being sorted and sold at auction, with the first batch fetching about \$100,000.

Don, who never got his 1965 yearbook, is hoping to get one. Would one of the 1965 married couples donate one of theirs? Please send it to me at 90 Beechtree Drive, Larchmont, NY 10538, and I will get it to Don.

— Jackie Hornor Plumez

## 1966

At this stage of our lives, we all have "issues" of one sort or another, but life goes on with a number of experiences that give us gratitude and provide happy times. We go to weddings of children or grandchildren, attend graduations and gather for class Reunions at Bucknell. Then, too, there is the sad alternative in which it seems we attend more funerals each year. In the past few months, we've lost more classmates who, hopefully, were celebrat-

ed while still with us so there might be memories to savor.

**Diane Richters Karl** passed after a brief illness in December. She was a precocious child and graduated early from Bucknell, earning Phi Beta Kappa and honors in mathematics as well as membership in Delta Delta Delta. She continued her education at Cornell Medical College, where she was one of only a few women. While there, she met her first husband, Richard Karl Jr. The couple raised three children in Tampa, Fla., while Diane was in private practice as an endocrinologist. Eventually the two divorced, and Diane met and married a fellow endocrinologist, Matthew Riddle II, moving to Portland, Ore., to practice for many more years while helping to raise four stepchildren in addition to her own three, including **Alix Karl Robinson '95**. Diane also found time to host a weekly radio show of folk music.

**Michael Matzko** of Bloomsburg, Pa., who died in June, majored in biology and was a member of Sigma Alpha Epsilon and competed on the wrestling team. He also earned a master's in counseling psychology from the University of Scranton and then attended Hahnemann Medical College. He was an expert water skier, scuba diver, hunter and boat captain. Mike was a school counselor and an active volunteer in the Big

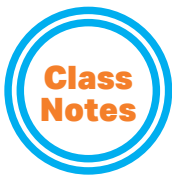
Brothers program. His wife of 47 years, Cynthia, as well as two children and three grandchildren, survive him.

**Peter Huber '67** passed away in May at his home in Richmond, Va. He was an Eagle Scout who went on to earn a doctorate in anthropology at Duke after graduating from Bucknell, where he met first wife **Mary Taylor Huber**. Peter, Mary and their two sons spent two years in Papua, New Guinea, while Peter did ethnographic research in a remote village. Later, he taught at Princeton University before founding P.B. Huber Analysis & Research, a market research company utilizing methods of cultural anthropology.

There are several happy occasions to report. We begin with a March wedding in New Jersey for **Ben Elliott's** younger daughter, **Grace '16**, who married **Bryan Adams '17** in a celebration attended by 60-some Bucknellians, including a few from our generation: **Dick Pace**, who is Grace's godfather, **Roland Capone**, **John Skiavo M'68** and **Jerry Thimme**, plus Ben himself, of course.

The Bucknell Reunion this year featured a gathering of Delta Upsilon brothers from the classes of 1965–67. **Marvin Goldberg** reported that he was joined by '66 brothers **Milton "Bill" Barish**, **Bill Lebov**, **Chris Rojahn**, **Phil Sterner M'68** and **John Uhler** as well as





**Lisa Marshall Headley** for a special celebration of Delta Upsilon's history. The University offered a tour of the old DU house and hosted a cocktail party there with a lot of '60s memorabilia. There was a dinner for all three classes at which a proclamation was given by National DU declaring the Bucknell chapter the most outstanding chapter of the '60s. President Bravman was in attendance.

A few weeks later, the Bucknell Phi Gamma Delta classes of several years held their annual golf outing at Bucknell, which included '66ers Roland, **Paul Ferenchak**, **Bart Frame**, **Jim Marcille**, Dick, John and Jerry. Even some FIJIs who couldn't manage golf any longer got themselves there to share in the camaraderie and old stories that were dredged up once again to the entertainment of all.  
— *Jackie Pearson Weidenfeller*

## 1967

Although 2025 was not a "round number" year for our class at the Bucknell Reunion, several members of the Delta Upsilon Class of '65 invited DUs from the '60s to gather for a special event on the Thursday prior to the all-campus Reunion events. The alumni office was very helpful and cooperative in setting this up. There were five members of the DU Class of '67 in

attendance: **Al** and wife **Linda Peoples Ruhl**, **Hank Bray**, **Jerry Ward**, **Jim Gansinger** and yours truly. Rather than concentrate solely on my own fraternity, I chose to write about one of the members: Al.

After Bucknell, he went to the University of Illinois, got his doctorate in structural engineering, was hired by Shell Oil Company and spent the remainder of his professional life there. As a result, he and Linda traveled all over the world to ply his trade of designing off-shore drilling platforms. He was in China at the outset of COVID-19; he backpacked through California; he was involved in tutoring reading in several places; and when he retired, they moved from Houston to Northern Virginia, his home area, to care for aging parents. That is where they still live.

Al married Linda right out of college. She founded a tutoring program in reading in Houston, which has grown exponentially and remains active. Because of her Norwegian heritage, they have visited Norway six times. She is an accomplished quilter and now shares the hobby of photography with Al.

**Lee Ann Winter Friedman** shared a story that made clear how times have changed. After graduating from Bucknell, she and **Marilyn Miller Ginsburg** taught in a Philly suburb and shared

an apartment. When Lee Ann became engaged, the newspaper initially flagged her announcement. She received a call from the society editor, who pointed out that Lee Ann risked getting fired from her job because the story included the fact that their addresses were the same. Never mind that it was an apartment building, which is where they'd met. The notice was eventually approved. They did indeed get married and moved to Boston in 1970, where she continued teaching. Since retiring in 2003, Lee Ann has worked in an art gallery, in a boutique, as a technical writer and as a teacher of English as a second language for adults. She'd like to hear from Bucknell friends **Ruth Durfee Gilbert**, **Judy Bessor McDowell**, **Peggy Messmore Perella** and **Pat Fellows Schaffner**. She is at [friedman.lee.ann@gmail.com](mailto:friedman.lee.ann@gmail.com).

I enjoy reading history, and I finished *Countdown 1945*. This was the story of the development of the atomic bomb, the preparation of its use and the politics surrounding those decisions. I learned that the navigator on the Enola Gay was a serviceman named **Theodore "Dutch" VanKirk '49, M'50**. His biography included his post-war education at Bucknell. When I Googled him, I found that he had a son, **Tom VanKirk**, and he was a member of our class. I had no idea that his father was a certifiable war hero.

I called Tom, and we discussed that issue.

Tom went to Dickinson law school and accepted a position in Pittsburgh, where he's been ever since. He held several administrative positions, including chief legal officer of the local Blue Cross and Blue Shield agency. He's been involved with a number of nonprofits, including the United Way of Southwestern Pennsylvania and the Pittsburgh Cultural Trust, as well as mediating for the state in regard to the use of the opioid settlement money. He and his wife established a scholarship fund at the University for veterans going into engineering. He has four children and six grandchildren. He maintains contact mostly with **Ken Greiner** and **Kurt Kaufmann**. — *Chuck Gilliland*

## 1968

We lost another classmate when **Leslie Geer** passed March 14. She earned her bachelor's in music — music was her life. Leslie received master's degrees from Trenton (N.J.) State College and Georgian Court University and taught music in Eatontown, N.J., for 30 years, retiring in 2000. In 1990, she was awarded Teacher of the Year. She traveled to Spain, Greece, Italy, England, New Orleans, Ireland, Egypt, New Zealand and other faraway places. Leslie loved her dogs as much

as she loved her music. After retirement, she moved near Charlottesville, Va., where she was active in church and animal rescue.

Leslie was in contact with another music major from our class, **Stephanie West**. I reached out to Stephanie, who reported that they are doing well and enjoy attending the Reunions as part of the annual emeritus gathering.

It is sad to report that Theta Chi brother **Jim "Seabear" Varga '69** passed away June 5. Jim and wife Olga and their two daughters lived in Pacific Palisades, Calif., and escaped the horrific fire that destroyed many homes, including theirs. Jim was a pediatrician and the leader of a men's Zoom group that included me and Jim's good friend, Theta Chi brother and former roommate **Bob "Tuz" Martuza '69**. Tuz wrote a wonderful eulogy that I will forward to anyone who would like it.

**Jim Reese '69** and wife Linda Kelley are adjusting to their new lives in Kansas City, Kan., with Jim doing his best to make the transition from New Orleans. I'm not surprised at the difference in cultures but know that Reese is resourceful enough to figure it out.

We're planning for several Bucknellians to visit us in Vermont this summer, including **Lynne Huntsberger Killheffer**, **Bob Brush** and **Stephen Yeatman**. I'll report more on their visits in the next



# THE ELLEN CLARKE BERTRAND SOCIETY

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

## We welcome the following new members this year:

Beth Hopper Allgaier '85, P'17  
Peter Balakian '73, P'10  
Steve '72 and Susan Boyer  
Chris P'20, P'22 and Sarah Brice P'20, P'22  
Stuart '78, P'07, P'08, P'12 and Denise Cubbon P'07, P'08, P'12  
Don '72 and Pam Schwartz Dickson '72  
Gale Duque  
JoAnn Patrick-Ezzell '75  
Karen Simpson Fulton '74  
Raymond Gray  
Doug Hitchner '83  
Rick '74 and Susie Wagner Kleinert '75  
Mark '68 and Susan Dellheim Kolman  
Kurt Landefeld '76  
George Lane '72, P'14

Bill '74, P'99, P'01, P'06 and Dee Trout  
Ledgerwood '74, P'99, P'01, P'06  
Jon '88 and Heather McBride Leef '88  
Scott Lillis '88  
Mike '92 and Rhonda Buford MacKay '92  
Ed Motter '75  
Gary Ober '73  
Greg Reilly '19  
Bob '75 and Su Benson Robotti  
Susan Mitchell Scott '68  
Julia Smith  
Alan Solomon '53  
Wendy Quest Trevisani '92, P'26  
(three anonymous members)

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

Barbara Beck

Chuck Berger '75, P'04  
Pris Teleky Davis '61  
Josephine "Dodie" Hildreth Detmer '52, P'79  
Dottie DiOrio '54  
Patty Ekedahl P'79  
Joanne Gehas '85  
Bill Graham '62  
Molly Wolford Hamilton '59  
David Lee  
William Martens '56, P'79, G'11  
Marion Mayfield-Johnson '49  
John McKee '56, P'86  
Ruth Melberger G'14  
Richard Miller '61  
Helmar Nielsen '59  
Paul Pearson '61, P'89  
Drew Seibert '52, P'91, G'20  
Lorraine Soresi Tweed '56  
Sallie Zoerb '44

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

Class Notes.  
— George Vince

## 1970

**Lisa Stratton Bravo, Sue Stumpf Saur, Norma Hodul Sassone and Mary Sue Beyer Kuzak** met in early March this year in Loreto, Mexico, to explore Baja California and to renew friendships. Mary Sue writes, "Whale watching was one activity which led us to tackle the great American novel we'd all avoided: *Moby-Dick*. "Upon returning home, we spent the next 14 weeks meeting weekly by FaceTime to discuss our

assigned reading. What did we take away from this, besides lots of shared laughter? We now know everything there is to know about the 1800s whaling industry, including many archaic British sailing terms. We agreed that Ahab was obsessed to everyone's detriment. We were amazed at the number of *Moby-Dick* references we saw and shared in current novels, movies, cartoons and printed articles. And, we realized this was the only way we all would have actually read the book. We are proud of our accomplishment and plan

to tackle *Anna Karenina* next." — *Lydia Haller Dodd*

## 1971

Class Reporter **Lou Kissling** was inducted into his high school athletic hall of fame. He played four sports in high school, was All-American in one (swimming) and first team all-New England in another (lacrosse). In his senior year, Lou was the goalie on the soccer team that lost just one game, yielding nine goals in 11 games with six shutouts. Lou joins fellow Bucknell Kappa Sig fraternity

brother **Bill Fifield '72**, who was inducted into the school's hall of fame two years ago. — *Lou Kissling*

## 1972

**Hood Johnston** writes, "For several years, **Patty Hellyer Johnston '73** and I have enjoyed spring and fall road trips from Lewisburg to Jupiter, Fla., to visit our daughter, **Kendra Johnston Leisher '04**, her husband, Greg, and their daughter, Tessa, and son, Luke. We usually stop in Chapel Hill, N.C., to see **Donna Cotter** and **Paige Peck '73** and sometimes continue on

to visit **Kristi Johnston '03** in Phoenix."

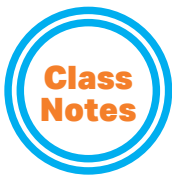
He also reminds us that planning will begin soon for a combined 2026 Reunion for the classes of '71, '72, '73 and '74. For those interested in being part of the planning or outreach effort, please reach out to Tara Michaels at [t1m029@bucknell.edu](mailto:t1m029@bucknell.edu).

Having worked on our 50th Reunion, I can attest that it is a lot of fun — so I hope you will participate. — *Anne Smith Benbow*

## 1973

**Dave Stacy** writes, "I





enjoyed traveling to Bucknell for Reunion Weekend. I was joined by a small but enthusiastic contingent of '73 classmates, including **Steve Dykstra, Tom Hannan, Ed McDevitt, Gary Ober, Ken Phelps** and **Rick Zentz**. Once again, Tom and Ken hosted a fun karaoke session for the Emeritus classes. Saturday evening featured the Emeritus dinner, which was attended by several members of the Class of '65 who were celebrating their 60th Reunion.

"I'd like to let our classmates know that planning will begin soon for a combined 2026 Reunion for the classes of '71, '72, '73 and '74. In order for this to be successful, we're going to need a core leadership team as well as a large outreach effort by each class. If you're interested in being part of the planning, reach out to Tara Michaels at [t1m029@bucknell.edu](mailto:t1m029@bucknell.edu)." — *Susan Latimer Curlett*

## 1975

Many of us were fortunate to be able to attend Reunion. My path crossed with **Jeff Puff, Dotty Schnure, JoAnn Patrick-Ezzell, Christine Tschopp Brennan** and a number of my freshman Fourth Harris friends. Seeing the many changes to the dorms and in classroom buildings and taking the Farm Tour to learn about all the "green" initiatives from the amazing student

tour guides were highlights for me.

At the Saturday night dinner, **Susan McHale** was honored with the Outstanding Achievement in a Chosen Profession Award. Kudos to Susan.

If any of you have fun tidbits to share from your Reunion experience, please send me an email.

Florida was the destination for a group of friends who used to gather every 10 years and realized last year that annual gatherings (at our age) made a lot more sense. This year, they gathered in Clearwater Beach: **Sharon Litchfield Spencer, Wendy Saville, Suzanne Storey Kanzleiter, Jo-Ann Barr Tittley, Peggy Sammon, Georgia Young Foote, Sarah Gest Bauer, Adriane Wodey M'79** and Dotty. They enjoyed beautiful sunny Florida beaches and a tornado warning, not to mention plenty of food and fun. — *Nancy Quay Bradley*

## REUNION 2026

## 1976

**Nancy Williams** is putting out a call to her 1976 Delta Zeta classmates regarding our Big 50th Reunion (and how did we let that happen). She knows a few of them have already made plans to attend. She's encouraging all her sisters to come and join in the fun and festivities of that very special weekend. Nancy is at [nanwill82@gmail.com](mailto:nanwill82@gmail.com).

On a similar note, I (**Gail**)

would love to see all the Class of '76 Tri Deltas attend. It's been a long time since I've seen everyone.

Also, I (**Mary**) would love to see all of the Class of '76 Kappa Kappa Gammas at Reunion next year. See you there.

— *Gail Waterbury Ferri and Mary Lou Kupfer*

## 1977

I (**Susan**) am sad to report that my mother, **Doris Jenkins Hunsicker '46**, died in April at the age of 99½. She attended Bucknell for only one academic year, living in Hulley House. Although her time at Bucknell was short, it influenced my decision to attend the University. She took me and one of my sisters on a college tour, and I knew Bucknell was the one for me almost as soon as I set foot on campus. She told me that Fourth Harris, my freshman hall, had been the site of an archery range in her day. More recently, she was contacted by a Bucknell history professor asking her if she would agree to be interviewed by a student about what life was like on campus during World War II as part of a project on primary research. Mom and I traveled together to Lewisburg so she could meet with her student interviewer in person. We had a wonderful time checking out all the changes to campus. Although my mother lived almost 100 years, I've

realized that the more important age is my own. I was blessed to have had a mother for over 70 years.

**Alex Valicenti** reported that planning is in "full tilt" for a June 2026 wedding of her daughter, **Meredith Donovan '18**.

Carla, my better half, and I (**Brian**) celebrated our 70th birthdays in January and February, respectively, and 40 years of marriage Aug. 3, with a European river cruise from Budapest, Hungary, to Amsterdam in April. We enjoyed a three-day pre-excursion visit to Prague and two extra days in Amsterdam post-excursion. History, culture, palaces, castles, churches, and great food and boatmates made for a memorable trip. We were on a morning tour of Cologne, Germany, outside Great St. Martin Church when everyone's phones started buzzing and the bells started tolling 88 times to announce the passing of Pope Francis. An Easter Monday mass was already underway, but we were allowed into the narthex to observe the beautiful choir singing and exquisite orchestra playing. Within 20 minutes, news crews arrived to interview tourists and obtain footage of the moment.

**Neal Bench** and his wife, Jeanette, were hosted by **David '78** and **Maureen Carley Kavjian '78** at their home in Annandale, Va., in mid-June. David's brother, **Ed Kavjian '75**, and his wife,

Mary Jo, joined the festivities. Neal and Jeanette participated in the University of Pennsylvania's Orphan Disease Center's Million Dollar Bike Ride and were en route from Philadelphia to their Chapel Hill, N.C., home. The ride raises funds to combat rare diseases. Neal serves as board president of the Choroideremia (CHM) Research Foundation, which is dedicated to advancing research, finding treatments, patient advocacy and quality-of-life improvements for those impacted by CHM. This rare, inherited eye disease primarily affects males, causing progressive vision loss due to degeneration of the retina and choroid. It is characterized by night blindness, followed by peripheral vision loss and eventually tunnel vision and blindness.

Neal and Jeanette were in Minneapolis for the 2025 Choroideremia Research Foundation International Conference in June. Before heading to the airport, Neal and Jeanette met me (Brian) and my wife for dinner, where we caught up on four dozen years of Bucknell, family, friends and KDR news. We concluded that Neal's service as KDR chapter president was an easier role than Brian's time as KDR house manager.

We are less than two years away from our Class of '77 50th Reunion. Please reserve June 4–6, 2027, to join classmates



to celebrate and share stories, memories and hijinks from the 1970s. In the meantime, keep in touch and send us your stories. We (Brian and Susan) may lead fascinating lives but not fascinating enough to fill our Class Notes. — *Susan Hunsicker and Brian Knapp*

## 1978

**Gerry Kowalski M'80** shares, "Our Sigma Chi Class of 1978 brothers gathered in Lewisburg in November for our fourth consecutive reunion. For the first three years, we met in the summer at **Peter VanBuskirk's** family cabin near Mifflinburg, Pa. It is an ideal location, and we give big kudos to Peter and Mischelle for hosting us.

"For 2024, we revised our itinerary to enjoy a fall gathering, visit the house and enjoy a football game. Present were **Ron Barrett, Neil Boylan '79, Bill Carpluk M'78, Bill Clifford, Jeff Letts, Tom Long, Wayne Rehberger, Peter, Jim Welch** and me.

"Here's a rundown about our shenanigans in Lewisburg. The weather was terrific; the catchup time at The Burger (Lewisburg Hotel) and The Inn at Lewisburg was exactly what you might suspect, with lots of laughs and great conversations/catchups and stories from the past. Remember that history is not what happened; it's what you remember.

"The pre-game party at

the house was excellent. The undergraduate brotherhood was an impressive bunch, and their hospitality was sincere and memorable. They were costumed for Halloween, too. We're grateful for being treated so well. Special thanks to **Andrew Hasfal '25** for the local arrangements. And, the football game was tightly contested with the Bison edging the [Lafayette] Leopards 21-14 with a strong second half with ideal fall weather.

"We missed **Rick Kanaskie, Charlie Previs, Kevin Preston, Joe McGinley** and **Bill Noyes**, but **Marty Marra '77, Bill Albrecht '80, Mark Lynch '80** and **Doug Collett '82** joined us to strengthen the numbers. Gina Kowalski, Clare Carpluk, Jamie Clifford, **Sharon Schomburg Barrett**, Toni Marra and **Kelly Trageser Collett '82** endured the spirited banter and hijinks.

"I was delighted to have within the fraternity my Pop (Bill Clifford), sons (Bill Albrecht and Peter) and grandson (Doug) together in one space — a special personal moment. Additionally, Gina and I were grateful to gobble up a breakfast with **Bob and Tory Luce Kallin '83**. It was great to have even a short visit."

On a personal note, our Fourth of July got off to a bang with the birth of our grandson, Harry Thomas Zechman V. Harry, who will be known as Quinn, joins sister Natalie. Mom

(**Jean '13**), Dad, big sis and baby were doing well.

Needless to say, we are all smitten with our new addition.

Please send me updates on your reunions, travels, family or whatever is going on in your life. Stay happy and well.

— *Kathy McDonald Adelberger*

## 1979

As I did not receive any news from you after a bumper crop for the spring issue, I was given the choice of either writing about my grandchildren or some topic close to my heart, literally, that is about me.

As you know, when I took over as your class reporter, I pledged never to send a blank column. I will connect my column to a Bucknell incident that occurred our freshman year, the day after Halloween 1975. After feeling under the weather the week of Halloween, I went to our infirmary. The doctor suspected mononucleosis, and I was instructed to check in at Lewisburg hospital. I was there overnight and then spent almost the remainder of our freshman year at home.

Since that overnight stay at Lewisburg hospital, I had not been overnight in a hospital until April of this year. An MRI scan showed I had a tumor on my spinal column that needed to be removed. It was successfully removed, and after a week in the hospital in

Jerusalem, I returned home.

Thank goodness, I'm recovering nicely, and physical therapy is helping me to regain the strength in my legs. No doubt as we approach our seventh decade, some of you will have similar stories that you can share with me and our fellow alumni? We would love to hear from you. Wishing all of you a wonderful fall, and please, please do not force me to share stories or photographs of my lovely grandchildren.

— *Alan Schrager*

## 1980

Even though it's months past our 45th Reunion, hopefully the memories of seeing old friends and being in such familiar surroundings stay with you. It was a grand weekend. For me it's extra familiar as I've been attending Reunions since I was 9 years old because my mother is a Class of 1953 alumna, so I would get to campus more than just every five years for my own class. I've stayed in the dorms every time. The beds still aren't five-star, but it's amusing to hear a familiar classmate's voice from the shower in the communal bathroom. Campus looks amazing and the staff sure does it up with great food, entertainment and chances to reconnect with old pals. Our Facebook group has lots of photos, as does the University website.

In case you missed it, our class was awarded the Orange and Blue Spirit Award based on participation, creative programming and volunteerism. 'ray us! Big thanks go to the leadership team: **Molly Butzer M'85, Grace Burton, Ken Byk, Steve Goodell, Lisa Molke Lenker** and **Kathleen Torrant Sherrill**. In addition, thanks go to **Rob Middlebrook** and **Chris O'Brien**, our class dinner speakers, and House of Za, aka **Joe Fantuzzi, Ray Kingcaid** and **Elaine Christo Watkins**, featuring vocals also by **Caryn Hartglass M'80** and the Ellen P. Williams Associate Professor in Music,

Emily Martin, whose musical entertainment graced the cocktail hour.

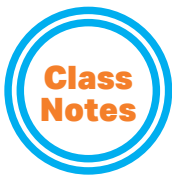
The most poignant event of the weekend, in my opinion, was the panel discussion Plot Twists: Roll with the Changes, hosted so openly and eloquently by Grace, Caryn, Ken and Steve. It was a pleasure to hear their personal stories of life's twists and how Bucknell classmates and lessons learned were so integral to rolling with life's serious ups and downs. A video was made of the discussion.

([mediaspace.bucknell.edu/media/1\\_7b6t9l86](https://mediaspace.bucknell.edu/media/1_7b6t9l86))

Just as my mother cherished her Bucknell friends all her life, some of whom remain family to me as well, the panel discussion reminded us how strong Bucknell connections are.

On that note, please





keep in touch on the Facebook group or with me. And do not forget to save whatever May 2030 weekend is our 50th Reunion. Let's make it epic. — *Deborah Hennel*

## REUNION 2026

### 1981

### 1982

**George '81** and I had the pleasure of attending the wedding of **Tom Ganter '81** to **Kathy Nemes Cassidy '81** in New Jersey at Frogbridge Day Camp. It was a lovely setting with good food and music and lots of activities. It was wonderful to see the love they've found together after each losing their spouse to a fatal disease. The Bucknell bond is special, and we witnessed it in full force. There were too many people from the Class of 1981 to list, but I did get to talk with **Doug Smoot**, **Glenn O'Brien**, **Ed Stark** and **Angela Pellegrino Dalle-Molle**. Everyone was having a great summer. It was funny to watch Kathy's reaction as the Sigma Chi serenaded her with "The Sweetheart of Sigma Chi." She had no idea what they were doing at first. And the Sigs were happy to report that they were all able to stand up again after kneeling at the end. Glenn sent me an update on his activities. He retired from Johnson & Johnson Medical Devices in November 2025 after nearly 29 years.

Shortly after, he moved from Morristown, N.J., to Holmdel, N.J., and was managing to stay busy.

Whenever I ask for news, I can always count on **Eric Allgaier** to come through. His focus of late has been on raising money for the Alzheimer's Association. He and **Laurence Richard P'06** are the vice chairs of the Ride to End ALZ Nation's Capital, and he is the captain of Team Bucknell. They rode 45 miles May 3.

Under challenging fundraising conditions in the D.C. area, where so many people lost their government jobs, they had a very strong year. Eric raised \$27,059, and Team Bucknell was the team leader in fundraising with nearly \$68,780 raised. Overall, the Ride raised over \$524,000, and all of the funds go to Alzheimer's research. Eric's team included two other '82 classmates, **Don Harris** and **Jeff Cross**, and other Bucknellians on the team are Eric's daughter, **Kit '17**, **Bob Gilligan '81**, **Bill Krokowski '84**, **Alan Snyder '88**, **Tom P'12**, **P'18** and **Diane Sawanobori P'12**, **P'18** and, of course, Laurence.

Eric and Laurence also attended the Alzheimer's Association Community Leaders Summit 2025 in Atlanta, representing the Ride to End ALZ-Nation's Capital, and found it very inspiring, with great hope to ending this challenging disease. While in Atlanta, they had brunch with Heidi

and **Kevin Donovan '83**. Eric loves to connect with other Bucknell track athletes while traveling.

Last year, CBRE Group acquired Direct Line Global, where Eric had been working. In a twist, Eric had left CBRE to go to Direct Line as director of safety and health. He is happy to be back working with the international health, safety and environment team. In March, he had meetings in London and Dublin and stayed afterward to visit daughter Kit, who is earning her master's in organizational psychology at City St George's, University of London. Eric travels for fun and business (just look at his Facebook page; he is always on the go), enjoys a variety of outdoor activities and listens to live music whenever he gets the opportunity. He also has a few shows scheduled for his side business, Eric Allgaier Photography.

We haven't had a lot of Class of 1982 news lately, so send me an email or drop me a Facebook message and let your classmates know what you are up to. Save the date: Our 45th Reunion is May 2027 — *Becky Goodwin Kangos*

### 1983

**Jim '82** and I received an exciting email from the Bucknell baseball team this spring. Here is an excerpt: "The Bucknell baseball team's home ballpark has undergone

significant renovations in recent years, and soon the beautiful Depew Field facility will also bear the name of a former Bison player and one of the program's most dedicated supporters, **David Marren '83**, and his wife, **Caroline Dillon Marren '83**. The stadium will be rededicated as Depew Field at Marren Park. The Marrens, who are the parents of three Bucknell graduates (**Molly '15**, **Meg '17** and **Peter '21**), have been proud and generous supporters of the Bison baseball program, and their leadership gift has fueled the planning for a new indoor hitting facility and pitching lab that would support both the baseball and softball teams.

"Adding the Marren family name to the Bucknell baseball stadium is another proud moment in the storied history of our program," said **Tim Pavlechko '91**, **M'93**, vice president of athletics & recreation. "Dave and Caroline, and the entire Marren family, are shining examples of Bucknellians who care deeply about their alma mater. We can't thank them enough for their generosity and what it means to future generations of student-athletes." In 2010, David and Caroline dedicated the Memorial Plaza in memory of their nephew, **Colin Marren '10**. Congratulations to Dave and Caroline.

Seeing a message from my sophomore-year roommate, **Elna Jelstrup**,

made me smile until I learned the heartbreaking reason: the sudden passing of **Sarah Rex Geary** on April 7. Sarah and **Kari Kirk McPartland** were our neighbors in Old Swartz, where we shared laughter in those tiny rooms overlooking Rooke Chapel. She and Elna traveled throughout Europe together our junior year. I recall Sarah as bubbly and constantly smiling. Her obituary reflects a life well lived and deeply loved. She leaves behind her husband, John, their three daughters, whom Sarah loved endlessly, as well as her extended family. Sadly, she was also expecting her first grandchildren. — *Tracey Trusk Eick*

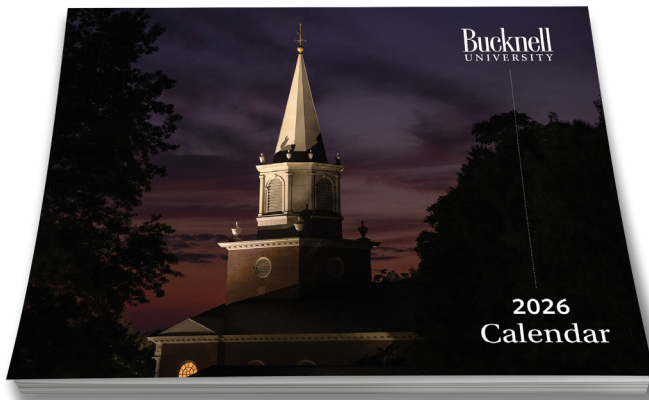
### 1984

**Mike Concordia** wrote with a follow-up to his brother Bob's request of three years ago that bore no fruit. I ask again here, as time is of the essence. Bob is a creative artisan. One of his talents is wood carving. Now, at 87 years old, Bob is assembling his works of art for his children and grandchildren. Mike and Bob have been reminiscing about two sculptures he carved for Mike while Mike was at Bucknell. The first was a lamp of an old-time football player made from a cedar stump. The second was a pirate's sword into which he carved "FIJI." The blade was attached to a black walnut handle carved with a distinctive bison. These



# BUCKNELL UNIVERSITY

## 2026 Calendar



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disappeared from the FIJI house in 1984. They are asking anyone who might know anything to please reach out to me, even anonymously (my address is 1919 N. Nash St., #1901, Arlington, VA 22209), and I will connect you as the goal is simply to get the items back.

Mike also reported that he and wife Liz were the guardians of **Alden Stone '18** from the age of 16. Alden graduated from Bucknell with honors and was president of Sigma Phi Epsilon. Alden married his Bucknell sweetheart, **Hallie Richmand '19**, in June in Manchester, Vt., with many Bucknellians in attendance.

Thanks to **Steve Jelinek** for this update: "I'm pleased to pass along news that the 46th annual Deliver Your Liver to the River canoe trip was held June 20–22 on the

Delaware River. Besides me, the participants representing the older generation of Bucknellians were **Jeff Bardos '83, Bob Barry '80, Stalio Boyd '81, Mike Colvin '80, Dave Egan '80, Chip Frazier '80, Dan Fitzpatrick '83, Richard Johnson '84, Steck Johnson '80, Scott Peterson '80, Craig Prindle '82, Mark Sajer '80, Richard "Fid" Speer '80, Matt Tannin '83, Brad Wildauer '83 and Dan Wilson '80**. Participants representing the younger ("Flatbelly") generation were **Morgan Beeson '12, Ben Brenner '12, Laird Egan '12, Zach Green '12, Johnny Hittman '13, Sam Hopkins '12, Randy Jones '12, Alex Odenwalder '12 and Ben Preziosi '12**. I am happy to report that none of the attendees suffered any bizarre injuries this year and that a good time was had by all."

**Charles "Vike" Savoth III** wrote with news of his

travels and more. A lawyer for more than 30 years, most recently with Gallo Vitucci & Klar in Hackensack, N.J., Vike is a source of inspiration thanks to his thoughtful observations and well-traveled life.

In March, he visited Tokyo during peak cherry blossom season, where he enjoyed conveyor belt sushi with Sigma Alpha Mu brother **Harold Meij '86**. Vike's observations of Japan, from the com-modes to the onsens to the overall sensibility, were compelling and capped off by this lovely summary: "I walked 45 miles all around Tokyo — one tiny adventure after another. The precision, the teeming throngs of humanity, the honesty, the pride and all at cherry blossom time: a time of reverence and recognition in reflection time awash in the transitory ephemera that is our

mortal coil mid-shuffle. Spring ahead indeed.

"In your most challenging times, never forget the world. Not the illusory web world but the boots-on-the-ground vibrancy of travel. As we age, we fade — turn inward in a reverse bloom. Shrinking apertures when we need the longest lenses. The trick is to rise up and reach out."

Vike would love to hear from fellow classmates and travelers at [vike@me.com](mailto:vike@me.com). — *Allison Abouchar Cross*

### 1985

I want to thank the members of our class who worked hard to make our 40th Reunion a tremendous success. For those who attended, it was great seeing you. For those who couldn't make it, we missed you. And those who are looking

down from above, we remember and miss you.

I wish I could remember every conversation and story that was shared, but I can't, so please send updates.

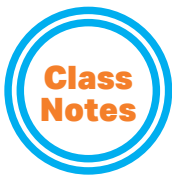
I did receive one update from **Ed Corsey**. He achieved his sixth-degree black belt in taekwondo from the International Martial Arts Federation in June. Congratulations, Ed. — *Carol Rheam Tevis*

### REUNION 2026

#### 1986

The sisters of Beta Gamma held a reunion in April in Philadelphia, attended by almost 70 women. Class of 1986 attendees were: **Megan Brott Sullivan, Kathy Ferrara Baxley, Jenny Fragneto Condame, Valerie Grimm Holly, Joanne Gryceski Arnold, Michelle Haid Jegier, Nancy Hutchison, Nonie Magill**





**Zunic, Beth Metko, Kathy Natale Thompson, Carol Nykamp Drury, Kim Smith Knipe** and me (**Joan**). **Vicki Rees** had to cancel at the last minute.

Some sisters volunteered at the Philadelphia Share Food Program, and we all enjoyed a dinner and program, including memories from **Doreen Bolger '71**, one of our founding members.

Over the summer, **Robb** and I attended a Bucknell event at the People's Light and Theatre Company. I ran into **Lindsey O'Connor** and **Doug Fastuca '87** and **Renée Narducci Battisti '91**, who is on the board of People's Light.

Mark your calendars: May 29–31, 2026, will be our 40th Reunion. — *Joan Daughen Cadigan*

## 1988

In September, we're adding another Bison to the family. My daughter, **Julia '19**, will marry **Scott Burian '17**. I'm excited for Bucknellians to descend on Pittsburgh for the celebration. Two weeks prior to theirs, Julia and Scott will be guests at the wedding of **Avery Cox '19**, daughter of **Stefanie Lin** and **Andy Cox '87**. Avery will marry **John Henry '17**, son of **Dave '86** and **Kelly Kern Henry**.

**Mel Blount** wrote that his family spent much of the first half of the year on the road as Cornell men's lacrosse vied for the NCAA men's title.

"Our connection to Big Red is **Leslie Northrup Long '87** and her family. Her husband, Steve, played LAX at Cornell, and their son, Mike, was Big Red's captain the past two years (my wife [**Karen Bailey Blount**] is Mike's godmother). The Cornell journey included Easter Weekend at Harvard, where we tailgated with Leslie, **Chip Scully '90**, **Brent Farmer '90** and **Pam Wilderotter Pokorny '90**."

Mel congratulated Bucknell men's tennis team on its first Patriot League Title. "I have been a huge men's tennis fan since 2014, and I'm in touch with the Four Horsemen of 2018: **Ben Gerber '18**, **Max Kane '18**, **Timber Erskine '18** and **Dan Wright '18**."

"The first weekend in May took Karen and me to Ithaca, N.Y., for the Ivy League lacrosse tournament, and we fit in a trip to Lewisburg to enjoy the last Super Saturday of the school year with our daughter, **Kathryn '26**. Bucknell men's soccer was having its annual alumni gathering, and Karen and I walked into the FIJI Super Sat party and right into **Greg Prime '89**, **Dave Domsohn '89** and **George Trenchard '89** (Greg's son, **Nick '25**, is a FIJI and was on the Bucknell men's soccer 2024 Patriot League championship team)."

The Blount family was on Long Island, N.Y., for the Cornell vs. Richmond NCAA quarterfinal game,

where we saw **Karen Hume '87** and **Sue Holben Ioannou '87** along with my fellow FIJI, **Josh Trager '90** (Josh's son goes to Richmond).

"The Final Four weekend was over Memorial Day weekend at Gillette Stadium in Foxborough, Mass., and it was an epic experience that we shared with **Bob '87** and **Joanna Warner Williams '87**, **Sue Bailey Thomson '86** and **Tom Collins '87**."

Mel points out that at the French Open women's final in June, "It was incredibly cool to see a man wearing a Bucknell sweatshirt in Coco Gauff's family/coach's box."

He golfed with **Harry Buell** and **Brian Mulhall '89** at a Rutgers golf outing hosted by **Greg Schiano** in mid-June. Also, **Katie Simpson Caste** and **Susan Orth Cleary** stayed at the Blounts' to play in a mid-June member-guest event with Karen before they headed to Pittsburgh and to see a U.S. Open round at Oakmont, Pa. Mel also had a fun round with **Rob Ryan**, **Dave Miller** and **Reese Ryan '23** in June.

The Blount family went on their annual trip to Goose Rocks Beach, Maine, where they spent the week with **Linda Fleming Zolper**, **Paul** and **Cindy Phillips Freud**, **Dave Fehnel** and **Ande Gabriel** (and their son, **Steve Fehnel '18**, and daughter, **Alex Fehnel '23**) and **Karen Detwiler Bascom**.

Finally, Mel crossed

paths with several Bucknellians, including **Wes Lang '79**, **Chris '02** and **Megan Atanasio Reynolds '02**, **Jason Tiede '99**, **Aaron Salsbury '08** and **Chris Golding '09**. He adds, "Chris is my annual golf partner for a Morris County [N.J.] event and is Wes' son-in-law. Karen and I are about to start our final year of a 12-year continuous run with one of our daughters at Bucknell." — *Stacie Velisaris de la Parra*

## 1990

It was so good seeing so many of you at Reunion. I hope you all had as much fun as I did. For those who couldn't join us, see you at our 40th.

Yours truly has some exciting news. I am now the acting assistant regional chief judge for the Northeast Regional Office within the Social Security Administration. Hit me up if you are ever in Manhattan. Stay safe and be well. — *Laura Michalec Olszewski*

## REUNION 2026

## 1991

## 1994

**Deb Zapotocky Rizzi** was appointed to the board of directors of the New Jersey Chamber of Commerce. In this role, she "will help inform and shape policy and initiatives across key areas such as economic development, taxation, workforce development,

health care, transportation and government reform." Deb is president and partner of Rizco, a marketing agency. If anyone else has any news to share, please pass it on. — *Sarah A. Smith*

## 1995

It was a joy to see many of you at Reunion. I'm always surprised how readily the memories are brought back to life when we haven't seen each other for so many years. I also love seeing what on campus has changed (wow, the South Campus Apartments are nice) and what has stayed the same. Special thanks to **Beth Morilla Miller** for hosting our Friday night class party at her family's Fun Barn. It was a treat to see everyone and to have that private space all to ourselves. If you weren't there, we missed you and hope you'll join us in five years.

You all know I love a good "small Bucknell world" moment. Well, immediately after Reunion, I received an email from East Asian studies emerita professor Elizabeth Armstrong. "I am in Japan with Professor Eric Faden and two research students. [Eric] and I were sitting in the lobby of our hotel in Tokyo, and I just happened to be wearing an East Asian studies department T-shirt. **Michael Price**, who had been sitting there as well,



immediately spoke to me, and we struck up a conversation. It was quite an encounter." I contacted Mike, and he quickly responded with details of his own. "It truly is a small world. Elizabeth and I were staying in Tokyo, near the Waseda University campus. One morning, as I was waiting to call an Uber, a woman (Elizabeth) who was wearing a Bucknell T-shirt and carrying a Bucknell bag sat down across from me in the lobby of the hotel. We were only able to chat briefly as we were both heading for meetings, but I ran into her again before I left Tokyo."

Mike lives in Tuscaloosa, Ala., and had been hoping to attend Reunion, but his trip to Japan made that impossible. He sees **Don Bateman '92** a few times a year.

**Chris** and I are excited that we'll share our future Reunion weekends with a friend from Purcellville, Va., **Jessica Licciardone '25**. It has been a joy to watch her grow up, and now we share our love for our alma mater. Congratulations and 'ray Bucknell, Jess! — *Jen Blob Boner*

#### REUNION 2026

**1996**

#### REUNION 2026

**2001**

**Jennifer Hildenbrand DeFitch** was excited that her daughter, **Izzy '29**,

was attending Bucknell in the fall. Izzy will cheer for the Bison, and Jennifer was excited to be coming back to campus as a Bucknell mom.

— *Heather Pollard Adrian*

#### REUNION 2026

**2006**

**2008**

**Andrew Cole** spent three years in Brazil (2015–18) and one year in Argentina (2022–23), then came back to the U.S. to earn a master's in curriculum and instruction from the University of Wisconsin–Madison (2023–24). After finishing his master's, Andrew accepted a position teaching ninth- and 10th-grade Spanish classes at La Follette High School in Madison, Wis.

**Cordy Elkins** says, "This year is a big year for me. My fiancé, Dustin, and I are getting married in October in Napa, Calif., and moving to Scottsdale, Ariz., for his new job. My job in the health care tech space is luckily remote, so I'm hoping working East Coast hours from the West lets me get a lot more time on the golf course and hiking. We're excited for the adventure, though our Bernadoodle, Banker, is probably not going to love the heat as much as I do — he protests in the summer here in Boston."

**Danny Ruffing M'10** lives in the south hills of Pittsburgh with wife Megan and their five

children, ages 12, 11, 8, 7 and 4. He works for Geo-Solutions Inc., a geotechnical and environmental construction company. Danny writes, "I've been able to stay in touch with a few classmates from Bucknell, most recently spending a weekend hiking and hanging out in the Laurel Mountains with **Zack** and **Brittany Durbin Simoncelli**. **David Quinn** also stopped through to say hello — always nice to reconnect with fellow Bucknellians."

**Courtney Johnson Stone** moved to Hunterdon County, N.J., after a 15-year stay in New York City with husband Ryan and their two children, George (4) and Violet (2).

Courtney is a mental health therapist treating everyday stressors and pressures through fitness and nutrition. "I just had a wonderful reunion with my best friends from freshman year — **Zoe Marcuse Gorski**, **Elizabeth Krantz Gillies**, **Caitlin Hinrichs McCulloch** and **Casey Beal Levin** — to celebrate the upcoming birth of Zoe's second baby. Things never change; we get together and still feel 18."

**Emily Penick** lives in New Zealand with her husband and three dogs while conducting doctorate research on regenerative economics in the performing arts. The waves are good, the views are better and the

sheep outnumber the people. Lately, Emily's been thinking about Gary Grant's Avant-garde Theatre seminar. It still sparks ideas in her creative work. She sends thanks to **Tracey Bachman** for a gorgeous hand-embroidered elopement gift. Emily says, "If you ever find yourself in this corner of the world, say hi and catch some waves with our surfing dog."

In June, **Melissa Ravely D'Agostino** and **Jessica Seidel** traveled to Virginia to see professor emeritus William Payn at a handbell concert featuring his compositions. When they talked to him afterward, he said there was a total of eight

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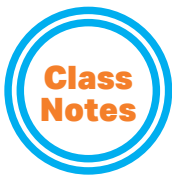
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former Rooke Chapel Ringers in the audience.

**Brittany Jo Flores Bogovich** says, "In December, a show I wrote premiered on Netflix called *Jentry Chau vs. The Underworld*. It's about an Asian-American teenager reclaiming her identity in Texas while having mysterious, mythological powers that open up a demon portal. I'm still writing for TV in Los Angeles but also writing a book. I'd like to give a shoutout to my Bucknell bestie, **Jonathan 'Jurassica' Schwartz**."

Jonathan married Vanessa Magro in April. They're expecting a baby girl in August. He works for NFL Media, based out of Denver. He would like to give a shoutout to his Bucknell bestie **Brittany**.

**Bridget Collins Corey** celebrated five years owning her private practice, Blair Foot and Ankle, in April. She moved to a new building in January with 10 patient rooms and a minimally invasive surgical suite in Hollidaysburg, Pa. She hopes to get together with her Delta Gamma sisters turning 40.

**Emily Bostic Skorupinski** is the senior pastor and superintendent of St. Andrew's Day School near Annapolis, Md. She and husband Brad welcomed baby Charlotte to their family. Sisters Elizabeth and Annie Kate were thrilled.

**Antoinette Klatzky** and her husband had Aryel Kai in June 2024 and

celebrated his first birthday this summer near their home by the Hudson River. — *Laura Leviski Hyde*

## 2009

**Eliot Moss** and family welcomed their first child, daughter Helena, June 13.

**Susan Horstmann Miller** had daughter Beau Mary June 26. She joins siblings Euston (5), Bruce (4) and Faith (2).

**Kay Miyoshi Cobetto** writes, "Kay and **Mike** celebrated 12 years of marriage. From freshman year at Bucknell in Vedder and Harris, we now reside in Upper Arlington, Ohio, with our three kids, Kerry (9), Kent (8) and Mari (3). Mike owns a local CPA firm, and Kay works from home as a talent acquisition senior manager at Cognizant. Kids, work and everyday life keep us busy, and we love every minute of living the suburban life in the Midwest."

Be well, Bucknellians.  
— *Nikki Seaman Iselin*

## 2010

It's hard to believe we just had our 15th Reunion. Though I couldn't attend, I heard from co-chairs **Jenny Hirsch Mann**, **Casey Hubert Comer** and **Sean Coyne** that it was an incredible weekend. From the class party to bagels in the park and just reminiscing on the Quad, attendees had an

amazing Reunion. I hope to see many of you at our 20th(!) in 2030.

— *David Iselin*

## REUNION 2026

## 2011

## 2015

**Katey Duffy Lichtenstein** and her husband, Pat, announced the birth of their son, Patrick Christian Lichtenstein Jr., Dec. 23.

**Galen Spencer-Linzie** tragically passed away March 11. At the age of 31, Galen died way too soon. He loved Bucknell and was thankful for his time there. — *Colin Hassell*

## REUNION 2026

## 2016

## 2019

**Maggie Fischer** married James Langlois in a small ceremony in Bozeman, Mont., July 4. **Tyler Strobel** joined the Denver office of Ogletree Deakins as an associate focusing on employment law. He represents employers on labor and employment matters in state and federal court and on matters before state and federal administrative agencies.  
— *Ella Ri*

## REUNION 2026

## 2021

I hope everyone is enjoying this fall and the calm in between

engagements, weddings and graduations. If you would like to share any updates with the class, please email me. I'm looking forward to seeing everyone at our five-year Reunion in 2026.

— *Mackenzie Gross*

## 2024

Several Bucknellians embarking on the next chapter of their studies: **Sarah Hanlon** completed her first year at New York University School of Law; **Hadley Morgan** is studying medicine at Sidney Kimmel Medical College. **Kate Merlo** is earning a master's in nursing at Johns Hopkins University School of Nursing, and **Preston Edmunds** is studying sports industry management at Georgetown University.  
— *Megan Collins*

## IN MEMORIAM

## 1944

**Jean Ball Trumpp**, Nov. 25, Fanwood, N.J.

## 1946

**Doris Jenkins Hunsicker**, April 24, Maple Glen, Pa.

**Jean Cober Talbott P'70, G'04**, May 15, Kennett Square, Pa.

## 1949

**Jean Zeising Becher**, April 20, Zionsville, Ind.

**Janice Heiderich Ernst P'78, P'80**, April 11, 2024, Monroe Township, N.J.

**Norman Greene**, April 5, Bryn Mawr, Pa.

**Polly Ross Pflum P'74**, May 8, Mifflin Park, Pa.

## 1950

**James Davenport**, March 19, McLean, Va.

**James Reitz**, April 10, Palm Desert, Calif.

**Joseph Sangimino P'84, P'84, P'87, P'88, G'14, G'17**, Sept. 22, Rockville, Md.

**Charles Schumacher**, Jan. 17, 2024, Columbus, Ohio

**Thomas Shahnazarian P'80, G'22**, Dec. 31, New Canaan, Conn.

**John Shott**, April 16, Las Vegas

## 1952

**Robert Keesecker**, March 24, Sarasota, Fla.

**Connie Schaumberg**, April 16, Belvidere, N.J.

## 1953

**Harry "Ed" Beekman P'77**, April 22, Rock Hall, Md.

**Sarah "Jan" Elder Hatch P'88**, May 2, Glen Mills, Pa.

**Marjorie Mulhollen Havist**, April 23, Redmond, Wash.

**Louise Tierney Radak**, Jan. 26, Canandaigua, N.Y.

## 1954

**Robert Houck P'81**, May 11, Palmyra, Pa.

## 1955

**Betsy Bice Knox P'83, G'24**, Jan. 17, Hockessin, Del.

**Joan Collisson Murr**, March 23, Timonium, Md.

**Marilyn Smith Worthen P'82**, May 12, Greenville, S.C.



## 1956

**Charles Hagee**, Dec. 2, Roseville, Calif.

**Cecilia Adams Pernas**, April 10, Moorestown, N.J.

## 1957

**Gene Oberfrank**, May 28, Pitman, N.J.

**Thomas "Duff" O'Brien** P'82, G'13, G'16, April 13, Florham Park, N.J.

**James Rolls**, April 7, Winston-Salem, N.C.

**Ralph Sullivan**, March 10, Vienna, Va.

## 1958

**James Fries**, May 9, Kirkland, Wash.

**Robert Salankiewicz**, June 10, Vestal, N.Y.

**Kathryn Doyle Sheppard**, May 15, Albuquerque, N.M.

**Eugene Waldner**, Feb. 5, Camp Hill, Pa.

## 1959

**Charles Beares**, March 28, Pittsburgh

**John Cornwell**, Oct. 5, Stephens City, Va.

**Molly Wolford Hamilton**, June 3, Dallas

**John "Jack" Heuer** P'87, P'90, P'92, G'24, G'26, G'27, Feb. 15, Jupiter, Fla.

**Jo Elyn Shideler Heuer** P'87, P'90, P'92, G'24, G'26, G'27, Feb. 21, Pompton Plains, N.J.

**William Johnston** G'17, April 26, Ohio Township, Pa.

**William McCausland** P'84, May 21, Pitman, N.J.

**Norman Strauss**, March 22, Stockton, N.J.

## 1960

**Lynn Brinsfield Ellwood** P'88, P'92, Nov. 14, Naples, Fla.

**William Hayes** P'90, Feb. 7, Kersey, Pa.

**Martin Holmes**, May 3, Lake Forest, Ill.

**Ronald Kaiser**, June 13, Lake Nuangola, Pa.

**Allan Schuman**, March 25, Mystic, Conn.

## 1961

**David Boger** H'14, July 5, Melbourne, Victoria, Australia

**Donald Dewsbury** P'92, March 26, Gainesville, Fla.

**James Freund**, May 18, Easton, Pa.

## 1962

**Nikki Hockenbury Blackburn**, Jan. 13, North Myrtle Beach, S.C.

**Bonnie Goodwill Cray**, May 12, Bradenton, Fla.

**Edward "Ned" Dietz**, March 22, Traverse City, Mich.

## 1963

**Thomas Darrah**, March 25, Orlando, Fla.

**Judith Fister Johnson**, June 10, Fairhaven, Mass.

**Richard Lindner**, April 27, Franklin, Tenn.

**Ronald MacLachlan** P'91, P'92, Jan. 17, Walpole, N.H.

## 1964

**Richard Leslie**, Jan. 15, Carmel Valley, Calif.

## 1965

**Elizabeth Kealey Chomentowski**, April 25, Cherry Hill, N.J.

**George Guffey**, May 31, Mifflinburg, Pa.

**Sally Horsman Lake**, May 27, Vero Beach, Fla.

**Bruce McGraw** P'96, Jan. 28, Frederick, Md.

**Stephen Oestreich**, May 6, Atlantic Beach, N.Y.

**Justine Bodley Poniktera**, Feb. 15, Utica, N.Y.

## 1966

**Diane Richters Karl** P'95, Dec. 14, Portland, Ore.

**Michael Matzko**, June 12, Bloomsburg, Pa.

## 1967

**Carlton "Skip" Depner** P'97, M'69, Dec. 23, Crystal Lake, Ill.

**Allison Forbes Genrich**, March 20, Phoenix, Ariz.

**Peter Huber**, May 22, Richmond, Va.

**Frank Skidmore**, April 20, Durham, N.C.

## 1968

**Jane Clifton Little**, May 20, Athens, Ga.

**Ronald Rioux**, May 19, East Hampton, N.Y.

**Michael Vulpio**, Sept. 18, 2024, Media, Pa.

## 1969

**Theodore Case**, June 2, 2024, Golden, Colo.

**Peter Curtis**, May 2, Buffalo, N.Y.

## 1971

**Richard Diehl**, May 23, Lewisburg

## 1972

**Russell Martin**, June 5, Freeport, Maine

**Stephen Nohowel**, March 25, Potomac, Md.

**Charles "Chuck" Resnick**, Sept. 14, Vorhees, N.J.

## 1975

**Charles Berger** P'04, May 10, Charleston, S.C.

**William Shaffer**, June 8, Milton, Pa.



### IN MEMORIAM

## Robert C. Rooke H'10, G'06, G'07, G'12 and Natalie Davis Rooke G'06, G'07, G'12

➔ **Robert "Bob" Rooke and Natalie Davis Rooke**, cherished members of the Bucknell community and partners in life, passed away just weeks apart — Natalie on June 16, 2025, at age 96, and Bob on July 10, 2025, at age 100.

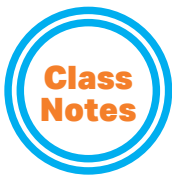
Their devotion to each other was matched by their commitment to Bucknell. Over decades, the Rookes gave nearly \$15 million in support of more than 30 initiatives, leaving a lasting mark on students, faculty and the campus itself.

Their generosity helped create signature spaces such as the Rooke Science Center, Holmes Hall and the Sigfried Weis Music Building as well as the Rooke Chapel Music Program. They endowed scholarships, faculty chairs and music fellowships.

In recognition of their extraordinary dedication, Bob and Natalie were honored in 2023 with the William Bucknell Philanthropic Award.

The Rookes' multigenerational connection to Bucknell began with Bob's father, **Robert L. Rooke, Class of 1913, H'51, G'06, G'07, G'12, G'12**, and continued through their children and grandchildren. Their family legacy — of service and generosity — remains woven into the fabric of the University.





## 1976

**Robert Keenan**, Dec. 22, Mt. Lebanon, Pa.

**Matt Lowe P'05**, July 4, New Providence, N.J.

**Edward "Ted" Peterson**, July 10, Chevy Chase, Md.

## 1977

**Leslie Gilpen Bateman**, June 4, Seattle

**Carolyn Connelly**, April 16, Doylestown, Pa.

## 1978

**Jill Sturgis Thomas**, May 29, Lewisburg

## 1979

**Jack Fairweather**, April 27, Summit, N.J.

## 1981

**Mary Decredico**, July 22, Annapolis, Md. Mary served as Bucknell's provost from 2005 to 2007, helping to advance interdisciplinary initiatives and shape discussions around the future of management curriculum and the Teaching & Learning Center. A professor of history, she also served as a faculty member at the U.S. Naval Academy and was an accomplished lifelong published author.

## 1983

**Sarah Rex Geary**, April 7, Newtown Square, Pa.

**Claire Brown Palmer**, July 4, Norristown, Pa.

**Stephen Reich**, June 15, Pittsburgh

## 1984

**William Moore P'19, P'21**, June 23, Millmont, Pa.

## 1987

**Kevin King**, May 23, Morristown, N.J.

## 1988

**Susan Longnaker Woll**, Oct. 8, 2023, Hummelstown, Pa.

## 1991

**Robert Minnich**, Dec. 26, Lancaster, Pa.

## 1992

**Doug Lebda**, Oct. 12, Charlotte, N.C.

## 1994

**Kim Domanski**, March 7, Baltimore, Md.

## 2008

**Robert Bunch**, May 23, 2024, Pittsburgh

## Master's

**Jack Dardes M'74**, April 1, Erie, Pa.

**John Herman M'86**, May 1, Mesa, Ariz.

**Joseph Keller M'68**, April 10, Lewisburg

**Theodore Killian M'58**, June 16, Lancaster, Pa.

**Rita Castiglia Mackrides P'84, M'56**, Nov. 13, Harrisburg, Pa.

**Laura Battenberg Moore M'82, P'84, P'91, P'92, G'19, G'21**, May 16, Lancaster, Pa.

**Richard Pesta M'70**, Oct. 5, Greenville, S.C.

**Frank Rizzo M'65**, April 26, Shenandoah, Pa.

**David Snook M'66**, April 20, Telford, Pa.

## Faculty and Staff

**Jim Heath**, June 2, Bloomington, Ind.

**Penny Zimmerman**, May 28, New Berlin, Pa.

## Friends

**Robert Rooke G'06, G'07, G'12**, July 10, Harding Township, N.J.

**Alejandro Hernandez P'27**, May 13, Los Angeles

# CLASS REPORTERS

## EMERITI

**NICOLE CONNOR TAYLOR '01**  
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**AMY MEDELL POE '89**  
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## 1950s

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## 2020s

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### 2025

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WHERE I  
BELONG

## Special Collections & University Archives

Susan Falciani  
Maldonado welcomes  
visitors to the Special  
Collections in  
Bertrand Library.



*“It’s not just about preserving history; it’s about putting it in students’ hands. History feels different when you’re holding it.”*

by **SUSAN FALCIANI MALDONADO, UNIVERSITY ARCHIVIST and DIRECTOR OF SPECIAL COLLECTIONS**  
photograph by **EMILY PAINE**

→ One of my favorite things about the space that houses Special Collections & University Archives is its atmosphere. Tucked inside Bertrand Library, it’s a room many students pass without noticing — but through the windows, you’ll glimpse warm lamps, rich woodwork and beautiful carpets that evoke a sense of history. It feels special, but it’s not meant to be exclusive. I want this to be a welcoming, open-door space where students feel not just permitted but encouraged to engage.

Over time, our culture has shifted from a hands-off preservation mindset to a dynamic, experiential learning environment. Students come here not just to see 100-year-old letters — whether from Irish literary figures or Bucknellians in World War II — but to handle them, make original discoveries and realize they have something unique to say.

Our collections span millennia: from Babylonian clay tablets to a Shakespeare Second Folio, a first edition of *On the Origin of Species*, and 20th-century firsts by

Hemingway and Joyce. Our Irish literature holdings include letters by W.B. Yeats and Oscar Wilde and the world’s largest archive of Oliver St. John Gogarty.

We are the keepers of Bucknell’s story — from the 1846 charter to student scrapbooks, protest posters, and, as of 2025, the full digital run of *The Bucknellian*. Students uncover histories that echo their own, connecting with the people and movements that shaped this campus.

There’s a vibe in this room — a pause from the everyday — and I want more people to feel it. Yes, you have to ring the doorbell, but we’ll open it. And what’s inside might just change the way you see history.

If you’d like to visit, learn more about our collections or discuss donating materials, we’d love to hear from you.

Special Collections & University Archives is located in Bertrand Library (see P. 8). To learn more about the collection, visit [go.bucknell.edu/scua](http://go.bucknell.edu/scua) and follow [bucknell.scua](#) on Instagram.



# RECOGNITION SOCIETIES

Bucknell honors the extraordinary generosity of our donors through distinct recognition societies that celebrate annual, cumulative lifetime and legacy giving. These societies reflect the enduring impact of our philanthropic community and offer exclusive tiered benefits as a token of our deep appreciation.



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