

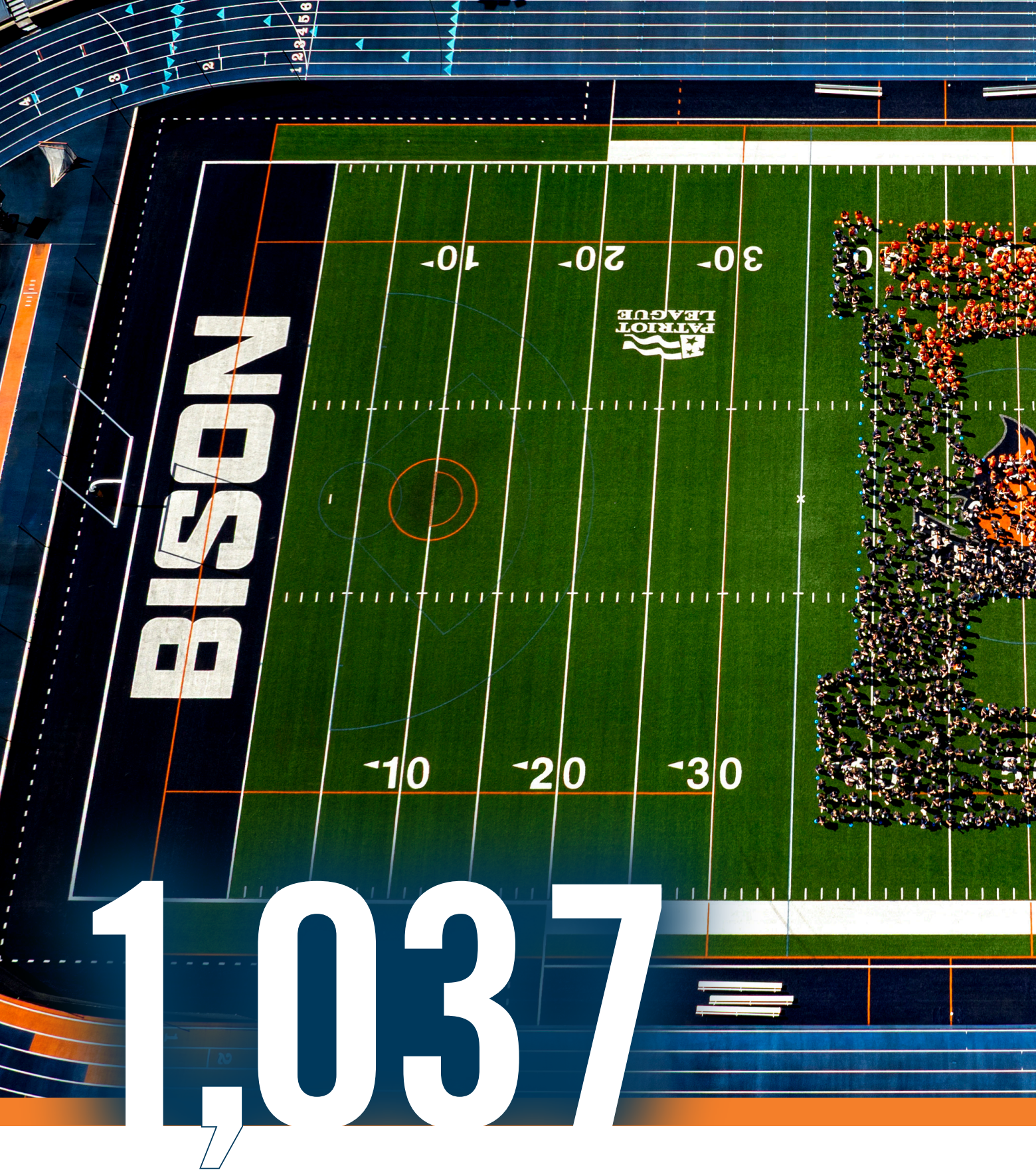
BUCKNELL

WINTER 2026



Special Edition UNIVERSITY REPORT

FORWARD MOMENTUM, P. 4 | Supercharged Student Life, P. 8 | CAREER READY, P. 12 | Gold, Goals & Glory, P. 18



new students in the Class of 2029



Enrollment reached **3,969**, the fifth consecutive year of growth, with first-year students selected from **11,561** applicants.



Dear Bucknellians,

Higher education continues to face challenges as never before, and Bucknell has adapted apace, responding to the changing landscape while staying rooted in our mission. This year's University Report showcases recent accomplishments and highlights some of the myriad ways we are preparing students for lifetime success in an increasingly complex world while strengthening our position for the future.

You'll learn about some of the most noteworthy outcomes of *The Plan for Bucknell 2025* as well as our new strategic planning process, a flexible framework designed to maximize the University's rapid response to challenges and opportunities. And you'll meet just a few of the exemplary students, faculty and staff who inspire others in so many ways — be it through leadership, research, teaching, advising, sportsmanship or dedication to making Bucknell a welcoming community where everyone can thrive.

Our traditions run deep thanks to those who came before us, and our future is boundless thanks to the commitment of today's Bucknellians. It's an exciting time in University history, and I look forward to sharing every moment with you.

Sincerely,



John C. Bravman, President

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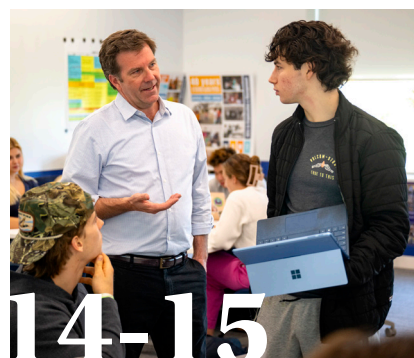
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Spring 2026 issue: classnotes@bucknell.edu

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Looking Back, **LEADING FORWARD**

Since its launch in 2019, *The Plan for Bucknell 2025* has guided University priorities, driving initiatives that advance academic excellence, elevate student life and steward resources for a sustainable future.



Navigating Change *With Purpose*

Bucknell and institutions of higher education across the United States faced unprecedented pressures during the years covered by *The Plan for Bucknell 2025*. Throughout this time, the plan kept the University focused on its four pillars and priorities while allowing for the flexibility to meet these challenges. It enabled the University and its students to thrive through a global pandemic, changes in national political leadership and the declining population of college-age students.

The resilience to weather such disruptions is, indeed, the central purpose of strategic planning. Through the declaration of four strategic commitments, *The Plan for Bucknell 2025* offered a starting point to guide Bucknell in fully realizing its potential as an institution of higher learning. The advancement of the plan would come through integrated, multifaceted and ongoing actions that could shift in response to changing forces, while still supporting the University's core commitments.

The notable accomplishments of the plan that follow exemplify its success and the foundation they provide for Bucknell's future. Through these and many other actions across all corners of campus, the plan positioned Bucknell well for the decades ahead.

The Center for Access & Success offers the Axis Lounge as a warm, community-centered space where students gather to connect, discover resources and build a sense of belonging at Bucknell.



A Campus Where Everyone Belongs

Bucknell deepened its commitment to access, making higher education attainable for more students and strengthening support once they arrive.

- » The Center for Access & Success, led by the Andrew Hartman '71 & Joseph Fama '71 Executive Director Chris Brown, provides mentoring and support for five national and signature pathway scholarship programs. Among them is the Gamgort Family Gateway Scholars Program, which now meets 100% of demonstrated financial need for high-achieving first-generation students, thanks to **Bob '84, P'16** and **Sue DeMent Gamgort '84, P'16**.
- » New initiatives for first-generation students, including a Bucknell chapter of Alpha Alpha Alpha, a national honor society, and First in the Family, a virtual program for parents and families, have expanded support and enrollment, earning Bucknell acceptance into the FirstGen Forward Network.
- » Informed by insights gained from the 2024 Campus Culture, Engagement and Well-being Survey of students, faculty and staff, Bucknell is working to build a stronger, more inclusive community.

Cultivating Academic Excellence

Bucknell continues to transform learning through interdisciplinary opportunities and hands-on support.

- » Two new interdisciplinary academic centers — the Perricelli-Gegnas Center for Entrepreneurship & Innovation and the Dominguez Center for Data Science — prepare students to lead in rapidly evolving fields.
- » Peer mentoring programs in each of the three colleges now connect students with role models and peer support: Garman Guides (College of Engineering), Freeman Fellows (Freeman College of Management), and CAS Mentor Collective (College of Arts & Sciences).
- » Four new majors — biophysics, business analytics, management & organizations, and statistics — align with student interests and workforce demand. Data science is a new interdisciplinary co-major available to business analytics, computer science, and mathematics & statistics majors.
- » New academic support roles are strengthening advising and student success, including the position of faculty director of advising, which serves as a liaison between faculty and administration. The Teaching & Learning Center also added a quantitative support specialist and an academic coach to help students navigate academic challenges.

Living & Learning Together

The Bucknell experience extends beyond the classroom with a vibrant residential life that fosters growth, connection and leadership.

- » Expanded First-year Experience programming, including new Pre-Orientation and Transfer Orientation options, supports smoother transitions to college life.
- » Bucknell's West Apartments final residence hall opened this fall, offering modern, apartment-style living with flexible common spaces, student-focused amenities, and sustainable geothermal heating and cooling (see P. 11).
- » Under Associate Vice President & Chief of Public Safety Anthony Morgan, Bucknell has enhanced campus safety. New initiatives include the BSAFE app, the addition of community service officers, and Digger, the University's official therapy dog. Public Safety also earned Act 120 certification — a distinction that expands the department's jurisdiction and positions Bucknell among a select group of private universities statewide.
- » Bucknell increased student mental health resources, improving access to counseling, peer support and wellness programming.
- » Bucknell's partnership with its new dining vendor, Chartwells Higher Education, expanded menu options (see P. 10).
- » The Engaged Bucknell Civic Action Plan and the launch of the Center for Community Engaged Leadership, Learning & Research deepen student involvement with local communities.

Building a Sustainable Future

Bucknell's commitment to sustainability and stewardship ensures a lasting impact for future generations.

- » Bucknell achieved ahead of schedule and surpassed its target discount rate of 35%, increasing affordability for more families.
- » Major projects — including the 4-mile educational and recreational Bucknell Greenway path and a 1.76-megawatt-peak solar array — connect environmental stewardship with student learning.
- » Since 2019, the Bucknell Farm has developed the Farm Fellows peer mentorship program, built two high-tunnel greenhouses to increase food production, added two full-time coordinators, partnered with the B-Eats food pantry to support food-insecure students and hosted thousands of students in courses across the three colleges.
- » The new Bucknell University Institute for Learning and Development (BUILD) provides employees with resources for professional success.





Looking Ahead

Building on the momentum of *The Plan for Bucknell 2025*, the University is shaping the next phase of its strategic vision. While the 2025 plan provided a strong framework for progress, the higher education landscape has shifted dramatically, requiring institutions to be more flexible and responsive than ever before. In this new environment, Bucknell will emphasize dynamic strategic initiatives that can be continually evaluated, refined and adjusted to seize emerging opportunities and confront new challenges in real-time.

Over the past year, Bucknell has conducted a comprehensive financial analysis to strengthen its fiscal foundation and support future growth. This process has involved assessing institutional strengths, identifying areas for improvement, and recognizing that today's unpredictable environment demands both vigilance and agility.

With this understanding, Bucknell is implementing a continuous, iterative strategic planning model designed to promote innovation, responsiveness and strategic adaptation across all levels of the University.

This adaptive approach to strategic planning — consistent with trends across higher education — will allow Bucknell to remain nimble while upholding its mission to cultivate students' intellectual growth, personal development and commitment to meaningful engagement in the world. All members of the campus community are invited to participate in this process by proposing strategic initiatives to strengthen the educational experience, the staff and faculty experience, and operational excellence.

Guiding this process is the University Strategy Advisory Group, comprising representatives from Staff Council, Faculty Council, Bucknell Student Government, and University leadership, who together will help ensure Bucknell remains forward-thinking, resilient and ready to meet the challenges of the future.





ELEVATING

the Student Experience

At Bucknell, every aspect of campus life — from classrooms to residence halls, dining to wellness resources — reflects a commitment to student excellence. Through coordinated support, innovative programs and community-building initiatives, students are able to thrive academically, socially and personally.



Vice President for Student Affairs and Fritz Family Dean of Students Moe McGuinness brings a student-first approach to campus life.

Stronger Together

Under the leadership of Moe McGuinness, vice president for student affairs and Fritz Family Dean of Students, more than 25 student support offices across campus are working in closer harmony, leveraging their strengths to help Bucknell students. By strengthening connections across areas such as housing, health and wellness, student activities and athletics, staff can respond more effectively to student needs and help them feel confident seeking support. “We can’t do this work alone,” McGuinness says. “Having an exceptional team in place to make these connections means our work is efficient, nimble and expertly informed.”

Wellness, Redefined

Thanks to a gift from **Lance ’85** and **Julie Crenson Fritz ’85**, McGuinness is expanding Bucknell’s health and wellness services, ensuring students have the resources to thrive in every dimension of their lives.

“Moe is inexhaustible and laser-focused,” Lance says. “Her vision offers a true wrap-around experience for students. While fundamental health and wellness are essential, they alone are not enough to get students to love where they are and what they’re doing.”

The model prioritizes mental health, integrating drug and alcohol education, outdoor education and leadership, preventive care and early intervention. From counseling and nutrition to fitness, spiritual growth and social engagement, students have access to a seamless network of support. Peer-led initiatives, awareness campaigns and community-building programs help them not only find resources but also build resilience and confidence in caring for themselves and one another.

A Student-first Vision

Moe McGuinness radiates warmth and welcome. As vice president for student affairs and Fritz Family Dean of Students, she brings energy, vision and an unwavering student-first approach to campus life.

“Being a dean of students is in my DNA,” she says. “I love to build relationships with students and with the people whose work benefits those students.”

In her first year at Bucknell, McGuinness has championed changes that make student life more seamless, supportive and fun — from on-campus haircuts that accommodate a variety of hair textures, to the Student Outreach and Support initiative, which offers cohesive support to students experiencing barriers outside the classroom. She’s also sparked community spirit through programs like Bison Lapel Pins and pop-up events like “Monday Moe-tivators” and “’ray Days,” all designed to help students feel seen and celebrated.

Her guiding philosophy is simple: Every campus space — from classrooms to residence halls to the Quad — should prioritize students’ needs. “We have to look at how we’re preparing these students for the world,” she says. “At Bucknell, they get to practice being the kind of community member they will be in society.”



Spaces to Savor

At a residential university, dining is about much more than food. Shared meals bring people together, create spaces of belonging and provide rituals that shape the student experience. That's why Bucknell continues to invest in dining programs and spaces that reflect student needs. From expanding nutritious options to designing seating that encourages conversation and comfort, the University — in partnership with Chartwells Higher Education — has worked to make dining an integral part of its holistic commitment to student well-being.

"Our team gathered student input and made it our blueprint," says Abbi Miller, marketing manager for Chartwells at Bucknell. "These updates are designed to enhance the dining experience, making it more welcoming and enjoyable."

This fall, new fast-casual eateries, including Yella's, a New Jersey-based sandwich chain, and 'ray & Co., which offers made-to-order açai bowls and smoothies, were added to the Bison. In Bostwick Social House, seating upgrades — booths, high-tops and cozier nooks — create the more inviting, flexible space that students requested.

Beyond menus and layouts, dining will continue to nurture community through experiences. Chartwells' popular

Supper Club series returned this fall, inviting students to enjoy elevated dishes, elegant table settings and an ambiance that turns a meal into a special occasion.

Meanwhile, hands-on kitchen events give students the chance to learn cooking skills, explore diverse cuisines and engage with guest chefs. Together, these programs make dining at Bucknell a space where students share, experiment and grow.

A Home for Community

After several years of construction, the final building of West Apartments opened its doors this fall. The residential complex combines modern, apartment-style living with flexible common spaces designed to bring people together.

Every detail of the West Apartments reflects a commitment to student well-being and convenience. First-floor laundry facilities, shelving for food deliveries from services like Grubhub and DoorDash and a motion-controlled temperature system make daily life easier. A geothermal heating and cooling system reduces energy consumption and lowers greenhouse gas emissions.

Students can also enjoy pingpong tables, a fire pit with barbecue grills and an amphitheater. Combined, these spaces and amenities create a welcoming environment for students to connect and unwind together.



FUTURE *Ready*

A Bucknell education prepares students to shape industries, communities and society. Through rigorous academics, hands-on career preparation, and a culture that values collaboration and critical thinking, Bucknellians gain the skills and experiences needed to navigate complex challenges and engage meaningfully with others.

Katie Schadler '26 (left) and Lauren Gillaspay '26 spent summer 2025 interning in Washington, D.C., where they built skills that will inform their future careers.



Building Bridges in a Divided Era

In today's polarized culture, where productive conversations can be undermined by mistrust and division, learning to communicate with empathy and respect has never been more essential.

The University is stepping up to this challenge through the new Bucknell Initiative for Dialogue & Democracy (BIDD), a donor-funded program designed to foster healthy debate, respectful disagreement and collaboration for the common good. The program is seeking its first director, who will work with members of the Bucknell community to shape programming by the close of the 2025-26 academic year.

BIDD builds on the success of the University's Dignity & Dialogue Circles, launched in 2024, to create spaces for members of the campus community to engage in respectful, meaningful conversations, build empathy and connect across differences. To date, 38 campus facilitators have been trained on how to lead these conversations. As this work progresses, it will equip students with the tools to understand how meaning is created, both rhetorically and quantitatively, while engaging constructively in discourse across lines of difference. By preparing students to listen deeply, debate thoughtfully and find common ground, the initiative will help shape a generation of leaders committed to strengthening civil society.



The Bucknell *Career Advantage*

Bucknell's career preparation is personal, flexible and lifelong. The Center for Career Advancement (CCA) connects students with programs, networks and mentors that guide them through every stage of their career journey. Partnerships across colleges and departments allow CCA staff to tailor guidance to the nuances of different majors and hiring cycles. Dedicated alumni career services ensure that support continues after graduation, creating a network of mentorship and opportunity.

That network comes to life in many ways. Highlights include a micro-internship program offering remote, project-based, paid opportunities during the semester, supported by **Eileen P'26, P'29** and **Brad Langer '96, P'26, P'29** and endowed by Su and **Bob Robotti '75**; the Engineering & Computing Career Connections Conference, an event featuring alumni panelists and networking; industry meetups with alumni in niche roles; and faculty collaborations that bring career support directly into classrooms.



From Roadblock to Opportunity

Daniel Serpa '27, a biology major from Edgartown, Mass., discovered his dream internship with the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), mapping an estuary in Oregon with drone technology. But there was a catch: NOAA requires a formal university partnership, and Bucknell wasn't on the organization's list.

Serpa turned to **Christa Matlack '11**, the Center for Career Advancement's STEM career coach. "As soon as I reached out, Christa got to work," he says. "She wanted to make sure I wouldn't miss this opportunity."

Matlack ensured Bucknell was added to NOAA's list, working closely with University Advancement to secure donor funding for the partnership while also creating a STEM internship fund that will open the door for future students to have similar opportunities.

A DISTINCTIVE ED



Professor Cymone Fourshey inspires students through research that amplifies often-overlooked narratives.

Connecting Past, Present and Possibility

Professor Cymone Fourshey, history and international relations, illuminates histories, cultures and knowledge systems often overlooked in traditional curricula. Her research examines environmental, agricultural and gender practices in the ancient and deep precolonial past, revealing the contributions of African people, communities and civilizations and offering students an interdisciplinary perspective.

As director of Bucknell's Griot Institute for the Study of Black Lives & Cultures, Fourshey integrates her scholarship across campus, fostering collaboration with other academic centers and creating opportunities for students to engage with African and African Diaspora narratives and studies in contexts ranging from history to public policy to environmental science.

Under her leadership, the Griot has become a hub for experiential learning. Students contribute to research

projects, develop narratives and create digital and multimedia content that preserves and amplifies neglected stories. These projects cross disciplines — from literature to engineering to history to sociology and data science — while building analytical and research skills.

Fourshey's scholarship and teaching are intertwined. By bringing African history and cultural production into her classroom and the Griot, she inspires students to think critically about the past and link it to contemporary issues.

"I love teaching," she says. "It's meaningful when students find something they are passionate about and realize that they, too, can contribute ideas through diligent research."

Her dedication to teaching and mentorship has been recognized with Bucknell's Class of 1956 Lectureship for Inspirational Teaching, which she will present in spring 2026.

DGE *in Teaching*

At Bucknell, exceptional teaching challenges conventions and offers perspectives students won't find elsewhere. Faculty bring deep expertise into the classroom, revealing new insights and exploring familiar subjects in unexpected ways. Students learn to think critically, act creatively, and develop skills to navigate complexity and make an impact beyond campus.

Global Lessons in Leadership



Most people think of organizational management as corporate work. For Eric Martin, professor of management & organizations and the Christian R. Lindback Chair in Business Administration, the field involves matters of survival and well-being. He examines how societies respond in global crises like refugee emergencies. Martin has studied crisis situations to see how volunteers, first responders, non-governmental organizations and governments coordinate — or fall short — and what lessons can improve humanitarian response. He brings these global insights into the classroom, offering students a unique lens: management as a tool for resilience and social good.

“

Our students leave with skills that benefit others in powerful ways, preparing them for careers while inspiring them to rethink their role in the world.”

A New Approach to Problem-solving

Professor Elif Miskioğlu, chemical engineering, explores how professional and personal experiences shape intuition in engineering practice — a skill often dismissed as instinct but essential for solving complex problems. Supported by a National Science Foundation CAREER Award, her research shows that intuition can be cultivated through diverse, nontraditional pathways often overlooked in standard curricula. By involving undergraduates as active researchers, she blends classroom instruction with hands-on inquiry, giving students firsthand insight into how engineers think, adapt and solve real-world problems.

“

We're trying to break down the myth that intuition is innate. It's a problem-solving tool that can and should be cultivated.”





Since her first semester on campus, **Rayna Tyler '27**, a double-major in computer science and political science, has interned with the Bucknell Institute for Public Policy. She has been instrumental in developing the institute's new video-based podcast series, *Policy Parlor*, where industry professionals discuss contemporary political and economic issues.

LEARNING *Without Limits*

While a major provides depth in a chosen field, it's only one part of the learning experience at Bucknell. Across campus, students of all disciplines can engage in hands-on projects, internships and collaborative initiatives that help them develop practical skills, uncover new passions and deepen their understanding of the world.



In his role as a summer researcher with the Dominguez Center for Data Science, **Jean Marie Ngabonziza '26**, computer science & engineering, was part of a team that partnered with the U.S. Forest Service to uncover how AI tools can be used to detect landscape changes and land cover. Since 2024, he has also served as the photographer for the Griot Institute for the Study of Black Lives & Cultures, where he documents activities and events to preserve the institute's history.

Shaheryar Asghar '28, a double-major in economics and psychology, served as a student ambassador for both the Bucknell Center for Sustainability & the Environment and the Perricelli-Gegnas Center for Entrepreneurship & Innovation. Asghar worked with campus and community partners to expand sustainability initiatives, and he supported the development of Bucknell's entrepreneurial ecosystem through event promotion, social media outreach and management of the Campus Shop — a retail space next to the Campus Theatre that enables students to sell their products and market their services directly to consumers.



As an early childhood education and English — literary studies double-major, **Quincy Saadeh '27** (right) has a keen interest in both reading and writing. In her internship with *West Branch*, which is published by the Stadler Center for Poetry & Literary Arts, she honed her editorial skills while actively participating in every stage of the production of a nationally recognized literary magazine.

A NEW ERA *of Athletic Success*

From record-breaking performances to championship titles, Bucknell student-athletes are making their mark. On the track, in the pool and on the court, Bison are pushing boundaries and earning recognition on national and international stages.



Javelin star **Evelyn Bliss '27** of Rimersburg, Pa., earned gold at the USA Track & Field nationals, then silver at the World University Games in Germany. She followed that with gold at the NACAC Senior Championships, the top meet for athletes from North America, Central America and the Caribbean. Bliss capped her international run in September at the World Athletics Championships in Tokyo, where she placed No. 19 among the world's best.



Midfielder **Emmanuel "Jimmy" Pombor '26** of Williamsport, Pa., earned All-Patriot League First Team honors in men's soccer in 2024 and 2025 and contributed to Bucknell's 2024 Patriot League Championship.



A rising star in Bison Athletics, **Sophia Bardunias '28** of San Ramon, Calif., earned All-Patriot League First Team honors in women's golf.

Gold, Goals & Glory: *Celebrating Bison*

Navigating Change, *Staying True to Values*

In a rapidly shifting collegiate athletics landscape, Bucknell continues to center its mission on the scholar-athlete ideal — prioritizing academic achievement, competitive excellence and overall well-being. Evolving NCAA governance and name, image and likeness (NIL) policies have introduced new dimensions to Division I athletics, yet Bucknell — in alignment with Patriot League and Ivy League peers — remains committed to the amateur model that has long defined our approach. Within this framework, Bison student-athletes compete at the highest level, pursue meaningful academic rigor and thrive as leaders.

“Bison Athletics’ commitment to its core values and mission remains steadfast,” says **Tim Pavlechko ’91, M’93**, vice president, director of athletics. “Our coaches and staff are dedicated to elevating the academic, athletic and personal journey of student-athletes through holistic support, leadership development and pathways to lifelong success.”



Honduran native **Prizila Negrete ’27** won gold in the shot put and silver in the discus at the 2025 Central American Championships in Athletics, then won gold in the shot put, setting a Honduran national record at the 2025 Central American Games.

Amar Tahirovic ’26 of Stuttgart, Germany, led Bucknell men’s tennis to its first Patriot League title since 1991 and was named Patriot League Player of the Year and Patriot League Scholar-Athlete of the Year.

Swimmer **Clara Renner ’28** of Wellesley, Mass., was named Patriot League Rookie of the Meet, earned All-Patriot League First Team honors, was a three-time Swimmer of the Week, and received Bucknell’s Bryan-Humphreys Award for 2024–25 Rookie of the Year.

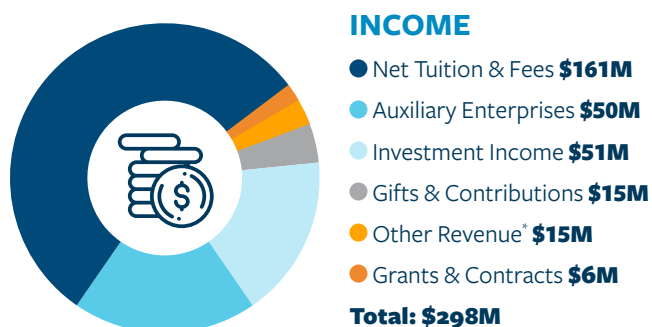
on who excelled in their 2024–25 seasons

FINANCIAL UPDATE

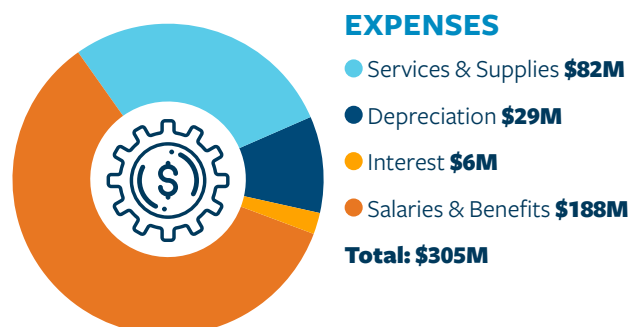
Bucknell's financial strength enables bold progress. As our vision evolves to make us a more nimble organization, we're taking smart, strategic steps to ensure a solid, sustainable foundation. The University is making thoughtful investments in people, programs and campus spaces that elevate the Bucknell experience. And with a remarkable \$73 million raised in gifts, pledges and planned gifts this year, our community's generosity is accelerating our momentum and empowering us for a successful future.

Bucknell Budget Summary

Over the past year, Bucknell's finance team has conducted a deep analysis of its resource management approach, working to adapt to challenges facing all colleges and universities and ensure a strong foundation for the University's future by making necessary adjustments that will positively affect the University's annual operating budget in years to come. The University is on track to achieve a balanced budget in FY26, following larger-than-anticipated expenses in FY25.



*Income and expenses based on Bucknell University financial statements, June 2025
Includes interest and other income



Fueling the Future

Donors propel progress across campus. From enabling the launch of new initiatives to supporting the day-to-day needs of students, programs and departments, gifts to the University make an impact.

TOTAL GIFTS

SCHOLARSHIPS & FINANCIAL AID \$24.9M

ACADEMIC EXPERIENCE \$14.1M

STUDENT EXPERIENCE \$10.9M

UNRESTRICTED \$7.2M

OTHER \$850,000

Total gifts received: \$57.9M

The Bucknell Endowment

Bucknell University's endowment is its largest financial asset and serves as a perpetual source of financial support for its mission. The returns generated by the endowment support student financial aid, power Bison athletics, fund research and internship opportunities and ensure the growth of programs in all corners of campus.

CATEGORIZATION OF ENDOWMENTS

SCHOLARSHIPS & FINANCIAL AID 36%

INSTRUCTIONAL & ACADEMIC PROGRAMS 17.6%

GENERAL UNIVERSITY OPERATIONS 34.4%

FACILITIES 3% STUDENT SERVICES 6.5%

ATHLETICS 2.5%

\$1.26 Billion

ENDOWMENT MARKET VALUE

(as of June 30, 2025)

40

**NEW ENDOWMENTS
IN FISCAL YEAR 2025**

1,315

**DONOR-ENDOWED
FUNDS**

University Leadership

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Dan Hungerford, Vice President
of Finance & Administration, Chief
Financial Officer

Carol McLaughlin Kennedy '96,
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Kevin Mathes '07, Vice President,
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In August, Bucknell was named the No. 1 liberal arts college and No. 21 overall on LinkedIn's inaugural Top Colleges list, which highlights schools that best prepare graduates for long-term career success. The ranking draws on career outcomes, including job placement, advancement, internships and entrepreneurial activity. Additionally, in November, *Time* recognized Bucknell as one of America's Best Colleges for Future Leaders.

