

BUCKNELL

SUMMER 2026

THE NEXT DISCOVERY

Mentorship, opportunity,
and the power of the
Bucknell alumni network

Orthopedic surgeon Edward McDevitt '73, P'01 has helped
Nicole Lioumis '26 advance her healthcare career goals.

BY WAY OF BUCKNELL

AFTER THE STORM

Bucknell's Christy Mathewson Gates stand
beneath nature's own colorful arch.

photograph by EMILY LAMPARTER

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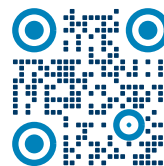
BUCKNELLIANS, ALWAYS

*The University's 176th
Commencement: sunshine, smiles and
995 new alumni.*



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← **Do you want
to make your
yard more
firefly friendly?
Professor
Sarah Lower,
biology,
can help.**



Scan to see our digital edition!

↑ 28 FROM MENTORSHIP TO CAREER

Maya Fetzter '26 (center) found support in her professional journey at Merck through her Bucknell network, including Kristen Zuber Duffy '99 (left) and Kasey Piper '25 (right).

SOUND BITES



"There's more cable than dirt underneath the park — enough to circle the Earth. It's a wild amount of infrastructure. It's the foundation that keeps everything running."

Justin Schwartz '04

P. 10



"Travel is a privilege, and working in aviation has allowed me to experience the world in a way that has shaped who I am today. That all started at Bucknell."

Michel Ajjan '14

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"I try to have a delusional belief that there's nothing that can't be done. Sometimes people are like, 'Oh, maybe you're doing too much.' I just see that as limiting."

Gia Hayes '20

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'RAY BUCKNELL

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On the cover:

Edward McDevitt '73, P'01 and Nicole Lioumis '26, both biology graduates, connected on campus this spring.

Photo by Emily Lamparter

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Carla Long (Lower); Emily Lamparter (Commencement); Emily Lamparter (Fetzter); Tristan Stuart/Tristan Stuart Visuals (Hayes); Eli Bou Rjeily (Ajjan); courtesy of Universal Creative (Schwartz)



PRESERVING THE BUCKNELL STORY

FOR MORE THAN a century, Bucknell's alumni magazines have captured the people, ideas and moments that have shaped the University and its community. From campus milestones and alumni achievements to snapshots of student life across generations, these pages tell an evolving story of Bucknell.

We're excited to share that we're digitizing our back issues and building an online archive that will make these stories more accessible. Readers can now explore issues dating back to 2007, when the magazine was known as *Bucknell World*, at magazine.bucknell.edu. Even better, the archive is searchable, which



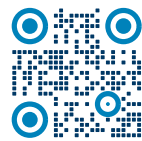
Visit our online archive to read about Justin Schwartz '04 in our Spring 2015 issue — and see him again in this issue, P. 10.

makes it easy to revisit favorite stories and look up classmates.

This project is ongoing; we will continue adding issues to expand the digital library in the months ahead. We hope you will enjoy spending time with these archives.

As always, thank you for reading and for being part of the Bucknell story.

Katie Neitz
Editor



Scan to explore the archive!

LETTERS

An Excellent Issue

I enjoyed the Spring 2026 issue of *Bucknell Magazine*. It's such a great publication. You are doing a great job. Go Bison! **Geoffrey Mynott '54, P'83, G'17**
Newtown Square, Pa.

Athletics & Academics

In the Spring 2026 edition of *Bucknell Magazine*, I was very pleased to see President Bravman reiterate Bucknell's longstanding policies toward the proper role of intercollegiate athletics ("Division I,

the Bucknell Way"). I am very proud that my alma mater is not participating in the shameful chase for dollars via its athletics departments that so many other universities engage in these days. I do have one suggestion, however. I've often wondered why our culture refers to students who participate in intercollegiate athletics as "student-athletes." Shouldn't we refer to them as "athletic students"?

Tom Waleski '79, M'80
Lancaster, Pa.

CORRECTIONS

In the Spring 2026 edition, two errors appeared in the *In Memoriam* section on P. 65. First, Carl Danzig was mistakenly listed; the notice should have referred to Carl's father, Harold "Hal" Danzig '59. Second, Linda Reddington '89 was listed as having passed Sept. 2 while living in Bengaluru, India. The correct information is that she passed away Sept. 1 and was residing in Miami. We sincerely apologize for these mistakes. We are reviewing our editorial processes to help prevent errors like this in the future.

WRITE TO US

We love to hear from readers. Send us your feedback on past issues or story ideas for future ones. Drop us a note at bmagazine@bucknell.edu or *Bucknell Magazine*, One Dent Drive, Lewisburg, PA 17837

BUCKNELL

magazine

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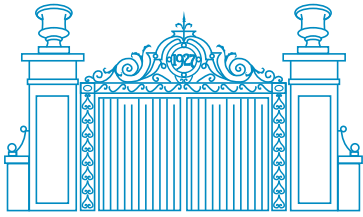
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UPDATE

Matthew Bogdanos '80, who was profiled in the Summer 2022 issue ("Ancient Evidence"), received the \$100,000 Marica Vilcek Prize in Art History from the Vilcek Foundation, which honors cultural leaders in the arts and sciences. The award recognizes his dedication to recovering looted antiquities and safeguarding cultural artifacts through the New York County District Attorney's Office.



GATEWAY

NEWS, NOTES & NOTABLES



At the Morrow Farm, students plant and grow crops while learning how food systems shape health, sustainability and community life.

EXPERIENTIAL LEARNING

Deeply Rooted

New name. New resources. More room to grow.
Bucknell's campus farm enters its next chapter.

by KATE WILLIARD // photography by JAMES T. GIFFEN

ON THE SOUTHWEST CORNER of campus, students kneel in the dirt, turning over soil that not long ago was an overgrown, weedy field. Today, it is a working farm — one that has taken shape over the past seven years as a site for teaching, research, student development and community engagement.

Now, thanks to a recent landmark gift from **Bill '70** and Madeline **Morrow**, the farm will expand its





capacity for production and curricular integration, enabling it to grow as a hub for hands-on learning.

Bucknell has named its 5-acre campus farm the Morrow Farm at Bucknell University in recognition of the Morrrows' significant gift. The funding will support new permanent facilities — including a fully equipped indoor-outdoor teaching kitchen and classroom, a dedicated wash-and-pack station with cold storage, and solar-integrated infrastructure — while also establishing an endowment to secure the farm's long-term staffing and operations.

"This next stage in the development of the farm will help address local food insecurity, increase year-round academic engagement and allow students to take part in all aspects of food production, from field to plate," says Professor Mark Spiro, biology, faculty director of the Morrow Farm. "We envision that the ecological design of the buildings will also offer important interdisciplinary learning opportunities across all three colleges."

Since its founding in 2018, the farm has grown into a campus-wide resource, serving about 1,500 students in 50 courses each academic year.

Its interdisciplinary reach is deliberate and distinctive. Chemistry students analyze the nutrient composition of crops they helped grow. Engineering students built a harvester to ease farm labor and increase yields of vegetables. English students learned about cultural disconnection from ancestral crops through a conversation with a local Haudenosaunee chef (a member of the Indigenous confederacy that includes the Mohawk, Oneida, Onondaga, Cayuga, Seneca and Tuscarora nations), then identified and cultivated True Red Cranberry beans that now appear on the chef's Indigenous menu.



"THIS IS MORE THAN A FARM. IT'S A COMMUNITY, A CLASSROOM, A RESEARCH SPACE AND A CATALYST FOR ACTION."

— JEN SCHNEIDMAN PARTICA, FARM AND GARDEN MANAGER

LEARNING FROM THE LAND

Students reflect on their work at the Morrow Farm



"Being involved in the cultivation, preparation and distribution of food helped me internalize the idea that health extends beyond a clinical setting and highlighted the importance of access to nutritious foods and supportive communities. As I prepare for medical school, my work with the farm has reinforced my commitment to addressing health disparities through a holistic approach in which patients feel understood and empowered."

— Allan Alas '26, biology, farm volunteer



"The Morrow Farm has strengthened my leadership skills in ways no other campus organization has. I've learned to think on my feet, apply my breadth of knowledge in agriculture and direct other student farmers and volunteers. I have grown self-assured, proactive and strategic — all qualities that will serve me well in my future endeavors."

— Quincy Saadeh '27, early childhood education and English — literary studies double-major, student farmer



"I grew up in Zimbabwe, where gardening with my grandmother and watching my mother's dedication to community empowerment defined my connection to sustainable land management. At Bucknell, I've researched climate risks, biogeochemical impacts and community perceptions while pursuing solutions that are as socially grounded as they are scientifically rigorous."

— Thandeka Bango '26, environmental geosciences and geography double-major, student farmer

Beyond the classroom, the Morrow Farm operates in partnership with the Lewisburg Community Garden, supporting food access. Together, they produced more than 8,000 pounds of food in 2025, accounting for 43% of all food donations to the Union-Snyder Community Action Food Hub. Facility upgrades will improve produce distribution, allowing the farm to expand those contributions.

Students play a central role in daily operations, from volunteer hours to paid positions managing crops, leading teams and giving tours. For many, the experience shapes their academic and professional paths. Alumni have gone on to practice careers in sustainable agriculture and environmental education, pursue medicine with a deeper understanding of food and health and identify pathways into mission-driven organizations.

President John Bravman calls the Morrrows' investment a gift to generations. "Students can learn directly from the land, each other and faculty mentors in a space that exemplifies Bucknell's commitment to sustainability, community and interdisciplinary excellence."



ASK THE EXPERT

The Future of Flight

by KATIE NEITZ

WITH THE RISE of electric aircraft and the rapid expansion of private space launches, the skies are more crowded than ever. Professor Greg O'Neill, mechanical engineering, is tackling both ends of that spectrum. From morphing wings to airspace conflicts between jets and rockets, his research is shaping what's next in aviation and aerospace.

How is aviation evolving, and what trends are you watching closely?

We're entering a new era of aviation driven by sustainability. Electric propulsion is becoming more practical, and urban air mobility is gaining traction. At the same time, we're trying to integrate these technologies into an already busy National Airspace System, which is no small task.

You've also researched noise reduction through morphing wings. What are they?

Morphing wings are aircraft structures that adapt their shape mid-flight for better efficiency and less noise. It's a way to fine-tune performance depending on whether the plane is taking off, cruising or landing — with benefits for fuel use and urban noise concerns.

What impact are space launches having on commercial air travel?

We're seeing a major uptick in launches — nearly 100 in 2023 — and that number's rising. When rockets launch, airspace is cleared in massive swaths called Special Use Airspace (SUA), which disrupts airline routes. My most recent study, published by the American Institute of Aeronautics and Astronautics, shows that many SUAs stay active long after the launch ends, causing unnecessary delays and costs. The hope is that we can find ways to make that process smarter and more efficient.

What's the solution to these launch-related disruptions?

It's about balance. Shortening and better timing the duration of SUAs could save airlines a lot of money, but we also have to protect against launch delays

or failures. The key is to use data to manage airspace more precisely — so launches don't ground or reroute commercial flights more than necessary. We're getting close to daily rocket launches in the U.S., so this challenge is only going to grow.

How are Bucknell students involved in this research?

In addition to my Aircraft Design Competition course, where students build and fly their own planes, I mentored four undergraduates last summer on research projects tied to electric propulsion, morphing wings and launch traffic modeling. I also advise the Bison Aviation Club. Our students are doing real, forward-looking work that connects classroom theory with actual engineering problems — and solutions.



PATHWAYS

FROM LEWISBURG TO TOKYO

by SARAH DOWNEY '25

photograph by EMILY LAMPARTER

Momo Peters '27 had always felt self-conscious about his unusual name — until he arrived in Tokyo to study abroad in August 2025. In Japanese, “momo” means peach and is considered a feminine name, making introductions a source of amusement. “It was funny for them to see the name on a dude,” Peters says. “My name has always been a little weird, but now I feel like it’s cool. I take ownership of it.”

A psychology major from Philadelphia pursuing an East Asian studies minor, Peters was eager to explore perspectives beyond the Western worldview. After studying Japanese for nearly two years at

Bucknell, Peters went abroad to Japan. As a Division I jumper, he worried about maintaining his training abroad, but his growing language skills helped him connect

“I’m grateful for everything I learned abroad,” says Momo Peters '27 of his time in Tokyo.

with local athletes in Tokyo, who welcomed him into their practices. “At first, I was scared because I knew what to say, but I didn’t know how to go about saying it,” he says. “But as I was forced to speak, I got more comfortable.”

The experience did more than improve his Japanese; it expanded his sense of what is possible. Peters returned to Tokyo this summer for an internship teaching English at the NIJIN Academy and is planning to pursue a master’s degree abroad.



Pop Culture, Decoded

Bucknell faculty reinterpret concepts in entertainment

What’s it like to watch a sports movie with a data analyst or a dance film with a choreographer? Bucknell’s new YouTube series, *Bucknell Breakdowns: Professors React*, offers a glimpse, with faculty unpacking the science, math and artistry hidden beneath the surface of the storytelling.

Four videos are now available on the University’s YouTube channel.

In each episode, Bucknell faculty members revisit familiar films and television scenes, exploring the ideas behind what unfolds on the screen.

In the latest releases, Professor Joe Wilck (above, bottom), analytics & operations management, explores the mathematics behind baseball strategy as popularized in *Moneyball*. And Professor Kelly Knox, dance, and student dancer Rayna Tyler '27 (above, top) break down the discipline and technique behind the choreography in *Dirty Dancing*.

Watch them all at youtube.com/BucknellU
— Katie Neitz



Scan to watch the videos!



BUCKNELL APPOINTS DIRECTOR FOR DIALOGUE & DEMOCRACY INITIATIVE

Bucknell has named Lauren Baillie as the inaugural director of the Bucknell Initiative for Dialogue & Democracy (BIDD). Rooted in the nonpartisan exploration of citizenship and society, BIDD will help students engage pluralistic perspectives, approach disagreement with empathy and contribute to the public good.

Baillie joins Bucknell from the United States Institute of Peace in Washington, D.C., where she worked to strengthen democratic participation in conflict-affected regions.

BIDD’s programming will include educational and research opportunities focused on critical thinking and information literacy; dialogue across difference; sustainable leadership; and scholarly inquiry. — Kate Williard

OUT OF OFFICE

WITH
**Justin
Schwartz '04**

CAREER
**Senior
Director of
Engineering
and Safety**

WORKPLACE
**Universal
Orlando
Resort**

by GIGI MARINO // photograph courtesy of Universal Creative



FORGET CUBICLES. For **Justin Schwartz '04**, the office has been a roller coaster track, a dragon's lair, and, most recently, the site of Universal Orlando Resort's Epic Universe — Florida's newest theme park that opened in 2025 after nearly a decade in development. Schwartz, who has been working at Universal for more than 20 years, led the engineering team that turned concept sketches into immersive worlds filled with stunning animatronic creatures and visited by millions. "At one point, my office was just grass and dirt," he says. "Then came foundations, buildings, equipment. Our technicians and ops teams moved in — and in May 2025, so did the public."

FROM SENIOR DESIGN TO LEAD ENGINEER

"Our animatronic figures are by far some of the best in the industry, if not the best. We took new and interesting approaches. That conceptual work started with my Senior Design project when I was a mechanical engineering major at Bucknell."

FAVORITE PLACE IN THE UNIVERSE

The 12-year-old in Schwartz naturally gravitates toward Super Nintendo World; the adult in him prefers the chill vibe of Celestial Park. "I'm a gamer. On the flip side, Celestial Park is a serene place, connecting all four lands."

BUILT TO RIDE TOGETHER

"Epic Universe has the best five attractions in the industry right now. Stardust Racers, our dual-track coaster, is designed so that human interaction elevates the ride — it's not just thrilling, it's communal."

FAVE PARK PERK

"If I want to bring friends to the park, I just make a call. I get valet parking and don't have to wait in lines."

WHAT PEOPLE DON'T SEE

"There's more cable than dirt underneath the park — enough to circle the Earth. It's a wild amount of infrastructure. It's the foundation that keeps everything running."

SUPER SECRET KEEPER

Theme parks go to great efforts to prevent leaks about innovation, a challenge in the age of social media. "Sometimes it's nice to have inside knowledge. Sometimes it's complicated. But it's not my secret to tell. It just comes with the territory."

PASSING THE TORCH

For Schwartz, lasting impact comes from helping the next generation of engineers find their place. "I've been around long enough now to see the people I mentored become leaders. It's meaningful."

Justin Schwartz '04 drew on his Bucknell engineering foundation to help bring Epic Universe to life at Universal Orlando Resort.





International Relations



Kelsey Mills-Tareen '10
special agent, Diplomatic Security
Service, U.S. Department of State

At Bucknell, Mills-Tareen was drawn to global affairs, cultural exchange and public service — interests that shaped her career in federal law enforcement. After serving two years in the Peace Corps in West Africa, she now travels the world protecting U.S. diplomats and facilities, conducting criminal investigations and supporting international diplomacy while working closely with U.S. colleagues and local law enforcement partners abroad.

"Bucknell taught me how to adapt, think critically and work across disciplines — skills I rely on every day."



Michel Ajjan '14
account officer,
Rolls-Royce

Ajjan recently joined Rolls-Royce, one of the world's largest manufacturers of aircraft engines. Previously, he worked for Delta Air Lines in global aviation strategy. At Bucknell, immersive learning experiences in Denmark, Morocco and Myanmar, broadened his understanding of international business and global systems.

"My favorite part of the job is working with people — across teams, across cultures — to solve complex problems."



Deepshikha Parmessur '19
head of entrepreneurial
leadership, African
Leadership Academy

Parmessur broadened her global perspective at Bucknell, studying abroad in Switzerland and Uganda. She now helps students turn community issues into real-world solutions, designing curriculum at the African Leadership Academy, a competitive South African institution that equips students with the skills and mindset to tackle Africa's most pressing challenges.

"I love helping students take an idea and turn it into something that can change their community and even their country."



◀ Cloey Rentschler '28, Olivia Schade '27 and Professor Judy Grisel P'16 (L-R) partnered on a cannabis social media campaign.

EXPLORATIONS

Understanding Cannabis Science, One Post at a Time

A faculty-student research team is turning cannabis science into accessible, social-media-ready insights

by MATT JONES

IN THE THREE decades since California became the first state to legalize medical cannabis, 40 states have followed suit, and roughly half have legalized recreational use. As cannabis laws have expanded, the drug has become increasingly normalized, particularly among young people. Bucknell researchers are working to ensure that public understanding keeps pace with its growing availability.

"We believe it's important for people to have access to accurate information so they

can make healthy, informed choices," says Professor **Judy Grisel P'16**, psychology, a renowned behavioral neuroscientist with a focus on addiction. In 2025, she founded TrueDrugs, a nonprofit research and education initiative focused on substance abuse science.

She notes that substance use disorders often begin during adolescence, when the brain is still developing.

To help close the gap between research and public perception, Grisel has

recruited Bucknell student researchers to translate scientific findings on cannabis for a general audience, often through social media.

"Our job is to read and analyze scientific research papers on cannabis and then translate them into social media posts for the general public," says **Cloey Rentschler '28**, a neuroscience major from Fleetwood, Pa.

Both Rentschler and **Olivia Schade '27**, a biology major and Bucknell Community College Scholar from Philadelphia, are working on TrueWeed.org, an offshoot of TrueDrugs. The project, which received funding support from **Judith McAllister O'Leary '60**, is built around a global network of student volunteers, with Bucknellians forming the core of small, interdisciplinary teams.

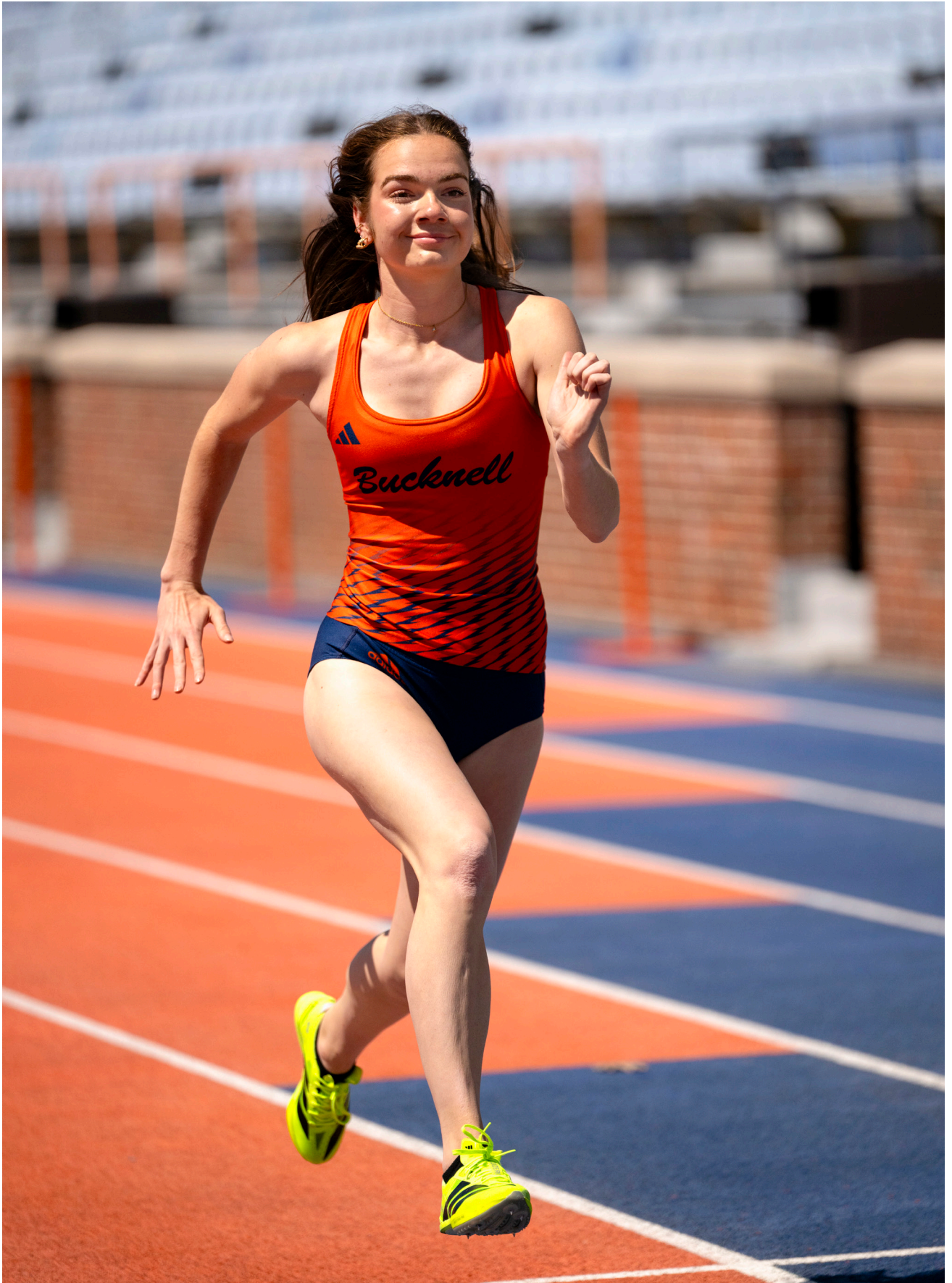
"Cloey and I are both STEM majors, so we're relatively well-versed in scientific methods and processes," says Schade. "What's cool

about this project is that we get to work on writing and graphic design, which makes us better overall scientific communicators."

After reviewing a research paper titled "Acute Effects of Oral Cannabinoids on Sleep and High-Density EEG in Insomnia," Rentschler and Schade created an Instagram post featuring visually engaging, easily digestible graphics that break down the study's findings on cannabis use and sleep quality.

Communicating science through accurate, compelling social media posts is key to reaching young audiences.

"Social media is a newer medium for me," says Grisel. "So I'm happy to work with students who are more familiar with it and adept at using it. This helps them learn about the value of science, the value of communication, and the neurobiology of addiction in a way that's impactful for them as well as the broader community."



LEADING THE HERD

Finding Her Speed

Alex Lea '28 rebounds from injury to set track records

by **BRYAN WENDELL** // photography by **EMILY LAMPARTER**



IN THE FINAL 150 meters of the 400-meter dash at the 2025 Patriot League Outdoor Championships, **Alex Lea '28** glanced at the runners around her and felt something unexpected. "I just knew I was going to win," she says. "I was like, 'Wow, I have so much left in me.'"

She crossed the finish line in 53.07 seconds, hands covering her mouth in disbelief. The time shattered Bucknell's school record, set a Patriot League meet record and qualified Lea for the NCAA East First Round. At that same meet, she captured gold in the 200 meters, becoming the first Bucknell woman since 2018 to win two individual conference golds at one outdoor championship.

The Center Valley, Pa., native started out in gymnastics and soccer before realizing her speed could take her somewhere else.

Her high school coach steered her toward the 400-meter dash, an event Lea describes as "awkward" — it's too long for sprinters and too short for distance runners. "They always throw people who don't know what

they want to do in the 400," she says. "He just put me in it, and I kept running it."

The 2025-26 indoor season tested her resilience. Battling severe shin injuries, Lea scaled back her training and arrived at the Patriot League Indoor Track & Field Championships simply hoping to compete. She finished second in the 400 and broke another school record.

The breakthrough came in the spring. In April, she reset her own outdoor 200-meter record with a time of 23.53. Then, on May 1, she broke 53 seconds in the 400 for the first time, running 52.90 to lower her own school record yet again.

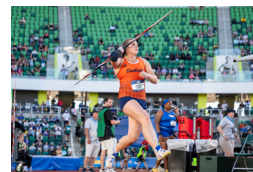
Two weeks later, at the 2026 Patriot League Outdoor Track & Field Championships, Lea again won 200- and 400-meter league titles. That's four conference gold medals.

The neuroscience major gravitates toward challenges academically, too. She points to Organic Chemistry II as a favorite course despite — or perhaps because of — its reputation for difficulty. "I like to see what I can handle," she says.



Alex Lea '28 finished her sophomore year with four Patriot League Outdoor Track & Field Championship gold medals.

BISON EXCELLENCE



TRACK & FIELD

Evelyn Bliss '27 captured silver at the NCAA Division I Outdoor Track & Field Championships in the javelin.

BASEBALL

finished the regular season tied for first place in the Patriot League. Coach Scott Heather and his staff were named Gene Depew Coaching Staff of the Year by the league.



Pitcher **Hadley Maxwell '26** was named Patriot League Baseball Scholar-Athlete of the Year.



WOMEN'S LACROSSE

advanced to its first Patriot League semifinal since 2003.

Megan Krestinski '26 set Bucknell's career points record (187).



MEN'S CREW

captured its fifth straight Mid-Atlantic Rowing Conference overall team title.

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Bucknell marked its 176th Commencement May 17 by conferring a record 995 degrees — 978 bachelor's and 17 master's on Malesardi Quadrangle. Learn more, P. 36.

photograph by
EMILY LAMPARTER





*Want to live a
little smarter?
Bucknell experts
share research-
backed insights
on everyday
questions.*

THE CHOICES WE MAKE AT
HOME — HOW WE CLEAN,
RENOVATE, SHOP ONLINE,
CARE FOR OUR YARD — CAN
HAVE A BIGGER IMPACT
THAN WE REALIZE. THEY
AFFECT INDOOR AIR
QUALITY, PRIVACY,
WILDLIFE HABITATS AND
EVEN HOW COMFORTABLE
WE FEEL IN OUR OWN
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EXPERTS OFFER SIMPLE,
RESEARCH-INFORMED
WAYS TO IMPROVE YOUR
HOME ENVIRONMENT.

edited by
KATIE NEITZ

photography by
JAMES T. GIFFEN and
EMILY LAMPARTER

How to Live Better

MYTH

↓
"I can bring fireflies back instantly by turning off outdoor lights."

REALITY

↓
Fireflies need years of habitat recovery. Reduce light, leave leaf litter, avoid pesticides — and be patient.

How can I attract fireflies to my backyard?



**Professor
Sarah Lower**
BIOLOGY

MANY PEOPLE REMEMBER seeing lots of fireflies as kids and wonder how to bring them back. The challenge is that firefly populations have declined in many places, and after habitat disturbance, recovery can take decades — if it happens at all. The best approach is to create a backyard where they can thrive.

Start by reducing light pollution. Fireflies use flashes to find mates or deter predators, and even small amounts of artificial light can interrupt that dialogue. If you can, keep outdoor lights off in

summer, use timers or motion sensors and avoid broad ambient lighting. Creating a dark corner of your yard shielded by trees or shrubs can help.

Habitat matters too. Fireflies do best in places that aren't constantly disturbed, so mow less often, leave some natural areas, and keep leaf litter where moisture and organic matter build up. Those messy areas matter because young fireflies are predators. They eat snails, slugs and worms. A yard rich in organic material supports the food they need.

Professor Doug Collins explores how disinfectants work — and the risks they can pose.



How can I clean my house without risking my health?

DURING THE PANDEMIC, we all started doing chemistry experiments at home — unintentionally. While disinfectants aren't intended to cause harm, using highly reactive formulas in a confined space means they don't only act on the microbe you're targeting. Chlorine bleach, peroxides, ozone — they work because they're reactive. The trouble is that chemistry doesn't stop there. It can create byproducts and indoor pollution that, over time, affect respiratory and cardiovascular health.

It's important to distinguish between cleaning and disinfecting. Most of the time, cleaning is enough. Soap and water are excellent at removing dirt, grease and many microbes.

Professor Doug Collins
CHEMISTRY

Even with SARS-CoV-2, plain soap works remarkably well. Disinfection should be reserved for situations involving illness or infectious materials, such as vomit on the floor. When using disinfectants, good ventilation helps clear the air.

Some disinfectants, including quaternary ammonium compounds, or "quats," are designed to stay on surfaces and continue to work over time. Their persistence is a selling point — it's why they're marketed as long-lasting — but it also raises unresolved questions about their potential health effects for people and other animals when these chemicals linger indoors. In a home, true disinfection moments are rare.

MYTH

"Daily disinfecting keeps my home safe."

REALITY

Most of the time, soap and water are enough. Disinfect only when someone is sick or surfaces are contaminated.

How can I use AI ethically?

AI IS A TOOL — and like any tool, it isn't inherently good or bad. What matters is how we use it. Ethical use means staying the owner of your work. Don't let the tool produce something for you automatically; instead, engage with it actively. Review what it produces, revise it, question it and shape the final result so it reflects your own thinking.

Think about AI as a knowledgeable adviser. Ask it questions, explore different options and try framing your prompts in multiple ways. Never blindly trust it. Critical thinking and ethical judgment still matter, now more than ever.



Professor SingChun Lee
COMPUTER SCIENCE

AI can enhance productivity by supporting tasks like generating meeting agendas, brainstorming ideas or refining presentations. The key is maintaining effort and intent. I tell students that if they'd normally spend three hours studying for a test, they shouldn't use AI as a shortcut to cram in just 30 minutes.

Instead, AI should help you use those three hours more effectively through quizzing and encourage deeper learning. AI should free up space for reflection and improvement — not replace the effort itself.

Ultimately, ethical AI use is collaborative: You guide the process, and AI supports the execution. It requires honesty with yourself: Am I using AI to increase my productivity by spending the same amount of time to do better or more thoughtful work, or am I simply using it to finish the same work in less time with less effort? Ethical use should push you toward the first. By staying mindful, reflective and accountable, you can use AI to learn faster, work smarter and make better decisions — without surrendering your judgment or responsibility.

MYTH

"Using AI means I can do less work."

REALITY

AI shines when paired with your effort. Devote the same time, but use AI to deepen understanding, explore options and refine ideas.



Professor Gulay Guzel examines how consumer data shapes online advertising.

Why do ads seem to know exactly what I want? Is my phone actually listening to me?

COMPANIES DON'T ACTUALLY need to listen to you to know what you want. The reality is that we leave digital footprints everywhere. Every time you visit a website, click on a product, add something to a shopping cart or make a purchase, that creates a data point.

Individually, one data point doesn't mean that much. But when companies combine thousands — or millions — of these points, they can build a detailed picture of consumer habits. That includes people with similar demographics, interests and shopping patterns. If people with similar interests, ages or purchasing histories tend to buy a particular product, marketers can use that information to predict what others in the group might want next.

**Professor
Gulay Guzel**
**MARKETS,
INNOVATION &
DESIGN**

That's why ads can feel eerily targeted. It's not just about you — it's about patterns across many people who behave similarly.

One thing you can do is pay closer attention to what information you're exchanging. When a company offers a 20% discount in exchange for your email and phone number, remember that you are giving them valuable data.

You can also limit some tracking by rejecting cookies when websites ask for them. But it's a trade-off. Allowing cookies means you'll have a more customized online experience. Rejecting them gives you more privacy, but you may see fewer recommendations that match what you're actually looking for.

MYTH

"My phone is listening to everything I say."

REALITY

Ads track patterns, not conversations.

Your clicks, searches and purchases reveal more than your voice ever could.



Professor Rebecca Meyers encourages movie lovers to reclaim the art of watching films.

How can I be more focused and thoughtful when watching movies at home?

IN THIS STREAMING AGE, when it feels like any and all entertainment is available at our fingertips, the experience of watching movies has quickly shifted. It's not just that we rarely go to theatres. Even at home, movies are increasingly consumed while folding laundry or scrolling Instagram. This changes everything about what the movie communicates to us (or doesn't), and the resulting experience is far from satisfying. But a few small changes can make our relationship with movies richer. They may even remind us how, as with reading a book, giving our undivided attention and contemplation to someone else's creation can feel both radical and deeply rewarding.

It sounds obvious, but the first step is putting your phone in another room, out of sight. Unless something is urgent, it can wait two hours.

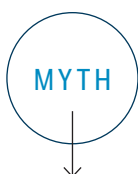
Make movie night an event. Turn off the lights, use the biggest screen you have and turn up the volume. Most films were made for the theatre. The scale of the image and the soundtrack carry

the aesthetic expression. Shrink them and you diminish the experience. Watch without pauses or distractions. Otherwise, you may "get" the plot, but you'll miss the visual storytelling that makes the art form so immersive and powerful.

Another tip I share with students: Be intentional about what you watch. Don't let Netflix algorithms decide what you might like. Explore curated services, like the Criterion Channel, and visit your local library. Many great films aren't available on streaming platforms but can still be found on DVD. You'll discover a much broader world of international, classic and independent cinema. I hope it's not too late to add: Keep your DVD player!

Professor Rebecca Meyers

FILM/MEDIA STUDIES
film programmer
for Bucknell
screenings
at the Campus
Theatre



"I can multitask and still get the full movie experience."



Phones down, lights dimmed and intentional viewing unlocks the story, mood and artistry films were made for.

Professor Annetta Grant studies the balance between personal taste and market trends.



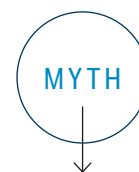
How do I renovate my home without making it feel like a generic showroom?

IT'S TOUGH TO separate your own tastes from the media-driven trends you see everywhere. HGTV shows, magazines and social media all shape what we think a home should look like. At the same time, your home is your biggest financial asset, which adds pressure to make choices that appeal to the market.

Traditionally, a home has been a space to express your identity — to make it singularly yours. But today, homeowners often feel caught between that personal vision and the marketplace's expectations. This tension can cause what we refer to as "dysplacement," where the home starts to feel less like a grounded, personal place and more like a standardized product.

The key is balance. Trend-driven renovations — like spa-like bathrooms and restaurant-grade kitchens — can boost resale value, but personal touches help you feel at home. Even small elements of individuality — a favorite color, meaningful pieces of furniture — allow you to live in a space that feels comfortable and authentic without hurting market appeal. ■

Professor Annetta Grant
MARKETS, INNOVATION & DESIGN



"Following every trend will make my home feel modern."



Trend-driven updates can increase resale value, but personal touches make your home feel truly yours.

NO CHOICE BUT FORWARD

After a life-threatening brain aneurysm,
Caroline McCaffrey '28 rebuilt her
strength — one step and one mile at a time

by BRYAN WENDELL
photography by EMILY LAMPARTER

HALF A MILE into an easy Sunday evening run, the kind she had done countless times before, **Caroline McCaffrey '28** felt a sudden, unsettling tightness in her neck — enough to stop her midstride.

Then the pain hit.

Pressure flooded her skull. Her vision blurred. She stumbled to a curb, nauseated and disoriented. Her mother, a former FBI employee who happened to be riding her bike alongside McCaffrey, stayed calm.

It was Father's Day — June 15, 2025. McCaffrey was 18 years old, fresh off her first year at Bucknell, when a blood vessel in her brain ruptured.

"It felt like something was squeezing my head, like it was in a vice," McCaffrey says. "My neck was so tight I couldn't turn it. That's what concerned me."

As a student-athlete at Bucknell, McCaffrey competed on the Bison



cross-country and track & field teams. A disciplined runner, she was used to logging long miles and back-to-back training days — a routine built on endurance and discipline.

At Johns Hopkins Howard County Medical Center near her home in Ellicott City, Md., an emergency room doctor initially diagnosed a migraine. Her mother pushed back. When the shift changed, a second doctor ordered a CT scan.

It revealed bleeding in the brain.

What followed was a 20-day medical gauntlet across three hospitals. At The Johns Hopkins Hospital in Baltimore, doctors placed an emergency drain through her skull to relieve pressure. Then she was transferred to the University of Maryland Medical Center, where surgeons threaded a catheter from her thigh to her brain and packed the ruptured aneurysm with tiny coils. They also discovered a second, unruptured aneurysm, which they later clipped in open brain surgery on July 3.

Doctors later told McCaffrey she had likely lived with the aneurysms for years — possibly since birth. While the rise in blood pressure during her run may have triggered the rupture, they said it would have happened eventually. A family history of aneurysms also suggested a genetic component.

When McCaffrey finally woke in the neuro intensive care unit, half her head shaved, one question rose above all others: “Can I still walk?”

She could, although that answer was far from guaranteed. Roughly half of ruptured brain aneurysm patients never reach the hospital. Among those who do, many face lasting physical or cognitive challenges. McCaffrey had none.



THE LONG ROAD BACK

During long walks down the ICU hallway, McCaffrey passed glass-walled rooms where patients lay motionless, some unlikely to recover. But in the hospital’s Healing Garden, an indoor courtyard, small birds darted across her field of view, drawing a tired smile to her face. Her Bucknell roommate and teammate **Katie Moncavage ’28**, one of many friends who visited McCaffrey in the hospital, noticed.

“It was amazing to see her take in the little joys in life even during such a traumatic situation,” Moncavage says. “She is such an inspiration.”



**“WHEN YOUR
LIFE IS
UNWILLINGLY
TURNED UPSIDE
DOWN, YOU
HAVE NO
CHOICE BUT TO
BE STRONG.”**

Biology major Caroline McCaffrey '28 aspires to become a certified registered nurse anesthetist, a path shaped by her own medical experience.

When assistant cross-country coach Rob Guissanie and head coach Kevin Donner drove from Lewisburg to Baltimore, they expected a brief visit. They stayed more than 90 minutes.

“Aside from her head being shaved and having a huge scar from surgery, she was Caroline — all smiles, eyes bright and very talkative,” Guissanie says. “If you had just audio of the conversation, you’d never know we were in the hospital.”

Recovery at home came slowly but steadily. At first, McCaffrey took short walks with her father — from her front stoop to the end of the street — gradually

building to six miles by early August. Even after she was cleared to run in September, uncertainty lingered. “I was definitely scared to run again,” she says.

She eased back in cautiously — starting with intervals as short as 30 seconds of running followed by 30 seconds of walking. Throughout, her neurosurgeon and neurology team emphasized a key point: Running had not caused the rupture.

Neuro physical therapy, including monitored stress tests and blood pressure tracking during walking and biking, guided her progression and rebuilt her confidence.

That fall, she remained at home to stay close to her care team. She understood it was the right decision, but she longed to be on campus. “I just wanted to be back at Bucknell,” she says.

While she was still in the hospital, McCaffrey’s brother discovered We Run With You, an organization that supports athletes recovering from brain injuries. Its founder had survived a ruptured aneurysm herself and offered something different from McCaffrey’s doctors: lived experience.

Bucknell cross-country coaches Rob Guissanie and Kevin Donner (L-R) visited Caroline McCaffrey '28 during her hospital recovery.



Following emergency brain surgery, McCaffrey had to relearn how to walk before gradually returning to running.



Tori Chace '26 and Katie Moncavage '28 spent time with McCaffrey (L-R) in the ICU.



"Your doctors can answer all the medical questions," McCaffrey says, "but at the end of the day, they've never been in that position."

The organization invited her to run the Rothman Orthopaedics 8K — a 4.97-mile race held during Philadelphia Marathon Weekend in November — as part of their charity team. She signed up and set a \$1,000 fundraising goal.

It didn't stay there long.

Donations climbed past \$5,000. Then \$10,000. Back in Lewisburg, Moncavage designed "Team Caroline" T-shirts featuring the phrase "Give Yourself a Reason," a lyric by singer-songwriter Noah Kahan that McCaffrey had tattooed on her left arm. On race day, teammates pulled them on and lined up beside McCaffrey.

McCaffrey ran an 8K race with Bucknell teammates after raising nearly \$13,000 for a brain-injury organization.



REDEFINING STRONG

At a post-race evening reception, hosted by We Run With You, McCaffrey was honored as the organization's top individual fundraiser, raising nearly \$13,000. McCaffrey was invited to address those attending the event. She spoke about a word she had heard constantly during her recovery: "strong." Friends used it to describe her in texts, cards and calls.

"I did not feel strong lying in a hospital bed for days on end when just a week ago I had been cranking out 10-mile runs," she told the crowd. "When your life is unwillingly turned upside down, you have no choice but to be strong."

She returned to Bucknell in January for the spring 2026 semester. Back on campus, McCaffrey eased into student life again — returning to biology labs, catching up with professors and reconnecting with teammates who had followed her recovery from afar. Despite missing a semester, she remains on track to graduate with her class, helped in part by credits earned before arriving at Bucknell.

The transition was not seamless. She needed to rebuild stamina; long days left her fatigued. The adjustment, she says, was as much emotional as physical as she needed to work to be in a routine that once felt automatic.

Her academic path has also shifted. Once on a pre-med track with plans to become a neurologist, McCaffrey changed direction after her time in the ICU. While she credits the surgeons with saving her life and guiding her recovery, she formed a deeper bond with the nurses — those who talked her through what was happening, sat with her at 2 a.m. and treated her like a person, not just a patient.

"I want to go into nursing because of the nurses," she says. "They made the most personal and lasting impact."

Now on a pre-nursing track, she plans to earn a master's degree in nursing and eventually become a certified registered nurse anesthetist. She has already shadowed her own neurosurgeon, observing the procedure that saved her life.

This November, McCaffrey will return to Philadelphia — this time for the half-marathon (13.1 miles). Her brother will

"Team Caroline" in action: Bison cross-country teammates took to the streets of Philadelphia in solidarity with McCaffrey (center).



join her. So will high school friends who have never raced before. And once again, her Bucknell teammates will line up beside her.

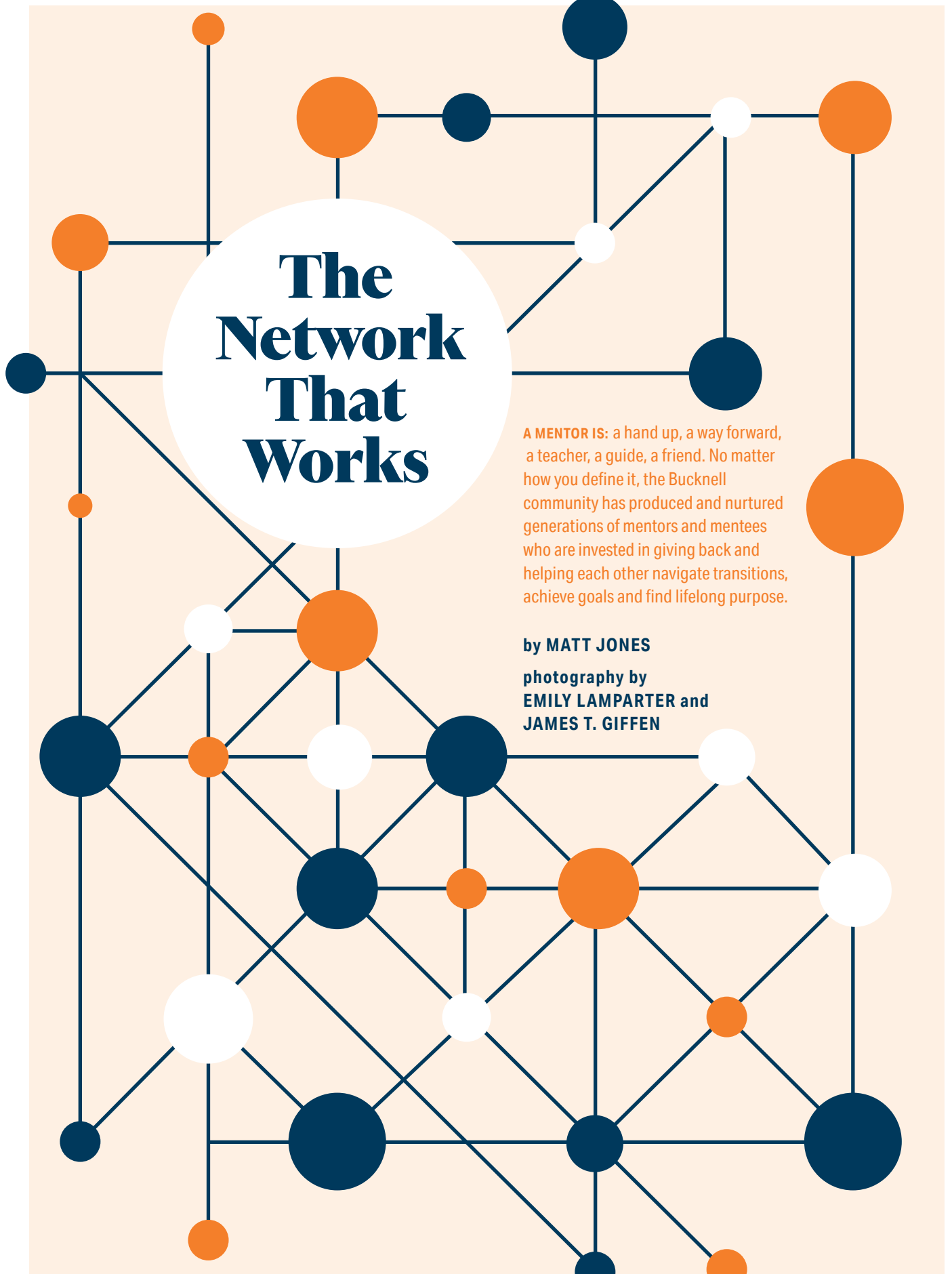
McCaffrey hopes to rejoin the Bison cross-country team by the fall, though her coaches have made clear the timeline is hers to set. For now, she is running about seven miles at a time as she rebuilds her strength.

"It's just such a perspective check," she says. "Having the chance to be running and back at Bucknell is a blessing."

Now, each run is less about pace than possibility. Step by step, she is finding her way back. ■

Bucknell mentorship runs deep at Merck: Maya Fetzer '26 (center) turned an internship into a full-time role with support from Kristen Zuber Duffy '99 (left) and Kasey Piper '25 (right).





The Network That Works

A MENTOR IS: a hand up, a way forward, a teacher, a guide, a friend. No matter how you define it, the Bucknell community has produced and nurtured generations of mentors and mentees who are invested in giving back and helping each other navigate transitions, achieve goals and find lifelong purpose.

by **MATT JONES**

photography by
**EMILY LAMPARTER and
JAMES T. GIFFEN**



SOMEONE IN YOUR CORNER

THERE WAS A time when **Nicole Lioumis '26** imagined herself joining the FBI. “Coming into college, that kind of career was always in my mind because I’m the type of person who can’t sit at a desk all day. I need to be on the go,” she says.

A biology elective, however, revealed a different path. “I realized that medicine needs people who feel that sense of urgency,” says Lioumis, who would go on to be a biology major and economics minor.

The question was: What type of medicine should she pursue?

Initially, she considered becoming a physician assistant. During her sophomore and junior years, Bucknell’s pre-health advising program helped her secure an internship at Rothman Orthopaedic Institute in Philadelphia, where she worked with a shoulder and elbow specialist and a sports medicine surgeon.

“Those teams had the best nurses. I just clicked with them,” she says. “That experience helped me cut through the noise and figure out that I wanted to be a nurse.”

With her sights set on nursing, Lioumis turned her attention to graduate school applications. It was an arduous process.

When the Center for Career Advancement asked if she’d be interested in connecting with an alumni mentor (see “Preparing for What’s Next,” P. 33), her answer was an easy yes. Soon after, Lioumis met **Edward McDevitt '73, P'01**, an orthopedic surgeon and team physician for the U.S. Naval Academy basketball teams.

“It can be a difficult path to pursue a career in medicine. It was only through the Bucknell network that I was able to accomplish what I’ve done and live a great life,” McDevitt says. “I’m always trying to help students like Nicole navigate a life in medicine.”

Lioumis and McDevitt hit it off immediately. They discovered a shared passion for athletics — Lioumis is catcher and third baseman for the Bison softball team. “We had weekly check-in calls where we could just catch up and talk through my applications to nursing school,” says Lioumis. “It was a really tough process because at one point, I was getting rejection after rejection, so I didn’t know how things would turn out.”

McDevitt offered perspective. He shared that he hadn’t been immediately accepted



Edward McDevitt '73, P'01 offered Nicole Lioumis '26 steady support and perspective.



to medical school after graduation. Instead, he spent a few years working at hospitals, an experience that only reaffirmed his path. McDevitt's athletics background, both as a Bucknell football player and a collegiate physician, also gave him insights that resonated with Lioumis.

"In sport, you have victories, and you have losses. That's a part of life, too," he says. "All you can do is keep moving forward and do the best you can."

That kind of advice proved critical for navigating a period of uncertainty. "His story was such a great inspiration," says Lioumis. "His positivity just radiated through the phone, and he was always in my corner, giving me assurance."

When Lioumis got accepted into Yale's Master of Science in Nursing program, McDevitt reached out to congratulate her.

"He said, 'See, I told you it would all work out.'" He was right.

"It can be a difficult path to pursue a career in medicine.

It was only through the Bucknell network that I was able to accomplish what I've done and live a great life."

— EDWARD MCDEVITT '73, P'01



Ed Robinson '86 helped Matt Karic '26 feel that Bucknell was a true home away from home.

THE FOUNT OF WISDOM

IT WAS VERY important for **Matt Karic '26** to find a college that felt like a home away from home, particularly because home itself was on the other side of the country in California's Bay Area. "That's what I really liked about Bucknell's small class sizes," says Karic, a finance major and Bucknell football player. "My family was far away, but I got the chance to connect with my professors and feel that support I needed."

Two of Karic's most impactful professors were **Frank Schreiner '83, P'14, P'19**, managerial practice, and Curtis Nicholls, accounting, who served as co-directors of the Student Managed Investment Fund (SMIF) until stepping down at the end of spring 2026. The two-semester experiential course allows students to manage a portion of Bucknell's endowment. "Frank and Curtis are some of the smartest guys I've met, and I was able to just pop into their office hours and pick their brains," he says. "SMIF was the most rewarding class I've ever taken."



PREPARING FOR WHAT'S NEXT

Bucknell faculty help students build strong academic foundations. Alumni can help them take the next step.

A partnership between the Center for Career Advancement (CCA) and the Bucknell University Alumni Association Board that's now entering its seventh year, the Alumni Association Board Mentor Program helps Bucknellians manage the big transition. "Bucknell has a powerful

network," says Emily Dietrich, co-interim executive director of the CCA. "This semester-long program pairs students with alumni or parent volunteers who can help guide them through any part of their journey, whether that means planning their career, preparing for interviews or making connections."

Participating mentors receive training and tools throughout the program to help students polish

resumes, craft applications and prepare for what's next. "The Alumni Association Board is very committed to expanding access to make sure that any student who has an interest is going to be matched with a mentor that meets their needs," says Dietrich.

The CCA is seeking alumni volunteers to serve as mentors for Bucknell juniors and seniors. Learn more at go.bucknell.edu/SupportBucknellians

Outside class, Karic found a second family in his fraternity, Phi Gamma Delta (FIJI), where, during the first semester of his sophomore year, he was introduced to **Ed Robinson '86**. "Ed is basically the backbone of our fraternity," says Karic. "He's the mentor, the leader and the guy who models how to be in the world."

Over the years, Robinson — who in 2025 received the North American Interfraternity Conference's prestigious Advisor Award of Distinction for his voluntary service as the principal adviser at FIJI — has mentored countless Bucknellians, including many in other Greek organizations and those not in Greek life. In Karic, he found another smart, ambitious student looking for guidance.

"Matt and I have a very competitive relationship, but he's 10 times smarter than I am and can run circles around me in most ways," says Robinson. "But what I can offer Matt as a mentor is my decades of accumulated wisdom, which I believe is one of the greatest gifts we can give back to young people."

For Karic, Robinson was equal parts advocate and guide, teacher and friend. "Ed really helped me navigate college life. It wasn't just classes and football — he taught me how to talk to people," says Karic. "He gave me the basics about life that you don't necessarily learn before coming into college."

Within the fraternity, Robinson was notorious for insisting that students meet and network with other alumni in person. "Whether we liked it or not, he taught us about human connection, forging strong relationships and how important it was to look someone in the eye and shake their hand," says Karic.

The art of the handshake would prove important in more ways than one. The summer before Karic's senior year, he secured an internship with Uber through the Center for Career Advancement's Handshake platform. That internship transformed into a full-time job in the company's leadership rotational program. "It's a two-year contract and every six months, I'll rotate as a financial analyst through different organizations within Uber," he says. "The goal is to get trained in becoming a leader."

Helping students line up careers after graduation is a great achievement for Robinson, but being a great mentor isn't just about tangible outcomes. "Life is full of transitions and uncertainties. College ends and kids graduate and jobs change," he says. "What's important for young people is to have deep, caring relationships with authentic role models who can help them figure out and pursue what's meaningful to them throughout all these changes."

THE MULTIGENERATIONAL MERCK CONNECTION

Maya Fetzter '26
(center) benefited
from the guidance of
Kristen Zuber Duffy
'99 (left) and Kasey
Piper '25 (right).

BEFORE SHE CAME to Bucknell, **Maya Fetzter '26** was already animated by a commitment to make the world a better place. The question that remained was how best to do that. “I was always good at science, but I didn’t know what to choose in terms of a career.” In theory, chemical engineering sounded interesting, but she wasn’t sure what the discipline entailed

that she apply to Merck,” says **Kasey Piper '25**, chemical engineering, Fetzter’s roommate whose own internship with the pharmaceutical company turned into a full-time job. Once Fetzter secured the internship, Piper helped her prepare for the rigors of a Merck tradition called Super Week, in which interns have the opportunity to apply to and interview for full-time positions. “I gave her tips on how to interview and told her what she could expect in different roles across various departments.”

When it came to choosing a path within the company, Fetzter had a lot of options to weigh. Luckily, she quickly found herself supported by a network of Bucknellians.

Kristen Zuber Duffy '99, executive director of global supply business development, helped Fetzter find her way through the different career tracks within Merck. “Maya reached out to me during the first week of her internship,” says Duffy, whose experience at Merck encompasses 25 years across manufacturing, supply chain, alliance management, business development and commercial sectors. “She wanted to know what opportunities were available to her, so I gave her a list of names that she could reach out to. That’s what I think being a mentor is really about — being able to share experiences and make connections so young people can forge their own path.”

Duffy connected Fetzter with **Rachel Brekovsky King '16**, who started at Merck after graduation and, in the 10 years since, has become a senior scientist and a hiring manager for the internship program. “Rachel guided me through what I could expect during the interviews and told me what I should read beforehand so I could better understand the technical information that each department uses,” says Fetzter.

Ultimately, Fetzter accepted a position as an associate scientist in the Technical Operations Rotational Program, where she’ll spend three years working across various parts of the vaccine manufacturing process.

“It was really helpful being able to connect with alumni at all different stages of their careers at Merck,” says Fetzter. “Because of them, I knew I was well-prepared and informed to make my own decision.”



“It was really helpful being able to connect with alumni at all different stages of their careers at Merck. Because of them, I knew I was well-prepared and informed to make my own decision.” — MAYA FETZTER '26

in practical terms. A visit to a Bucknell career fair — and a cohort of helpful alumni — helped her find her way toward a career at Merck.

“During my sophomore year, I ran into **Charlie Cameron '23** at the career fair. We had been on the Chem-E-Car Team together, so he asked for my resume,” says Fetzter, who was then offered a summer internship. She spent the summer working at a steel mill in New Jersey, where she realized that manufacturing deeply interested her. However, the extreme temperatures within the mill made for a less-than-ideal office environment. She wanted to work somewhere where she could change the world — but with air conditioning.

“When Maya started looking for internships as a junior, I recommended



A ROUTE TOWARD THE FUTURE

Cristian Cruz '26, a civil engineering major from Mohegan Lake, N.Y., has an ambitious vision for the future of transportation in the United States: a passenger rail network that connects communities across the country. "I've long been interested in how countries outside the United States are so well connected with public transportation and how it helps both the economy and the environment," says Cruz. "What really drew me to transit rail is that it's an equitable form of transportation for any community."

At Bucknell, Cruz pursued that interest through research projects ranging from roadside safety studies in Oregon to brownfield redevelopment work in Shamokin, Pa., building technical skills while exploring facets of civil engineering.

But it was when **Heather Riebeling '07** spoke to Cruz's class his sophomore year that he got a glimpse of the kind of career he'd been dreaming about.

"When I was a student, Bucknell's civil engineering department had an alumni

speakers series that was really helpful," says Riebeling, a transit project manager at AECOM, a global infrastructure and engineering firm. "I got my job at AECOM through an interview with **John Milius '94**, who remains a mentor to me. So when I was invited back to speak on a panel, I welcomed the chance to introduce students to careers in rail engineering and transportation."

After the panel, Cruz introduced himself. Though there were no internship opportunities at the time, the two agreed to stay in touch. When Cruz reached out to Riebeling again during his senior year, she connected him with AECOM's transit team in New York City.

"There were no openings on the website, but Heather shared my resume with a project manager, and a week later, I had an interview," Cruz says. "Bucknell had so many resources that I was able to take advantage of."

This summer Cruz joined AECOM's rail and transit team, helping design rail infrastructure and improve ADA accessibility at metro stations. It's a big step toward the career path he began shaping at Bucknell. ■

A conversation with Heather Riebeling '07 helped put Cristian Cruz '26 on the right career track.

Bucknell's Biggest Send-off

by MATT JONES

photography by EMILY LAMPARTER and JAMES T. GIFFEN

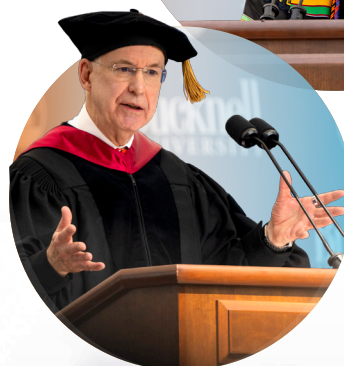
ON A BEAUTIFULLY WARM May afternoon on Malesardi Quadrangle, Bucknell University's 176th Commencement honored the largest graduating class — 995 graduates — in the institution's history.

The ceremony featured messages of purpose, resilience and gratitude from keynote speaker **Ken Freeman '72**, student speaker **Jawaad "KJ" Benson '26**, and President John Bravman.

Freeman, the namesake of the Freeman College of Management, encouraged graduates to define their values, trust their abilities and never underestimate the power of gratitude. Reflecting on his own Bucknell experience, he credited the University community with shaping his path from new graduate to global business leader.

Student speaker Benson, a biology major and Bucknell Community College Scholar from Philadelphia, highlighted the everyday moments that defined the Bucknell experience — late nights in Bertrand Library, friendships forged through challenge and lessons learned beyond the classroom.

In closing the ceremony, Bravman challenged graduates to embrace uncertainty, pursue meaningful work and "go and do difficult things" as Bucknellians. ■



Student speaker Jawaad "KJ" Benson '26 (above) and keynote speaker Ken Freeman '72 (left), joined President John Bravman (opposite page, top left) in addressing graduates.





Sinclair Stevens '26 (left) performed the national anthem while Katie Fitzgerald '26 (above) served as the American Sign Language interpreter.



'ray

BUCKNELL

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Members of the Class of 2026 gathered at Senior Sunset, a beloved pre-Commencement tradition, to share a celebratory champagne toast.

**photograph by
JAMES T. GIFFEN**



A Clear Path for Every Graduate



FAMILIES WHO CHOOSE BUCKNELL hold us to clear standards from day one. Foremost for many: Their student will graduate with a position in their chosen field or a graduate school acceptance, as well as the habits of mind and skills needed to thrive in new career directions — with ongoing support from the University even after they leave Lewisburg.

What has changed is the urgency behind that standard. A volatile economy, a rapidly shifting job market and the rise of artificial intelligence have fundamentally altered what career readiness means — and what families reasonably expect a university to provide in return for their investment.

At Bucknell, preparing students for lives of purpose, personal fulfillment and professional success has always been central to our mission. We are bringing to this endeavor a higher level of commitment — one that matches the moment and honors the trust families place in us. Career success must be embedded at every stage of the student experience, coordinated across every college and sustained long after graduation.

Our vision is straightforward: Every graduate lands with a clear path forward. Achieving that requires a coordinated effort across the University, centered on three priorities: readiness, experience and relationships.

“Readiness” means meeting students where they are, throughout their entire education. The Center for Career Advancement (CCA) will participate in New Student Orientation this fall, and a growing network of career hubs across all three colleges and Athletics will bring hands-on guidance closer to students. A new career readiness framework, built on competencies developed by the National Association of Colleges and Employers, will help students identify and articulate their skills so they can confidently communicate their value to employers and graduate programs.

A cornerstone of this work is our Career Search Accelerator Program. Piloted last winter in the Freeman College of Management, it pairs graduating seniors with dedicated professionals providing proactive, personalized coaching on job searches and career decisions. The results were immediate and compelling. This fall, the program will expand to the College of Arts & Sciences, with Athletics and the College of Engineering to follow.

“Experience” means giving students opportunities to test their interests, build skills and gain confidence before

graduation. Internships, microinternships and career research are central to that effort. We are exploring a new fund to support students pursuing low- and no-pay internships, to help ensure all students have access to these valuable opportunities.

“Relationships” means building the connections that help students land and grow. A new career concierge model will deepen the CCA’s partnerships with employers, strengthening pipelines to internships and full-time opportunities. Our Bison Helping Bison mentoring program will connect students with alumni and parents who know firsthand what a Bucknell education makes possible — and who are eager to help today’s students.

We are extending the CCA’s support of students for three months following Commencement to better serve graduates during this critical launch period. Afterward, advising seamlessly transitions to an alumni career specialist. We provide lifelong support for all graduates — whether they are pursuing a first opportunity, navigating a career change or adapting to new industries.

Bucknell’s greatest strengths have always been rigorous education, meaningful experiences and a community that opens doors long after graduation. We are investing in that combination with new intention and a clear goal: to fulfill our commitment to Bucknell families as we build a framework for career success that is a model for institutions across the country.

Join us in supporting student career success. Learn how to get involved at go.bucknell.edu/SupportBucknellians or contact career@bucknell.edu.

John C. Bravman, President

STAY INFORMED. STAY CONNECTED. 'RAY BUCKNELL!

Do



Kristen Zuber Duffy '99 (left) helped Maya Fetzer '26 navigate a path from an internship to a full-time position at Merck. Learn more on P. 28.

GIVE BACK

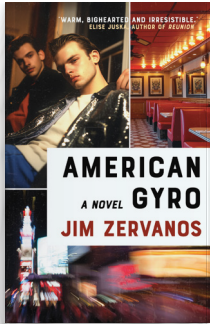
Take a Bucknellian Under Your Wing

Join the Bucknell University Alumni Association Board's Mentor Program

ONE OF THE greatest assets a Bucknellian has is our alumni network. It can shape a student's trajectory in meaningful ways. When alumni offer advice, lead mock interviews, host interns or provide job-shadowing opportunities, they help students turn classroom learning into real-world confidence.

Those moments don't just guide decisions; they spark connections and launch careers. Bucknell's Alumni Association Board is seeking mentors to support juniors and seniors as they explore job and internship opportunities. Consider volunteering to make a direct impact on the next generation.

Bucknell is recruiting mentors for the 2026–27 academic year. Sign up at go.bucknell.edu/SupportBucknellians by Aug. 15.



READ THIS

JIM ZERVANOS '92, M'95

American Gyro

This is a coming-of-age story about a young artist and actor searching for direction and purpose. More than 30 years in the making, the novel grew from work Zervanos began as part of his Bucknell master's

thesis in 1994 and is dedicated to Bucknell mentors — **Jack Wheatcroft '49**, Robert Taylor and Dennis Baumwoll, all professors of English — whose guidance shaped his creative life. (Vine Leaves Press, 2025)

FRANK MILES '78, P'09

Holistic Leadership: How to Weave Diversity, Equity, Inclusion & Belonging Principles into Your Organization's DNA

As co-author, Miles offers a practical guide to embedding diversity, equity, inclusion and belonging into the fabric of an organization. His perspective is shaped by decades of leadership experience. Miles spent 18

years in legal practice before serving as an executive with Hershey Entertainment & Resorts, where he elevated diversity efforts to the enterprise level. (Publish Your Purpose, 2025)

DEIRDRE O'CONNOR '85

Memorizing the Wind

O'Connor, writing & teaching consultant and director of Bucknell's Writing Center, has published her third poetry collection. Her previous books are *The Cupped Field*, which received the Able Muse Book Award, and *Before*

the Blue Hour, winner of the Cleveland State University Poetry Center Prize. O'Connor's new collection draws on traditional poetic forms to reflect contemporary life and everyday experience. (Terrapin Books, 2026)

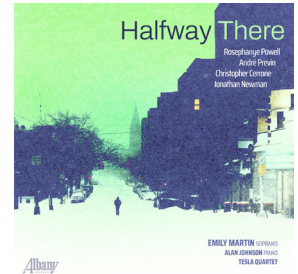
M.L. HEDISON '78

Poetry collections

Emerging poet Hedison explores absence, longing and her Armenian heritage. Her poems have appeared in *ONE ART*, *Right Hand Pointing* and *SWWIM*, with additional work forthcoming in *The Cimarron Review* and *CALYX*. With

mentorship from Pulitzer Prize-winning poet **Peter Balakian '73, P'10**, Hedison continues to refine her craft. In June, she attended the Colgate Writers Conference, where Balakian teaches. Follow her progress at mlhedisonpoetry.com

LISTEN TO THIS

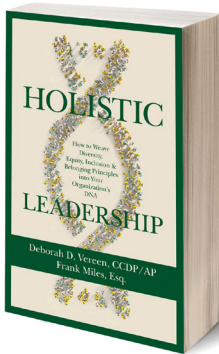


EMILY MARTIN, ELLEN P. WILLIAMS ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR IN MUSIC

Halfway There

In her second album on Albany Records, soprano and program designer Martin draws on a 30-year career spanning opera performance and interdisciplinary work. She curates a wide-ranging program that moves through German lieder to African American art song, modernist poetry settings and contemporary chamber music.

The collection features first recordings of works by Rosephanye Powell, André Previn, Christopher Cerrone and Jonathan Newman, alongside the world premiere of the title-track setting of poetry by *New York Times*-best-selling poet Kate Baer. Recorded at Oktaven Audio with pianist Alan Johnson and the Tesla Quartet, the album reflects Martin's long-standing commitment to collaborative, cross-disciplinary artistry and to expanding the ways vocal performance engages with contemporary creative life.



**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 bmazine@bucknell.edu

“*Old School*”

GEOFFREY SARGEANT '00

“

*How to
Pause
Learning
Naturally: Floods,
Squirrels
and Snow”*

LEILANI SHUGHART REEDER '03

“

Made From Concrete

It aptly conveys the focused intentionality, hard work and intense passion that characterized my Bucknell years.”

MORGAN THOMAS '23

CROWDSOURCED

*IF YOUR
COLLEGE
YEARS WERE A
MOVIE, WHAT
WOULD THE
TITLE BE?*

**“ANIMAL
HOUSE:
DOUBLE
SECRET
PROBATION”**

ROBERT MEHLER '83

“

*Avenge
of the
Nerds”*

MICHELLE PAYNE '02

“We’re Gonna Party Like It’s 1999”

CAROLYN YANKOWSKI KLIMTZAK '00

ANSWER THIS

If your Bucknell major had a warning label, what would it say?

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)



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

CAPTION CONTEST

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

BMAGAZINE@BUCKNELL.EDU

SUBMIT A PHOTO

Have a vintage Bucknell
image that deserves captioning?
Send high-resolution
images to
bmagazine@bucknell.edu
for consideration.

WITTY WINNERS

Here are our favorite caption submissions from the spring issue:

"TELL ME, ARE YOU THAT TED LASSO EVERYONE IS TALKING ABOUT?"

— Gabe Murtaugh '05

"That sinking moment when Ted sensed his suave banter and charming smile weren't getting him into the Umbrella Club."

— Megan Bonsall Jacobs '90

"When your parents come to Bucknell Family Weekend and start making friends faster than you."

— Caitlin Konicky Cekada '00

"WHY, I DO THINK WE COULD SQUEEZE ONE MORE UNDER MY ITTY BITTY UMBRELLA."

— Ellen Morris Heath '71

"NO UMBRELLA NEEDED, BETTY. THIS BISON WEARS AQUA NET."

— Paul Marin '90



The Story Behind the Image

Seeing a photo of me holding an umbrella from 1980 in the Spring 2026 issue was a surprise that brought back fond memories. It reminded me of my sister's graduation (Lynn Iacona Goidell '80), which I attended with my husband — then my fiancé — Edward Peyser P'11, who was a member of Dickinson College's Class of 1981. In the photo, he is seated to my right. Also in the photo is my mother, who enjoyed many visits to Bucknell as well. Edward passed away in 2007, and I cherish memories of our time together. Seeing that image again meant so much to me. Thank you for reminding me of such wonderful times and treasured memories.

— Diane Iacona Peyser '81, P'11



MARK YOUR CALENDAR

Family Weekend, Sept. 18–20

Join your student on campus, experience their Bucknell world firsthand and make memories together all weekend long.

View the schedule and register at go.bucknell.edu/FamilyWeekend

Help Shape Bucknell's Future

Nominate a Bucknellian to serve on the Alumni Association Board and strengthen the connection between alumni, students and the University.

Learn more at bucknell.edu/BUAA

WRITE TO US

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

BUCKNELL HOMECOMING, OCT. 16–18



Rally your crew and come home for Bucknell's signature fall weekend. Learn more at go.bucknell.edu/Homecoming



Rebuilding Lives After Loss

by ERIC BUTTERMAN



Helping people navigate life's most difficult transitions has defined **Dimitri "Jim" Kales '89's** career. Since 2022, he has led the Braille Institute of America, one of the world's foremost organizations supporting people experiencing vision loss — a challenge that reshapes far more than sight.

"There's the fundamental part of vision loss, but also the emotional reality," he says. "What's important is that we have people within our organization who have been there, and we understand you may feel alone. We help in areas such as learning accessible technology, what employment might look like now and how to navigate the day-to-day — but we also lend an ear."

The Los Angeles-based institute has about 200 team members and mobilizes 10 times as many volunteers. Beyond essential services like Braille instruction and independent living support, the organization also offers programs that enrich daily life, including in-person and online courses in everything from karate to cooking.

Kales previously served in Chicago as CEO of Aspire, one of the region's most innovative organizations providing housing, employment and life-skills support for people with developmental disabilities.

"We were always encouraged at Bucknell to look at the world around us," says Kales, who double-majored in economics and history. "I co-founded



Students Against Apartheid to protest racial injustice in South Africa. It helped spark me to focus on leading in ways that can help others."

In his current role, he's helping expand the organization's Braille Challenge, an international Braille literacy contest for blind and visually impaired students. This year, the challenge will grow to serve students in Kenya, India and Costa Rica. Another upcoming initiative will help seniors with low vision, a population of about 7 million in the United States.

"We're launching a national website that will offer free support and services across all 50 states, including peer support, online learning and coping skills," he says. "Many seniors already face physical decline. Add vision decline, and it can be that much more distressing. This initiative is powered 100% by donors."

Kales embodies the lifelong learning that Bucknell instilled in him. Already fluent in English, French, Spanish and modern Greek, he's currently working on Mandarin. "Bucknell's liberal arts education helps you stay curious," he says. "That's why I didn't feel graduating from Bucknell was an end, but a continuation. There is always so much more to learn."



Under the leadership of Dimitri "Jim" Kales '89, the Braille Challenge provides opportunities for blind and visually impaired students, including Anne Lin.

Consciously Crafting a Career

by SARAH DOWNEY '25

→ If Katharine “Cricket” Treanor '18 could offer one piece of advice to younger Bucknellians, it would be this: Find a company whose values align with your own. That philosophy launched her career at Patagonia.

Drawn to the company's commitment to environmental responsibility, she started as a sales associate at a Cambridge, Mass., store and worked her way to an affiliate marketing manager role at the company's headquarters in Ventura, Calif. In her current position, she cultivates relationships with brand-aligned partners.

For Treanor, that alignment meant finding work that reflects her passions for sustainability and smart systems — interests shaped by her classes in environmental studies and economics at Bucknell.

“Patagonia is thoughtful about the fabrics we use, how we source materials and the labor that goes into our products,” she says. “Ultimately, we create products with as small a footprint as possible.”

Guided by Patagonia's mission, “In business to save our home planet,” Treanor sees her work as contributing to the company's broader environmental goals. “I get to use both of my majors in my job,” she says. “I get to think about why people make decisions and how they can become more aware of environmental issues and take action.”



◀ Katharine “Cricket” Treanor '18 followed her values to Patagonia, where she's building a meaningful career that blends environmental advocacy with business strategy.

▶ Jasmine Niernberger '11 turned a personal home renovation project into a new professional path.



Building Something New

by KATIE NEITZ

→ It started as a side project: one home renovation, then another, then a third. For Jasmine Niernberger '11, what began as a curiosity about her own house slowly became a second career.

Niernberger is owner and partner of Brightwood Design+Build, a real estate development and construction company based in Washington, D.C. She works with homeowners, commercial clients and development partners to create spaces that are both beautiful and functional, helping clients envision not just what a space can be, but how it can support their lives for years to come.

After graduating from Bucknell with a degree in English and sociology, Niernberger spent a decade in strategy consulting, first at Deloitte and later as an user-experience consultant. She helped organizations — from federal agencies to pharmaceutical companies — think about long-term goals.

The seeds of her current career were planted when she purchased her first home and caught what she calls “the renovation bug.” What began as a side hustle evolved into a three-year side business. Then came an opportunity to oversee a high-pressure restaurant renovation in D.C. Completing the project successfully convinced her it was time to make the leap into a full-time construction role.

Whether she is helping a family reimagine a century-old row house, balancing budget constraints with design goals or managing the complexities of a large construction project, she draws on the analytical thinking and communication skills she developed at Bucknell.

While the work may seem worlds away from studying literature and sociology, the connection is clear to Niernberger. “At the heart of what I do is problem-solving,” she says. “And I developed that problem-solving mindset at Bucknell.”



As a software developer at Microsoft, Gia Hayes '20 helps power a platform millions rely on everyday.

Leading the Team Behind Teams

by SARAH DOWNEY '25

→ Millions of people rely on Microsoft Teams for work and personal use — a reality **Gia Hayes '20** helps make possible. As a software developer at Microsoft, she led the transition from the Skype platform to Teams in 2025, ensuring a seamless shift for users.

Hayes discovered her passion for computer science during a Bucknell class. “I called my mom and said, ‘I love this — this is what I want to do,’ ” she says.

Hayes launched her career as an Android developer at J.P. Morgan before joining Microsoft. She also co-founded the iOS app iEatz Healthy, which helps users build nutritious meals from pantry staples.

During the COVID-19 pandemic, when students were struggling with online learning, Hayes launched GiaWia’s Math Hub, an online educational initiative designed to enhance math proficiency and confidence in mathematics. Drawing on her experience as a peer tutor and study group facilitator at Bucknell, she helped students navigate a difficult period.

Today, she provides early-career mentorship through her business and helps aspiring tech professionals gain exposure to AI and develop practical skills for internships and careers.

“At Bucknell, I wanted to get the fullest experience possible, which taught me to balance multiple responsibilities,” says Hayes, who was also a member of the Bison women’s basketball team. “I’ve learned that putting even a little bit of effort toward anything goes a long way. It helps me believe that nothing is out of reach — that I can be more than one thing in my career.”

At Stanford, Philip Onffroy '22 researches sustainable materials, building on lab work he did at Bucknell.



Science Meets Sustainability

by KATIE NEITZ

→ As a Bucknell rower, **Philip Onffroy '22** spent long stretches on the water — time that gave him a sense of calm. But seeing pollution invade that landscape left a lasting impression and inspired his determination to develop environmental solutions.

He was drawn to chemical engineering at Bucknell for its combination of fundamental science and real-world impact. A first-year seminar focused on philosophy broadened his thinking about scientific problems. He ended up adding a philosophy minor, which he credits with sharpening his ability to communicate complex ideas and to consider the human side of technical work.

“I realized I really liked thinking about how people think,” he says. “That understanding helps me explain science in a way that people can actually connect with.”

That combination of technical expertise and human-centered thinking has shaped his research. At Stanford University, he has worked on recyclable plastics and polymer-derived 3D carbon materials for advanced battery and fusion energy applications.

His research career began at Bucknell in Professor Kat Wakabayashi's chemical engineering lab, where he joined one of Wakabayashi's projects and then developed an independent research project on bio-based foam alternatives to conventional Styrofoam. Those experiences helped him earn a Goldwater Scholarship, a National Science Foundation Graduate Research Fellowship and a Knight-Hennessy Scholarship.

Now in the fourth year of his doctoral program in chemical engineering at Stanford, Onffroy develops materials that support more sustainable systems. His research has included recyclable plastics for light-based 3D printing and 3D carbon materials used as electrodes in batteries and fuel capsules for nuclear fusion.

His current focus is on exploring entrepreneurial possibilities. He is currently participating in incubator and accelerator programs that connect him with venture capital investors and industry advisers who are helping him evaluate the techno-economic feasibility of his work outside the lab.

"It's been interesting to think not just about whether something works scientifically, but whether it actually works economically and at scale," he says. "That's a different kind of challenge, but an important one."

"I REALIZED I REALLY LIKED THINKING ABOUT HOW PEOPLE THINK. THAT UNDERSTANDING HELPS ME EXPLAIN SCIENCE IN A WAY THAT PEOPLE CAN ACTUALLY CONNECT WITH."

Philip Onffroy '22

Both Sides of the Scale

by KATIE NEITZ



If **Vivian Kuang '25** had a defining habit, it's saying yes. That mindset helped form a Bucknell experience shaped by curiosity and adventure. She studied abroad in Sydney and interned in Singapore through Bucknell's Management in Asia-Pacific program. She explored Amsterdam through an arts-immersion course. It also led her somewhere a little more unexpected: inside Bucky the Bison's mascot costume.

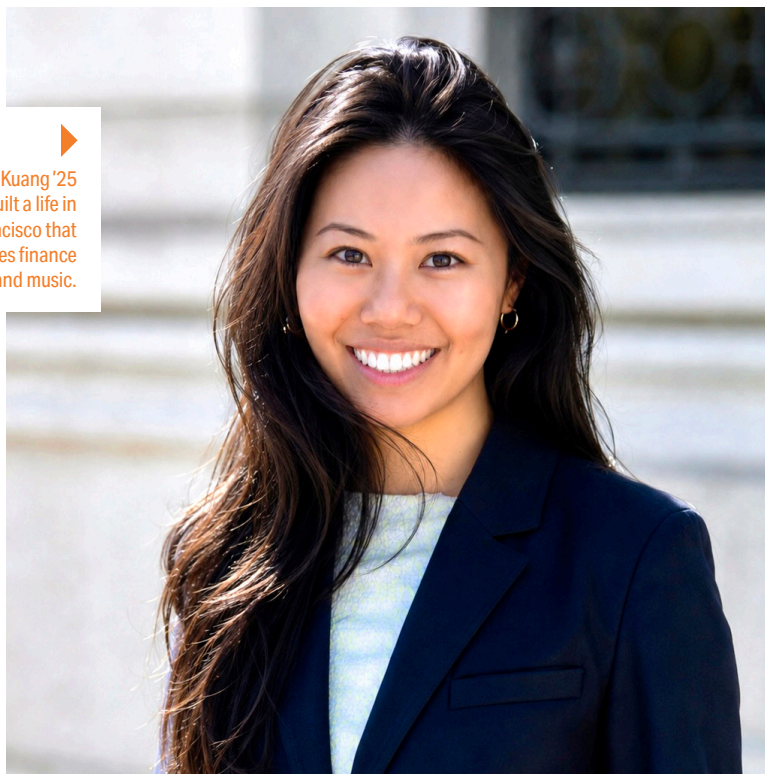
Today, she brings her unique global perspective and her ability to adapt to new environments to San Francisco, where she joined Silicon Valley Bank, a division of First Citizens Bank. She first learned about the opportunity through **Nicole Mortati Chang '86**, whose connection helped open the door for Kuang before graduation.

Outside her corporate life, Kuang has built a thriving career as a concert pianist, performing at weddings, galas, corporate events and private celebrations throughout the Bay Area. "I joke that I live a double life," she says. "By day I'm analyzing financial statements and assessing credit risk, and by night, I'm playing Disney soundtracks for brides walking down the aisle."

Looking back, Kuang credits Bucknell for giving her the confidence to pursue both paths.

"I never felt like I had to choose between business and music," she says. "Bucknell showed me that you don't have to fit in one box — you can build a career that's entirely your own."

Vivian Kuang '25 has built a life in San Francisco that bridges finance and music.





Where Bison Belong

photography by JAMES T. GIFFEN
and GORDON R. WENZEL

Bucknell welcomed more than 1,900 alumni and their families back to campus for Reunion Weekend 2026, Friday, May 29, through Sunday, May 31.

The weekend honored classes ending in 1 and 6, with special recognition for the Class of 1976 and its 50th reunion. Bucknellians participated in class gatherings, educational sessions, campus tours, recreational opportunities and family-friendly activities, and the presentation of the Bucknell University Alumni Association Awards. This year's honorees were: Loyalty to Bucknell Award: **Barbara L. Gasper '76**; Outstanding Achievement in a Chosen Profession Award: **Christine Peterjohn Richards '76**; Service to Humanity Award: **Judge John C. Uhler (Ret.) '66**; Young Alumni Award: **Richie Hyden '11**

Special Reunion honors went to the The Class of 1991 (Reunion Class Gift Award), the Class of 1976 (Class Unity Award), and the Class of 2011 (President's Award by reaching 15.47% of total class giving participation).





The 50th Reunion Procession is a cherished tradition that brings generations together to celebrate the 50th anniversary class.



Alumni enjoyed live entertainment at Saturday night's Tent Party.



The Bucknell Black Alumni Association held a reception at the 7th Street House as part of Reunion festivities.



Class Notes

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

1953

Max Van Buskirk, who died Dec. 26, grew up in Lewisburg and biked to college. He was an avid outdoorsman, veterinarian and singer. In his early years, he learned to hunt, fish and trap. He received his degree in veterinary medicine from the University of Pennsylvania and returned to build and then own Lewisburg Veterinary Hospital, treating large and small animals. As an able and curious surgeon, Max used state-of-the-art procedures to care for his sick or disabled patients. In 1965, he traveled with a group of veterinarians on a People-to-People tour to Europe and the U.S.S.R. Active in both national and state associations, in 1980, he was appointed the director of the Bureau of Animal Industry for Pennsylvania, a position he held for 17 years. He successfully addressed avian influenza in the 1980s as co-director of a state-federal task force, earning him recognition as the Pennsylvania Veterinary Medical Association Veterinarian of the Year. He served on

the U.S. Department of Agriculture Secretary's Advisory Committee on Foreign Animal Diseases.

Through the years, Max was an enthusiastic singer in a barbershop quartet and lent his voice to church choirs. He also spent many hours planting trees, preserving land and developing hiking trails. Max acquired a piece of property west of Lewisburg and, over the years, built a place where four generations have come to enjoy the outdoors.

His wife, **Mary Jane Webber Van Buskirk**, whom he'd known since high school after alphabetical seating paired them, predeceased him after 68 years of marriage. He is survived by five children, including **Peter '78**, and 15 grandchildren, including **Kyle '09** and **Ethan '13**.

Maurice Mufson, a clinician, researcher and teacher, died Feb. 28. After graduating from NYU School of Medicine, he served as a lieutenant in the Navy and as a clinician and researcher at Camp Lejeune and Parris Island. Maury was employed for four years at the National

Institutes of Health, where he met his wife, Deedee, to whom he was married for 63 years. For 11 years, Maury was at the University of Illinois College of Medicine, where he became a full professor. In 1976, he was named the founding chair and professor of the Marshall University School of Medicine [now the Joan C. Edwards School of Medicine] in Huntington, W.Va. After becoming chair emeritus in 2002, he continued teaching and conducting research until age 85. He authored over 220 peer-reviewed articles and book chapters, with his research focusing on viral and bacterial vaccines, especially influenza and pneumococcal diseases.

During one of his sabbatical years, he was a visiting scientist in the virology department of the Karolinska Institutet in Stockholm. Maury's love of travel and science included visits to 45 countries, many of which were to deliver scientific papers and attend symposia. He received numerous awards not only in his field but also in the Huntington community, where he was an enthusiastic supporter of the Huntington Symphony Orchestra, serving on its board as president twice. As an arts supporter, he also served on the board of the Huntington Museum of Art. His photography was displayed at museums across the country and won numerous awards. At

the beginning of his career at Camp Lejeune, he created magnificent mahogany furniture that was still in his home. He was also known for his love of tennis. Maury is survived by his wife, three children and five grandchildren.

— *Christine Hill Killough and John Manbeck*

1955

Ken Langone '57 writes, "More and more I reflect on my years at Bucknell. I clearly remember my Sigma Chi football men, the late **Art Kinney '56**, the late **Marion Minker**, the late **Jack Flurer** and **Bobby Sierer '56** — all great guys." — *Eleanor Mackie Pigman*

1957

As noted in the spring Class Notes, I've been working on a memoir. Once a week in my freshman year, I wrote a letter home, and my mother saved the letters. They have provided material for an early chapter, titled "ray Bucknell." Here are some excerpts:

"My parents helped me move into my room in the freshman girls' dormitory, Larison Hall. I meet **Jan [Hobart Josselyn '55]**, my hall counselor, who's going to help us get settled in. There are 12 of us in our hall group, and Jan suggests we should have a name. We settle on Crackpot Corners. This is not my idea.

"Jan gives us each a

piece of cardboard on which to print our name and hometown and wear on a string around our neck wherever we go through orientation week. We each get a dink — a beanie in Bucknell's school colors, orange and blue — to be worn straight, front to back, two inches above the eyebrows. Whenever we encounter an upperclassman, we're to call out, 'Go Bison! 'ray Bucknell!'

"Then she teaches us the 'Fight Song,' which goes like this: "'ray Bucknell! 'ray Bucknell! 'ray for the Orange and the Blue!' We're expected to learn the alma mater, too.

"Jan explains the rules for women students: freshmen must be in the dorm by 10 p.m. Sunday through Thursday, 12:30 a.m. Friday and Saturday. There's a phone on each floor, calls allowed only during certain hours, and we take turns answering. (None of the calls are for me, though, unless it's my mother.) No Bermuda shorts, except under certain circumstances. No smoking outside the dorms. The rules apply only to women. The men can do whatever they want.

"I don't care about the smoking rule because I don't smoke. **Carole [Bates Carstater]** suggests that I should learn, 'Because if you're holding a cigarette, with your arms folded like this' — cigarette in right hand, left hand supporting right elbow — 'a boy won't

make a pass at you.' I don't think a boy making a pass would be such a bad thing.

"Anne [Troutman Hayes] and Peggy [Kelly Krafft] are giving smoking lessons and invite me to join them in their room across the hall. I see a couple of smoking students stagger out of their room and rush to the bathroom to barf, and that settles it for me.

"Sept. 21, 1953: I'm registered for courses in world literature, history, French, sociology and geography. I put on my girdle and fur collar, and go to the Frosh party.

"October: I go to a meeting of the campus radio station, WVBU, pronounced VooBoo, and volunteer to do a morning show once a week, Jam for Breakfast. I have to be at the studio by 6:30 and go on the air at 7.

"I meet boys, but then I don't hear from them. On Homecoming Weekend, when almost everybody has a date for the game (Go Bison!) and the fraternity parties afterward, my father drives an hour from home and takes me out for dinner with two crackpots whose boyfriends attend other schools.

"In December, I finally have a date! His name is **Bill Brown '55**. We go to see a Charlie Chaplin movie at the Hilltop, and afterward, we walk all the way to the Owl, a bar on the other side of the

river, and drink whiskey sours and dance and talk. He's a riot! I have the best time since I got here!

"My mid-term grades are not what I expected: low grades in history and sociology, but an A on the lit exam.

"January 1954: Second semester starts after Christmas break. Finals are over, classes have started and sorority rushing is on. You must have a 1.0 average for rushing, 1.9 for unlimited 11 o'clocks and weekends. I'm really interested in KKG, but the Kappas are very popular and I don't know how good my chances are with them.

"Bill invites me to his fraternity house for Sunday dinner. I have a good time, but I don't like some of his fraternity brothers, and they obviously don't go for my type either."

That's all we have space for. Now it's your turn.
— Carolyn "Callie" Meyer

1958

No news from my fellow 1958 grads. We are getting rather old — this year, the lucky ones will be 90. Others, including me, will only reach 89. Blessings to all of us who have lived this wonderful, long life.

Although I have not heard from you, I am grateful to receive Christmas cards and emails from **Cathy Hoffman Doremus, Bill Scott, Merle Holden**

Winstead, Elaine Longenecker Wilson, Wilma Rilling Stahura '59, Charlotte Gentry Sisler '59 and Kay Brinkley Nelson '59.

My travel schedule is slowing down, but I made my first trip of the year a Gulf Coast cruise. Ports of call were Pensacola, Fla.; Mobile, Ala.; Biloxi, Miss.; Ocean Springs, Miss.; and Gulfport, Miss., with a final stop in New Orleans. My heartfelt visit to the National World War II Museum in New Orleans was my highlight. With a most helpful senior director of programs, I was able to retrieve information about my uncle, First Lt. Phillip P. Bayer, who posthumously received the Silver Star in the Pacific Theater. He joined the Marine Corps in 1942 and died in 1944. When I was a young girl, he was a favorite uncle who propped me on his shoulders and played with my late sister, **Violet Bayer Riegel '56**, and me. It was a most emotional disclosure, but I am so grateful to have learned more about him. Looking for some entries from y'all. — *Roberta Bayer Schlacks*

1963

Paulette Dutkus Forssen died at her home in Kennebunk, Maine, March 11. She is survived by husband John, daughter Erica and son-in-law Edward Wines. She met her husband while in

graduate school at the University of New Hampshire, and they married in 1965.

They lived briefly at Fort Riley, Kan., before John went to Vietnam and Paulette returned to New Jersey to be with her parents. Subsequent moves took them to Connecticut, Pennsylvania and Wisconsin, where daughter Erica was born.

Paulette was with the career services office at Penn State before they moved to northern Virginia and she took a year off to enthusiastically expose Erica to the cultural offerings of the D.C. area. Paulette enjoyed her career as a psychologist, then as a high school guidance counselor, from which she retired, but not before taking a sabbatical year in Austria. The couple moved to Maine, where they remained. She kept in close contact with her high school friends, who visited her often in Maine and gathered many and varied friends along the way. In retirement, Paulette enjoyed craft projects, community groups and writing. A celebration of her life was held in April.

— Penny West Suritz

1965

Jim Dusenbury '66 keeps up with his SAE brothers from our class and sent them an article from *Medical News Today*, "Expert Birders Have Younger Brains: How

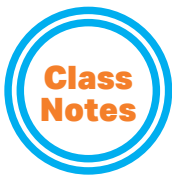
Expertise May Protect Brain Health." While several brothers appreciated this, one, who shall remain anonymous, called Jim a "bird brain." Sixty years after graduation, some frat boys will still be frat boys.

On a more elevated level, **Jean Hammond Zimmerman** remembered when I wrote that **Don Watts** never received his yearbook. She was kind enough to send one to me so I could pass it along to Don.

After Bucknell, Jean went to Rutgers and earned what was then called a master's in library service. She worked for 38 years as a school librarian in South River, N.J. She married Joe Zimmerman, and they adopted two boys from Korea in 1980. Joe died in 2011, but their sons live nearby with their families.

After retirement, Jean has enjoyed traveling and volunteering in an animal adoption group and at a food pantry. "Time has taken its toll on our DZ Zoom group, but I'm still in touch with **Mary Brecht McGready, Barb Stell Hatheway and Pat Priestner McKeon.**"

By the way, Don was surprised and happy to receive the yearbook. He's still running his company, Mentor Dynamics (which makes liners for cargo vessels, among other things), but reports it's "been a difficult year — first with the tariffs and now



surcharges on some raw materials due to supply issues due to the war, but we go on.” — *Jacqueline Horner Plumez*

1966

Two dozen interested Bucknell alumni came together in Naples, Fla., for an afternoon of connection and conversation with Joseph Tranquillo, [former] Bucknell associate provost for transformative teaching & learning and professor of biomedical engineering. Joe spoke of

current-day Bucknell, how the school dealt with COVID-19 and new styles of learning in play, all with an infectious enthusiasm. The event was held at the Bellasera Hotel and included **Toby Decker '65**, **Sheldon “Buz” Jones '64**, **Karen Abel Jones '64**, **Michael Moore '64**, **Jeff Nemerov '64**, **Linda Lawrence Nuttall '69**, **Bob Poliner '64**, **Flossie Graber Watt**, **Jackie Pearson Weidenfeller** and **John Willett '68**. Some of the group continued the fun with dinner at Michael’s famed Turtle Club on the

beach, now up and running following its devastation by Hurricane Ian several years ago.

My Tri Delt big sister, **Karen Horner Wolford '65**, in Parkland, Fla., with husband **Jack '65**, wrote to say that they have traveled the country along with daughter **Kary Wolford Benedetto '02** and her family to visit son **Shane '96** and his family in California. They also see their only non-Bison Chip child, Molly, and her family frequently. Each of these siblings has three children, giving Karen and

Jack a total of nine grandchildren to enjoy.

A new leadership program for Bucknell students is winning support by fostering the development of critical thinking skills and offering new opportunities for viewpoint diversity. This initiative invites students to come together to learn about principles of leadership and to discuss controversial issues thoughtfully and courteously. Students also have the chance to meet notable leaders across society, from business, politics and the military to education, entertainment, sports and religion. The rigorous program has been an overwhelming success and has led, with the help of supportive alumni, to establishing a 501(c)(3) organization called the Open Discourse Coalition (ODC). This initiative is putting Bucknell at the forefront of a nationwide movement, enabling and encouraging students to listen, learn and then discuss and debate in a culture of civility. ODC’s positive vision and growing student support and national recognition are persuading more alumni to come on board to help promote it. We were excited that our own

Ben Elliott was invited to speak to ODC about his time as President Ronald Reagan’s head speechwriter during the early 1980s. He shared stories with his student audience about the shaping of

Reagan’s character and beliefs, his personality and what it was like to know him and work for him. **Alan Walker**, a dedicated ODC ambassador, and a healthy number of FIJIs have provided donations, and others of us are joining in as well. You’re all encouraged to get on the bandwagon and become a part of this exciting success story. Please consider visiting OpenDiscourseCoalition.org to learn more, and then share in the opportunity to contribute to the very worthy cause of promoting our alma mater and benefiting its talented students and community.

It’s too late to remind you that our 60th Reunion at Bucknell is coming because by the time you read this, June will have passed. We hope that if you did return to Bucknell, you had fun reminiscing as “memories fond [came] trooping by” and that you will write to tell us what you think of the school now, with its many new buildings and course offerings, who you were surprised to see again and what’s next on your agenda.

— *Jackie Pearson Weidenfeller*

1967

Several months ago, my notes featured **Natalie Smith Grabow**. I try not to repeat my classmate mini-bios too closely together. However, she told me at that time that

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she'd become a triathlon star (my words, not hers). So, I had to know how she did in the Ironman World Championship in Hawaii, which took place in October. She responded to my voicemail that she had indeed completed the race again and has the distinction of becoming the oldest woman to finish that grueling event. Her time was 16 hours and 45 minutes, which causes me to marvel at how anyone can compete at near-maximum effort for that long. Since then, she's been on TV shows, podcasts, etc., and was on the cover of the Spring 2026 issue of *Bucknell Magazine*. I am fully in awe of her accomplishments.

Debbie Swackhamer Hayden in Marin County, Calif., had a book, *Pox: Genius, Madness, and The Mysteries of Syphilis*, published by Basic Books. She is not medically trained but made up for that with intense research. She also founded a direct funding site for nonprofits called Pacific Lists. She stays in contact with Taylor House friends **Diane LeBold** and **Gwenn Knapp**, whom she lauds as an outstanding artist. She also kept in touch with philosophy professor Joe Fell until his death in 2017.

After speaking to Debbie, I was motivated to interview Gwenn, who told me that her life since Bucknell has been in three phases: 1. She went

to art school in New York, became a graphic designer and moved to West Chester, Pa., with her three children and continued to do graphic design. 2. An acquaintance approached her in the early 2000s about becoming a magisterial district judge in her hometown, which is an elective position. She agreed to try that and was elected twice, serving 12 years. She was uncertain at first but wound up loving the work and the experience. 3. Upon retiring from the magisterial career, she took up painting, which has always been a passion. She loves to paint people and pets especially and did a portrait of Joe Fell, which may be her favorite. Her work is available at GwennKnapp.com or via studio@gwennknapp.com.

Mark Hobzek attended graduate school at Michigan State and then worked for Mobil Oil and North American Van Lines. He ended his career with a printing franchise and said he's been more successful at retirement than I am, having been doing (is that the word for retirement?) that longer. He enjoys golf, travel and his family. He kept in touch with some of his Bucknell friends until their deaths and still communicates with **Joel Galvin**. Mark lives in Ohio and has returned to Bucknell twice.

Leslie Horn Hayashi

went to New York City after graduation, but being the victim of purse-snatching, decided that she needed to go elsewhere. She had a friend in Honolulu who found a job for her, and she's lived in Honolulu ever since. She met her husband there and worked in an ad agency as a writer until retirement, which was eight years ago. The couple has no children or other close family, so they have graciously endowed a scholarship at Bucknell in honor of her good friends, **John and Karen Wunderlin Savage**, both of whom have passed away. She also has some contact with **Jo Strade Kittredge**, **Doug White** and **Ann McCrea**. — *Chuck Gilliland*

1968

Several Theta Chi brothers attended a virtual remembrance for brother **Bob Doten '69**, who was killed in Vietnam Jan. 4, 1971, leaving a wife and young son. Those fondly remembering Bob included myself, **Dan Lupfer '69**, **Jim Reese '69**, **Mike "Schabby" Brennan '69**, **Ed Fagan**, **Lenny Reich '69**, **Bob Bartunek**, **Walt MacEachern '72**, **Bob Martuza '69** and **Brandt Rising '69**.

Marilyn Olson Parks plans to attend a joint 80th birthday celebration in New Orleans with several classmates: **Alice Woltz Durkin** (Vermont), **Arlene Adams Manning** (Massachusetts), **Judy**

Kerr Ellis (Pennsylvania), **Judy Pitts Griffiths** (New Jersey), **Kay Glazier Turner** (New York), **Linda Goodwin Powell** (Washington) and **Roberta Carraine Glaser** (New Mexico). Marilyn and husband **Bob '66, M'73** planned to attend his 60th Reunion this year.

I was saddened to learn that Jim's wife, Linda Kelley, died in February. She and Jim were great hosts to Louise and me when we attended several JazzFest events in New Orleans.

I've managed to stay in touch with **Lynne Huntsberger Killheffer**, **Patti Burke Kuhn**, **Brenda Crouthamel Adams**, **Shelley Weisberg**, **Bill Jackson**, **Stephen Yeatman**, **Bob Brush**, **John Buck '70** and **David Deysher**. — *George Vince*

1969

Hello, is there anybody out there? — *Peter E. D'Orsi*

1971

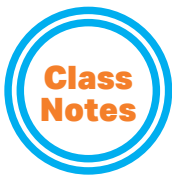
Ron Mertz was pulled in by class reporter **Lou Kissling's** Class Notes message: "I was about at the end of my wits asking classmates to submit updates," so he has sent in his updated bio. He wins the \$250 award for helping out your class reporter. Check to be sent soon ... maybe.

Ron writes, "While at Bucknell, I played on the soccer team in my freshman year — with Lou — but was not a strong

enough physical athlete. I found out that Bucknell had an intercollegiate rifle team, so I joined that squad.

"I graduated from Bucknell as a chemical engineer with my first job in the U.S. Public Health Service (USPHS) in Cincinnati. I was trained as an industrial hygienist in the newly created [Occupational Safety and Health Administration]. I married Lois 'Joy' Reaser in 1972. After a two-year stint with USPHS, I took a job at a Rohm and Haas plant in northeast Philadelphia in 1973. I worked as a semi-works engineer for the scale-up of new products to full-scale manufacturing equipment. Joy and I decided we wanted to raise our family in a rural area, so in 1977, I got a job at the Merck manufacturing plant in Danville, Pa. That was the pharmaceutical plant that our chemical engineering class toured during my senior year, and I thought, 'I wouldn't want to work at this place!' I ended up working there for 27 years — oh, the twists and turns in life.

"I started as an operations engineer with the manufacturing processes and ended up as the utilities manager of the facility. I discovered that I loved the world of industrial utilities operations and project management, including electrical distribution, HVAC/refrigeration, water supply and waste treatment systems. In



2004, I 'early retired' from Merck and got a less stressful job as a ministry coordinator at a church. That did not work out, so in 2007, I was hired as the facilities manager at the Weis Markets distribution center in Milton, Pa. That got me back into the industrial utilities world, which I enjoyed. I retired from Weis in March 2020.

"Joy and I enjoy having our son and our daughter living nearby and our 12 grandkids from ages 1 to 18. They have kept me busy. We have lived in Northumberland, Pa., for over 40 years — just 10 minutes from beautiful Bucknell.

"Regarding classmates: I often wonder whatever happened to my very first roommate (in Trax Hall), **Chris Thacher**? And what about my Chem E friends, with memories of working with slide rules and Mollier diagrams? If any of you want to reconnect, my email is ronamertz@ptd.net."

More news from me: Bucknell's first-ever NCAA men's lacrosse team (1969) continued its annual golf reunion in La Quinta, Calif. Participants included co-captains of the first three teams at Bucknell, **Ed Farver '69** and **Jim McKee '69**, plus the next year's co-captain, **Jim Morris '70**, and me. Normally, coach Sid Jamieson is on the trip, but he was taking a sabbatical this year. All-Americans Ed and Jim McKee led the team to a 10-1 record in '69, while Jim Morris and I both

started on the team and garnered All-League honors.

While my memory of these golf trips is fading (like all our golf games), this could be at least our 20th consecutive year of this reunion. Jim Morris provides the condo, Ed the wine (the good stuff from his days at Kendall-Jackson), and Jim McKee, Sid and I the stories. We all feel very, very blessed to have kept up our Bucknell relationships (if not our golf games) for over 50 years. — *Lou Kissing*

1973

Sarah Allen, the daughter of **Pete and Cindy Dietz Kulesza '72**, wants to share a little of her parents' lives. The two met during their first and second years at Bucknell. Pete graduated with a degree in mechanical engineering and Cindy with a degree in mathematics. They were married in Rooke Chapel in 1974. They moved to Tullahoma, Tenn., and then to Knoxville, where they raised their children, Dan and Sarah. In 2012, they retired to a farm for a quiet, peaceful life. In 2024, they celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary by visiting England, where Sarah and her family were living at the time. Cindy and Pete enjoy their quiet lives in nature, spending time with their two granddaughters, Penelope and Victoria, and tinkering in the garage with Pete's

many "toys." They've had quite a ride since their Bucknell days. Happy 52nd anniversary to them! Pete is at prkulesza@gmail.com. — *Susan Latimer Curlett*

1975

I was pleased to hear from **Mike Conlon**, who attended the 50th Reunion and thoroughly enjoyed seeing so many friends. Mike and wife **Debbie Halahan Conlon '76** have lived in Gainesville, Fla., since they were married in 1977. Here is some of the pertinent history of Bucknell and the University of Florida.

A Bucknell math professor arranged a fellowship for Mike, thanks to a special math connection at the University with the late **Bill Mendenhall '45, M'50**, who had once served as a Bucknell professor. (Side note: Bill even built a replica of his Lewisburg home in Gainesville.) Other Bucknellians in Gainesville include **Dick Scheaffer M'64** and **Jim McClave '66** in Mike's department and **Carl Moyer M'69** in Alumni Affairs. Mike celebrated his 50th year of affiliation with the University of Florida last year; he came in 1975 as a graduate student, joined the faculty and retired as emeritus professor in 2015.

Mike wrote the book *The Next Hundred Years*, which features "science-based stories of humanity solving problems related to hunger, the physical

world, AI and our ability to live with one another." It is available on Amazon and through other retailers. I am sad to report that **John Stadler** died Feb. 6 in Lyme, N.H. He was a celebrated and prolific author and illustrator of children's books, and his sister, Anne, mentioned that she felt as if he was "born with a crayon in his hand." Ever since she could remember, John was drawing and sketching. He was the author/illustrator of 30 books for children, including three titles presented on public television's *Reading Rainbow* series. One of his books is featured at the Children's Museum of New Hampshire in a permanent, life-sized, interactive exhibit, and one series is included in *The New York Times Parent's Guide to the Best Books for Children*. Bucknell's Stadler Center for Poetry & Literary Arts was named for his late father, **Jack Stadler '40**. — *Nancy Quay Bradley*

REUNION 2027

1977

With our 50th Reunion happening June 4–6 next year, are you interested in volunteering? If so, please contact the Alumni Office at 570-577-7300 or reunion@bucknell.edu. — *Susan Hunsicker and Brian Knapp*

1979

As I write to you during the first week of spring,

here in Israel, the weather is cold and rainy and once again, Israel is at war. They say there's never a dull moment living in Israel, and after 40-plus years here, I absolutely agree. We pray peace will again be restored and we can go on with a "normal" lifestyle.

I received a nice correspondence from **Steve Bass**, who spent a week on campus for the first time in many, many years. Steve was the Nonprofit/Arts Leader-in-Residence at Bucknell's Perricelli-Gegnag Center for Entrepreneurship & Innovation, an interdisciplinary center that involves the colleges of arts & sciences, engineering and management. He spoke to four classes, gave a lecture to the Bucknell Institute for Public Policy on the crisis in public media and performed at Rooke Recital Hall. Also participating was **Kathy Boselli Vizas** as a panelist, and **Bob Kallin '78** was an attendee. Steve got to spend some time with his now-retired professor of music, Jackson Hill, and his wife.

Steve is retired from Oregon Public Broadcasting but stays active advising and consulting with public media organizations and journalist funders. He also performs with the Vancouver Symphony Orchestra, the Oregon East Symphony and the Colorado MahlerFest orchestra. Looking forward to

hearing from more of our class in future columns. Please send me your news. — *Alan Schriger*

Timothy and **Nancy Norton Franklin '79** have established an endowed student emergency relief fund in honor of the memory of their son, **Trevor Paul Franklin '10**, following his passing in 2025. The fund honors Trevor's kind and generous spirit and his lasting connection to the Bucknell community while supporting students facing unexpected family crises.

Trevor's time at Bucknell included studying, friendships, activities and work. He double-majored in computer science and philosophy, was a member of Lambda Chi Alpha and worked as an information technology support specialist. After graduation, he joined Epic Health Information Systems in Verona, Wis., and built a life centered on family and service as a devoted husband and father of two children. He also remained closely connected to Bucknell, including several years of leadership with the Madison, Wisc., alumni chapter and continued engagement with fellow Bucknellians.

Through the Trevor Paul Franklin '10 Family Emergency Fund, his family hopes to ensure that students experiencing unforeseen hardship have timely support when they need it most. Gifts

may be made through Bucknell's GiveCampus platform by selecting the fund name in the designation drop-down menu.

1980

Mail is slim. Perhaps the super-cold, long winter had everyone cocooned. But the news of the passing of Professor Dick Peterec prompted many comments in our Facebook group. He has quite a legacy, introducing our class to engaging lectures, a world of travel and Pilsner Urquell. I remember taking a Peterec class just because others said he was not to be missed, and I don't think I'm alone in that choice. The Richard J. Peterec Scholarship was established in 2008 by a group of loyal alumni to honor their professor and by other friends and colleagues as a tribute to a teacher and scholar who inspired and mentored four decades of Bucknellians. In recognition of his challenge to students to view themselves and others in a broader global context, the scholarship is awarded annually to students with demonstrated financial need, majoring in geography or international relations. Likely, there will be more to come about Professor Peterec's impact.

In other news, **Don Gibson** was named the executive director of the Allan "Bud" Selig Sports

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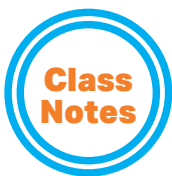
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Law and Business program at Arizona State University (ASU). He's been a professor at ASU Law since 2015, and in his 40-plus-year career, he has worked in various positions with Major League Baseball as well as with the Basketball Hall of Fame.

Enjoy time with family, friends and maybe even some Bucknell pals.

— *Deborah L. Hennel*

1981

Just a short column this time. The next one will definitely be longer as it will include news from our 45th Reunion.

Bucknell shared a press release with me about **Bob Pollokoff's** "promotion" at his own company. I reached out to Bob to get some more information, and he shared that the "promotion" is a bit of a misnomer, as he's been chairman/president/CEO of his company for many years. The news release was more about the promotion of his COO to president as the first step in Bob's "easing back." He isn't ready to use the "r" word (retirement) yet, but he's beginning the transition. Bob will still be working somewhat regularly, just not a lot of time on day-to-day issues. The plan also allows Bob and wife Amy to spend most of the winter at their home in Naples, Fla. They enjoy golfing when there and also seeing Bucknellians from time to time,

including **Brenda Lapinski Horwitz**.

Bob is the proud "Bapa" to four grandchildren, ranging in age from 9 years to 6 months. He and Amy have two daughters, and they spend as much time as possible with the entire family (including family trips to Naples). Bob is one of those classmates whom I've gotten closer to (though rarely see) since graduation, and connecting with him always brings a smile to my face.

— *Carol Christie Rosner*

REUNION 2027

1982

Save the date for our 45th Reunion, June 4–6, 2027. More information to come as we get closer.

— *Becky Goodwin Kangos*

1983

As I write this, I hope you are well and things are warming up in Pennsylvania. Spring is popping here in Atlanta, and we are buried under piles of pollen at the moment.

John Stasko, announcing his well-deserved retirement, writes, "This past summer, I retired from the School of Interactive Computing at Georgia Tech [GT] after 36 years on the faculty. I joined GT directly out of grad school (Brown University) in 1989. Computing here has grown from a relatively small department to a full-fledged college and is now one of the biggest

computer science programs in the country. My research over the years focused on the areas of data visualization and human-computer interaction. In addition to teaching courses on those topics, I really enjoyed teaching one of our large intro courses (object-oriented programming) for most of my career. This class typically had 250–300 students, mostly freshmen, so it really kept me on my toes. I also felt that teaching this class allowed me to stay closer to the core educational mission of the institute, which can sometimes be lost with the strong focus on research at [Research 1] schools today. In retirement, my wife, Christy, and I hope to travel a lot and see many spots around the world that we haven't visited yet. We live in Marietta, a suburb of Atlanta. Our three children are grown and living in Baltimore, Richmond [Va.] and New York City. I still play a lot of golf — well, as much as my aging body allows me." John is at john.stasko@cc.gatech.edu.

(After a bit of back and forth, I'm pretty sure John taught our son, JC, a proud GT '11 alum!)

Phil Tulkoff officially retired as CEO of his family's food manufacturing business in October after 20 years at the helm.

Scott Hinds, **Andy Pikoff**, **Jeff Ubinger** and Phil took a weekend trip to Nashville, Tenn., in

October. Phil wrote that it was great to spend time with senior-year roommates and catch up on each other's lives and reminisce about their time at Bucknell. Phil is at ptulkoff@gmail.com.

Lisa Thomas Dickinson contacted me in February to let me know she, **Helen Maher Brownell**, **Tracy Smith**, **Carolyn Speer Miles** and **Diana Stout Messier** attended a celebration of life in Atlanta for **Jennifer Zeiss**, who passed away in December after a prolonged illness, leaving two beautiful and bereft daughters. Jen was a beloved friend from the start on 3 1/2 Roberts; her friends miss her very much.

Douglas Palmer '79 sadly reports: "**Claire Brown Palmer** (Beta Gamma) passed away July 4, 2025, after courageously battling an aggressive brain cancer. She is survived by her husband of 38 years, Douglas, and her beloved children, Catherine and James."

After graduating from Bucknell with a bachelor's degree in chemistry, Claire worked in the automotive industry as a chemist before pursuing her lifelong interest in medicine as a technical writer for Siemens.

Claire sang with the Bucknell Chapel Choir under Bill Payne. Over the next four decades, she performed across the Northeast with Philly's Choral Arts Society, the Berkshire Choral Institute and the Bel Canto Lyric

Opera Company. A memorable performance was with the Philadelphia Orchestra under Riccardo Muti.

Throughout her life, Claire provided a loving home to many a stray cat, knitted designer headwear and was a member of the Johns Hopkins parents and families association. To her family and friends, she will always be remembered as Dr. Mom. — *Tracey Trusk Eick*

1984

The year is halfway through already and my mailbox was empty this time around. Please consider sending news. With just three editions of *Bucknell Magazine* that include Class Notes each year (the fourth being the winter *University Report*), I'd love to be able to report something for you all to enjoy each and every time. — *ray Bucknell!*
— *Allison Abouchar Cross*

1985

My mailbox has been quiet, but I had the luck of running into some classmates in Lewisburg. This fall, I saw **Ian Ferguson**, who was in town to attend a Bucknell wrestling match. He is doing well.

This winter, I ran into **Jeff Kistler**, **Joe Walton** and **Bob Davis '82**. They were at Bucknell for a basketball game. Also in attendance was **Bob Scott**.

Your Invitation is Waiting!

From campus celebrations and educational sessions to events across the country, Bucknell brings alumni, families, students and friends together in meaningful, memory-making ways all year long. Whether you're reconnecting with classmates, cheering on the Bison, learning from our world-class faculty or building new traditions, *there's always a place for you.*



Explore what's coming up and bookmark the Alumni, Parent & Family Events calendar today.

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Glad to see them all and to know the Bison spirit continues. I hope all is well in your respective lives. Please send updates. — *Carol Rheam Tevis*

1986

The mailbox was empty! I hope our 40th Reunion this spring prompted you to reconnect with a friend from Bucknell. — *Joan Daughen Cadigan*

1991

From March 13 to 15, we

were blessed with another love- and laughter-filled gathering of our Harris freshman hall. This one was hosted in Princeton, N.J., by our beloved **Kelley Nicholson-Flynn**, head of school at Princeton Day School. In attendance were **Kirsten McAuliffe Raleigh, Ellen Hogan Elsen, Joanna Walker Bradford, Michelle Ulmer-Parker, Kelly Cowles, Lisa duBusc Miller, Andrea Apuzzi Mortati** and **Jean Robinson Brey**. Everyone is thriving and was extremely excited about attending our 40th

Reunion on campus. 'ray Bucknell.

My oldest daughter, age 27, got engaged in March — so it'll be an exciting year of celebration for us. — *Lisa duBusc Miller*

REUNION 2027

2002

Eric Christopher writes, "**Drew McCartor**, president of Pure Earth, will be speaking on the MainStage at TED2026 in Vancouver, Canada, in April. He will speak about lead poisoning and

highlight how this public health crisis can be prevented worldwide."

— *Katy Zachry Vandergrift*

2008

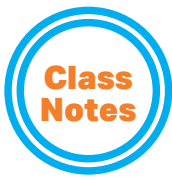
As we head into a milestone season for the Class of 2008, it's been so fun to hear what everyone has been up to. Our 20th Reunion is just two years away — mark your calendars now. I hope to see many of you back on campus to celebrate.

On a personal note, I got together with **Bridget**

Collins Corey, Deidre Carlin Wissman, Emily Chiodo Frenzel and Tracey Bachman (we missed you, **Megan Young Jones**) for a girls' weekend spa getaway. We loved reminiscing about our time at Bucknell and catching up on life — such a special reminder of the friendships that started there.

Classmates continue to follow diverse and inspiring paths around the globe.

Nga Nguyen shares that life since Bucknell has been anything but linear.



After graduating during the 2008 financial crisis, she pursued a master's degree and began an international journey that took her from the U.K. to Hungary, Greece, Sweden and back again through an Erasmus Mundus Joint Masters environmental program. Along the way, she interned in New York City, briefly pursued an artistic life in Paris (even playing guitar at Sacré-Cœur) and later worked at the World Bank in Washington, D.C. After a period of digital nomad life — working everywhere from the Swiss mountains to Filipino dive sites — she met her husband and returned to Europe for a doctorate in big data and AI in the Netherlands. Now settled in rural France, Nga and her husband have purchased a farm and launched an agricultural company. She describes herself as a “slasher” — data scientist/farmer/artist — and credits her Bucknell liberal arts education for giving her the confidence to embrace a “why not” approach to life.

Hannah White is preparing to launch Klarina, a children's sunscreen brand, this spring. She spent the past two and a half years developing her patent-pending first product and is excited to bring it to market. You can check it out at @klarinasuncare on Instagram.

Cordy Elkins relocated to Scottsdale, Ariz., after getting married in Napa,

Calif., this past October. She hikes and golfs in the desert while renovating a new home, with plans to move in by late summer. Professionally, she continues her work on the Human Rights Campaign's national board of directors, advocating for equal rights nationwide.

Beverly Rogers Martin reflected on a year of meaningful change. Between October 2024 and October 2025, she stepped fully into her business, Core Level Lifestyle, as a high-performance habit coach, got married, moved twice and welcomed her son, Joshua, in May 2025. She described this season as full, joyful and a reminder that life's twists often bring the greatest beauty.

David Lopera published several books in the horror genre; his work is at davidloperafiction.com. — *Laura Leviski Hyde*

2009

Jennifer Guempel Leaman started a Florham Park, N.J., chapter of Still I Run, a nonprofit that makes running accessible to all while supporting mental health through movement. Free weekly runs and walks — all paces, strollers and friendly dogs welcome. Follow @runwithjacandjen for details. She would love to see more Bucknellians.

Jeff Manning married Shane Mueller on March 21 in Rye, N.Y. Bucknell-

ians were in attendance from the classes of 2006, 2007 and 2009. — *Nikki Seaman Iselin*

2010

Peter '12 and **Caroline McLoughlin Davis** had Margaret “Margo” Moore Davis Feb. 26. Moore is the maiden name of her paternal great-grandmother, Mary Ellen Moore Davis, who was a longtime Lewisburg resident and nurse at Bucknell. Margo joins three older siblings, William (8), Caroline (5) and James (3).

And here in Cleveland, I started a new role in March as the associate dean for finance and administration at Case Western Reserve University School of Law. After working remotely for the past five years, taking an in-person role was a big change. But it's been exciting to jump into a new position. — *David Iselin*

Trevor Paul Franklin's family is establishing an endowed student emergency relief fund in his memory following his passing in 2025. The fund honors Trevor's kind and generous spirit and his lasting connection to the Bucknell community while supporting students facing unexpected family crises.

Trevor's time at Bucknell included studying, friendships, activities and work. He double-majored in computer science and

philosophy, was a member of Lambda Chi Alpha and worked as an information technology support specialist. After graduation, he joined Epic Health Information Systems in Verona, Wis., and built a life centered on family and service as a devoted husband and father of two children. He also remained closely connected to Bucknell, including several years of leadership with the Madison, Wisc., alumni chapter and continued engagement with fellow Bucknellians.

Through the Trevor Paul Franklin '10 Family Emergency Fund, his family hopes to ensure that students experiencing unforeseen hardship have timely support when they need it most. Gifts may be made through Bucknell's GiveCampus platform by selecting the fund name in the designation drop-down menu.

2021

I hope everyone had a great time at Reunion. Thank you to our Reunion chairs, **Kaitlyn Ferentini** and **Meredith Sullivan**, for a fantastic and memorable weekend. As always, if you have any updates to share with the class, please send them to mackenziealexandra.gross@gmail.com. — *Mackenzie Gross*

IN MEMORIAM

1951

Maurette Boynton Hunter P'74, Feb. 7, Oradell, N.J.

1952

Audrey Murray Mayer, March 11, Venice, Fla.

Jean Rothermel, Jan. 5, Boulder City, Nev.

1953

Barbara Rankin Charnes, Jan. 8, Denver

Joan Jenkinson Haag-Beiter, Jan. 16, Lansdale, Pa.

Maurice Mufson, Feb. 28, Oak Park, Ill.

1954

Sandra Wanderman Klein P'86, Feb. 19, Bluffton, S.C.

1955

James Feyrer, March 4, Cranberry Township, Pa.

Martha “Martie” Burd Strein, Dec. 23, Whitehall, Pa.

1956

Emily Highfield Bibbins, March 1, Maplewood, N.J.

Joan Farmer Hankins, Jan. 18, Dublin, Ohio

Jane Arnold Wright, Jan. 10, Audubon, Pa.

1957

Kenneth Davis, Jan. 31, Parkville, Md.

1958

Rogers Frassenei, Feb. 7, Audubon, Pa.

Donald Spear, Feb. 4, Lonaconing, Md.

1959

Harold “Hal” Danzig, Nov. 4, Las Vegas

Marilyn Ekiss Fries, Jan. 7,
Kirkland, Mass.

1960

Johanne Nielsen Gambrill,
Jan. 19, Ayer, Mass.

1961

Virginia Vidinghoff Halbert
P'90, P'94, July 23, 2024,
Hershey, Pa.

1962

Shirley Anderson
Bingaman, Jan. 29,
Millmont, Pa.

Walter Buchert, March 9,
Lancaster, Pa.

1963

Paulette Dutkus Forssen,
March 11, Kennebunk,
Maine

Frederick Hotz, Jan. 6,
Ridgefield Park, N.J.

Doris Lambert, March 23,
Pitman, N.J.

1964

Keith Boyer, Feb. 17,
Camp Hill, Pa.

William Coale, Jan. 18, St.
Petersburg, Fla.

Alan Johnson, Dec. 28,
Lakewood, Colo.

Thomas Wright P'95, Jan.
16, Sewickley, Pa.

Richard Zeich, Feb. 3,
South Yarmouth, Mass.

1965

John Cox, Jan. 19,
Harrisburg, Pa.

Patricia McGovern Rose
P'94, Dec. 25, Richmond,
Va.

1967

Sally Highley Agnew,
March 2, Williamsburg, Va.

Betsy Masters Blattmachr,
Feb. 22, Garden City, N.Y.

Ashraf Manji, Feb. 12,
Evanston, Ill.

1969

Howard Gardner, Nov. 19,
Queens Borough, N.Y.

1970

Robert Biello, March 14,
Boynton Beach, Fla.

1971

William Spinney P'95, Feb.
18, Bethlehem, Pa.

1974

Jeffrey Means P'14, Jan.
31, Georgetown, Maine

Andrew Tyson, Feb. 11,
Aurora, Ohio

1975

John Stadler, Feb. 6,
Lyme, N.H.

1977

John Kukucka P'09, March
16, Manasquan, N.J.

1981

John Whitaker, Feb. 12,
Dexter, Mich.

1983

Eric Hansen, Feb. 25,
North Bradford, Conn.

David Hoyt, Jan. 18,
Mechanicsburg, Pa.

1987

Danielle Ehrlich Nabinger,
Jan. 13, Marietta, Ga.

Peter Thompson, Jan. 13,
Middlebury, Conn.

1989

Carl-John Chambers M'95,
P'17, P'19, Aug. 26,
Wellsboro, Pa.

1993

Jude Elion M'96, Dec. 9,
Williamsport, Pa.

1994

Glenda D'Urso, March 10,
Northumberland, Pa.

1996

Michael Wickerham, April
9, 2025, Seminole, Fla.

2026

Andi Bushati, March 13,
Irvington, N.Y.

Master's

Patricia Bucher M'87, Feb.
1, Havertown, Pa.

Glenn Bushey M'64, Dec.
26, Camp Hill, Pa.

Frank Hessinger M'65, Feb.
2, Nazareth, Pa.

Bruce Miller M'62, Aug. 31,
Montoursville, Pa.

Donald Moyer M'65, Feb.
13, Beaver Springs, Pa.

Karl Oldag M'65, Feb. 6,
Fort Myers, Fla.

Karl Sheaffer M'70, Feb.
22, Duncannon, Pa.

Katherine Whaley
Wheatcroft M'75, Feb. 6,
Lewisburg, Pa.

Faculty and Staff

Gerry Commerford, March
14, Lewisburg, Pa.

Sharon Pope Grimm P'76,
G'01, G'06, Feb. 28,
Sunbury, Pa.

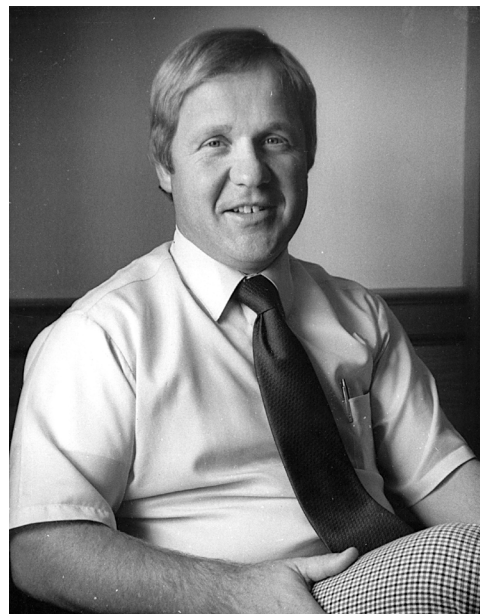
Carol Keefer, Feb. 9,
Lewisburg, Pa.

Richard Peterec P'82, P'84,
P'86, P'01, Jan. 5,
Winfield, Pa.

Friends

Amy Granato P'25, P'27,
Jan. 13, Princeton, N.J.

Georgey Herron P'27,
March 14, St. Louis, Mo.



IN MEMORIAM

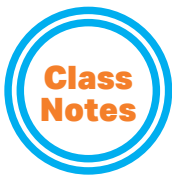
Gerald William "Gerry" Commerford

➔ Gerald William "Gerry" Commerford passed away March 14 at age 79.

Commerford devoted more than 40 years to Bucknell University, beginning in student housing and retiring as associate dean of students. Over his tenure, he became a defining presence in student life, known for his steady care, humor and unwavering commitment to student well-being.

A familiar figure often seen riding his motor scooter on campus, Commerford was a devoted supporter of Bucknell athletics and a regular attendee at campus events. He also spent many weekends at the Bucknell Golf Club. His influence extended beyond his formal role, shaping countless student experiences and fostering a strong sense of belonging across generations of Bucknellians.

In recognition of his legacy, Bucknell established the Gerald W. Commerford Orange & Blue Award to honor students who demonstrate school spirit and a commitment to strengthening the University community. Donations may be made to the Bison Club in his memory: go.bucknell.edu/Commerford



CLASS REPORTERS

1950s

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If you have a Class Note to share, please submit your update at go.bucknell.edu/classnotes.

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If you have a Class Note to share, please submit your update at go.bucknell.edu/classnotes.

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2010s

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2020s

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2024

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2025

If you have a Class Note to share, please submit your update at go.bucknell.edu/classnotes.

2026

If you have a Class Note to share, please submit your update at go.bucknell.edu/classnotes.

EMERITI

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The Axis Lounge in the Center for Access & Success

Hannah Kosko '27, who aspires to a career in art restoration, curated artwork for Bucknell's Center for Access & Success in collaboration with the Samek Art Museum.



“I’m from a small town in northeastern Pennsylvania, and coming to Bucknell was a big step into something new. The Center for Access & Success made that transition easier. It gave me a place to land and to connect.”

by HANNAH KOSKO '27 // photograph by EMILY LAMPARTER



When I arrived at Bucknell, I didn’t fully understand what it meant to be a first-generation college student. The Center for Access & Success helped me figure that out.

At first, I just showed up at a few events. The center itself was new, and so was I. I kept coming back, started meeting other students with similar backgrounds and, for the first time, felt like I didn’t have to explain where I was coming from. There was an ease to it — a sense that I belonged.

Over time, the center became more than just a place I visited. It became part of my life. Now I work there as a student office assistant, helping with events and projects that

bring people together. I’ve helped organize celebrations for first-generation students and selected artwork for the center’s Axis Lounge — shaping a space that feels welcoming and reflective of the students who use it.

One of the most meaningful experiences I’ve had was helping to start an affinity house connected to the center. What began as a small idea last year has grown into a real community for students who are first-generation or from low-income backgrounds. I’m living there now as an affinity leader, continuing the same work that helped me feel at home when I first got here.

BUCKNELL *thrives* BECAUSE OF *you.*



Because of Bucknell volunteers, alumni stay connected, students feel supported and Bucknell's spirit thrives on campus and around the world. Through mentorship, leadership and countless acts of service, you make a meaningful and lasting impact on our community.

Whether your involvement spans decades or is just beginning, your time, talent and commitment strengthen Bucknell in powerful ways. We are deeply grateful for all that you share.

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Opportunities are designed to fit your interests, availability and stage of your Bucknell journey. Whether you are looking to give back for the first time or expand your involvement, there is a place for you in our volunteer community.

Explore volunteer opportunities and learn how to get involved at go.bucknell.edu/volunteer



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President John Bravman joins members of the Class of 2026 who organized the Senior Tribute. Class officers chose to designate funds to create a new patio and inviting gathering space on the uphill side of the Elaine Langone Center. The project is part of a broader summer renovation project outside the student center.

photograph by JAMES T. GIFFEN