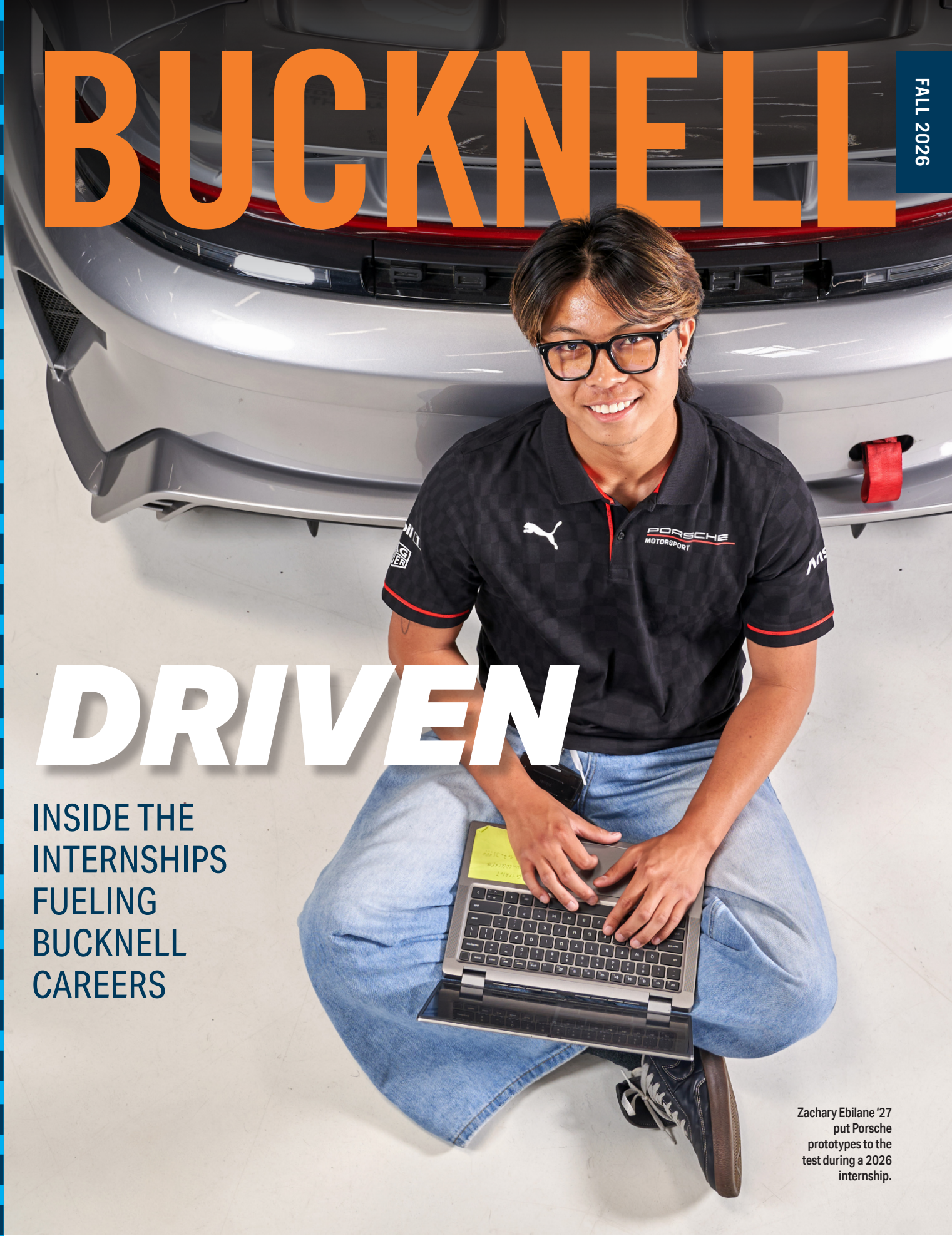
BUCKNELL

FALL 2026



DRIVEN

INSIDE THE INTERNSHIPS FUELING BUCKNELL CAREERS

Zachary Ebilane '27 put Porsche prototypes to the test during a 2026 internship.

A HEALTHIER HOME, P. 12 | Power Moves, P. 16 | A $1 BILLION GOAL, P. 32 | Your Friend & Neighbor, P. 34


THE WORLD
NEEDS
BUCKNE

ELLIANS

Be the *ray*

FOR THE FUTURE OF BUCKNELL

See how the University's $1 billion campaign will strengthen the Bucknell experience for generations to come. Learn more, P. 32.

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They began the summer as interns. They returned to campus with experience, connections and, in some cases, job offers.





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← Wade Shomper ’26 has launched his way into Bucknell athletics history.



Be the 'ray
FOR THE FUTURE OF BUCKNELL

Scan to see our digital edition!

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"Because lion dance is freestyle, you rely on instinct, rhythm and trust. The head, the tail, the music — all of it has to sync."

Richard Chi '29

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"I had been making DIY cardboard playhouses for my own kids, and we thought, 'What if this could be something bigger?' "

Anne Lutz Hoehn '07

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"Being a Division I athlete prepared me for this work. You can't panic about 20 things at once — you focus, prioritize and execute."

Brendan Lowery '22

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On the cover:
Zachary Ebilane '27 was photographed by Gregg Segal at Porsche Engineering Services North America in Los Angeles.

Photos: April Gamiz (intern); Eamonn Ryan (Shomper); Megan Leigh Barnard Photography (students) Emily Lamparter (Chi); Make it Cute (Hoehn); courtesy of Brendan Lowery '22

FROM THE EDITOR

THIS ISSUE HOLDS something special at its center: a foldout feature devoted to Bucknell's vision for the future. Bucknell recently launched Be the 'ray, a comprehensive campaign marking an important moment in the University's history, and we wanted to give that vision room to unfold. The expanded feature introduces the campaign's mission and ambitions. I hope you'll unfold it and see what Bucknell is working to achieve.

Be the 'ray is designed to ensure that generations of students continue to benefit from an outstanding Bucknell experience — one that extends beyond the classroom through hands-on discovery, career preparation and opportunities for personal growth.

Those priorities come to life throughout this issue. Our Goldwater scholars (opposite page) show what is possible when undergraduates have access to exceptional research opportunities and close faculty mentorship. Students share how Bucknell's career resources and alumni network helped them secure meaningful internships and prepare for life after graduation (P. 22). And former Bison football player **Mark Tallman '02** reflects on how lessons learned as a student-athlete continue to serve him in his acting career (P. 34).

A friendly reminder: Our winter issue will be a special edition of the magazine, the University Report. It will provide a closer look at the campaign. That special issue will not include Class Notes; they will return in our Spring 2027 issue.

As always, thank you for reading.

Katie Neitz
Editor

LETTERS



Inspired to Mentor

I enjoyed learning about **Edward McDevitt '73, P'01** and his role as a mentor ("The Network That Works," Summer 2026). I met Ed in my teens, when my father, **John R. Loughead '49, P'79, P'81, P'85**, mentored Ed. I was thrilled to learn about Ed's impressive medical career and his decision to become a mentor. The story inspired me to reach out to the Center for Career Advancement and also become a mentor.

Michael Loughead '81, M'83
Oakmont, Pa.

The Gift of Encouragement

I was saddened to read of Dean Gerry Commerford's passing (In Memoriam, Summer 2026). I am proud of Bucknell for creating an award recognizing his legacy. He was a trusted adviser whose encouragement helped me decide to study abroad. Stepping away gave me a deeper appreciation for the Bucknell community. and the confidence to pursue my dreams on a less traditional path. Rest in peace, Dean Commerford.

Douglas J. Cummings Jr., Esq. '98
Hockessin, Del.

WRITE TO US

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

UPDATE

"Behan Strong," a CBS Sports feature about **Pat Behan '10** won the Sports Emmy Award for Outstanding Sports Feature: Short Form in May 2026. The segment explores how Behan, who is living with ALS, continues to share his basketball insights with **John Griffin III '08**, his former Bucknell teammate and roommate. *Bucknell Magazine* shared their story in "Still in the Game" in the Summer 2025 issue, which you can read at: go.bucknell.edu/patbehan



Photo: Robert Landry

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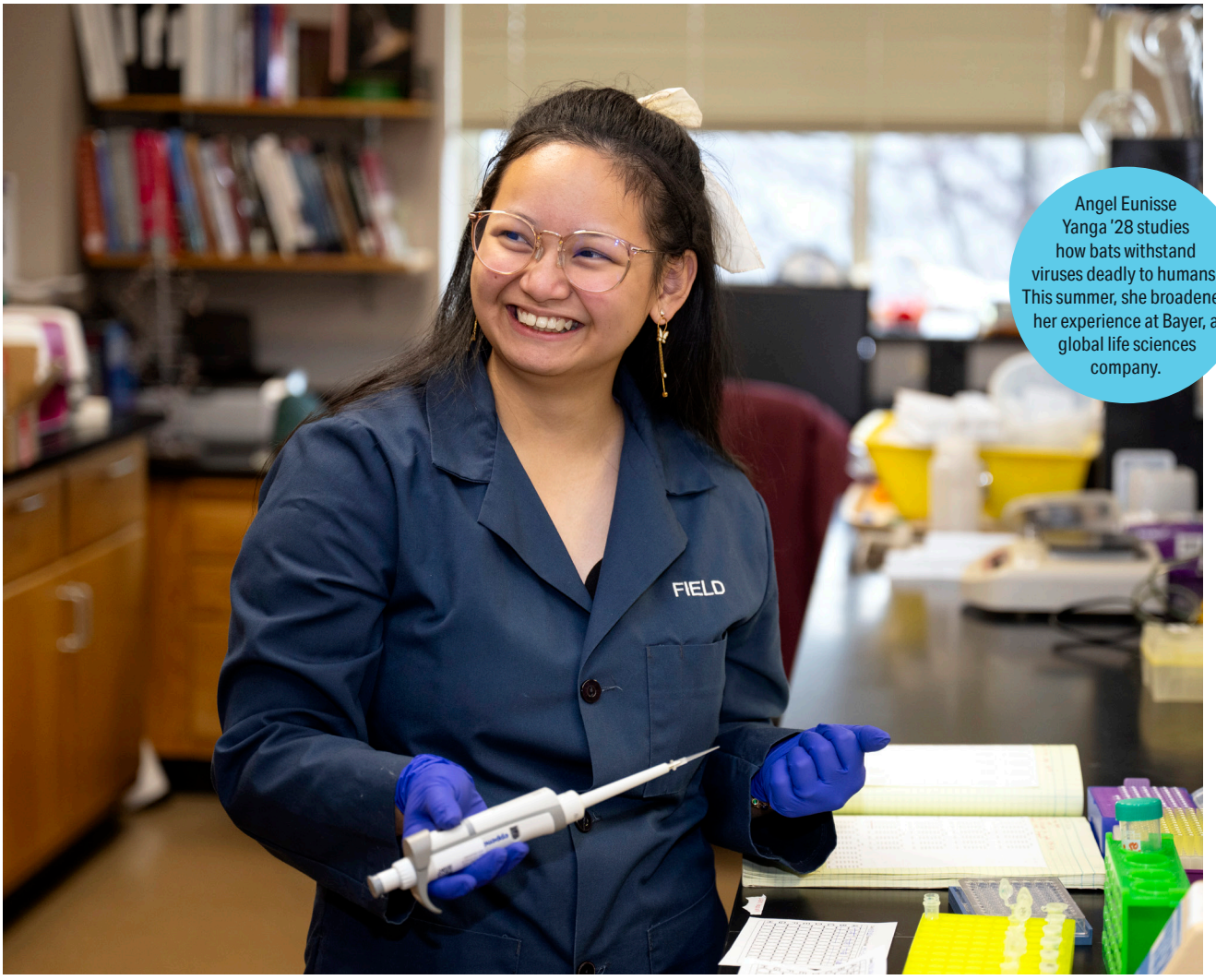
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Angel Eunisse Yanga '28 studies how bats withstand viruses deadly to humans. This summer, she broadened her experience at Bayer, a global life sciences company.

CURIOSITY STRIKES GOLD

Four Questions for Four Goldwaters

Four Bucknellians earn national recognition for research addressing scientific challenges

by KATIE NEITZ // photographs by EMILY LAMPARTER and JAMES T. GIFFEN

GREAT RESEARCH OFTEN begins with a single question. This year, four Bucknell students were named Barry Goldwater Scholars, recipients of the nation's premier undergraduate scholarship for STEM research. Their work could advance quantum computing, deepen our understanding of emerging viruses and enable earlier diagnosis of Parkinson's disease. Every student Bucknell nominated received the scholarship — a rare distinction that reflects the strength of Bucknell's undergraduate research programs and the promise of its aspiring scientists. Here's what they're exploring.

1



Angel Eunisse Yanga '28, biology

Why don't bats get sick from viruses that are deadly to humans?

BATS HAVE AN EXTRAORDINARY ABILITY: Some can carry Ebola and Marburg viruses without becoming ill. **Angel Eunisse Yanga '28** studied how their immune systems tolerate infection without triggering the damaging inflammation seen in humans. Through fieldwork in Uganda and laboratory research on campus, she examined the immune pathways that allow bats to coexist with dangerous viruses. Understanding those natural defenses could help scientists develop new therapies that promote immune tolerance in humans.

"My mother has an autoimmune disease. As a child, I understood her illness only through its consequences. Now, with some training in immunology, I am beginning to understand the science behind her failed immune regulation — and I hope to develop better treatments for diseases."

2

Can the laws of thermodynamics help unlock the full potential of quantum computing?



Noah Kerzner '27, physics

QUANTUM COMPUTERS PROMISE to solve problems that would take today's fastest computers centuries to complete. **Noah Kerzner '27**'s Goldwater-winning research explored quantum "magic," a resource that enables quantum computers to perform calculations beyond the reach of conventional machines. His research considered thermodynamics not simply as a constraint on quantum systems but as a tool for understanding how quantum information behaves. By clarifying the energy and heat costs associated with quantum magic, the work could inform efforts to design more efficient quantum computers and deepen our understanding of the relationship between information science and physics.

"Most researchers see thermodynamics as an obstacle to quantum computing. I want to show it can be an advantage. By connecting two fields that rarely overlap, my research could reveal ways to improve quantum computing."



Angelina Santos '27, biomedical engineering

3

How can changes in brain cells reveal the causes of neurodegenerative disease?

LONG BEFORE ALZHEIMER'S and Parkinson's produce recognizable symptoms, changes may already be occurring in brain cells. **Angelina Santos '27** studied how shifts in gene regulation may contribute to disease progression and offer new avenues for early detection. Through DIS, a nonprofit study abroad institute, she compared protein expression in healthy and diseased brain tissue at Sweden's Karolinska Institutet. Her research identified changes in two transcription factors, RFX4 and NFIA, that may serve as markers for neurodegeneration and inform new approaches to diagnosis and treatment.

"I explored neuroscience in an international research environment and learned how scientists approach complex questions. Working at Karolinska Institutet showed me how discoveries at the cellular level can contribute to a larger understanding of the disease."

4



Quinn Smith '27, neuroscience

Can brain activity reveal Parkinson's disease before symptoms become obvious?

PARKINSON'S DISEASE IS typically diagnosed after tremors and other motor symptoms appear. By that point, neurological changes have already occurred. **Quinn Smith '27** examined whether subtle patterns of brain activity measured with electroencephalography could serve as early signs of the disease. If validated, such biological markers could complement traditional clinical assessments, giving patients and physicians more time to begin treatment, monitor disease progression and evaluate whether therapies are working.

"What's special about my research is that I record neural activity directly from people with Parkinson's disease. I like combining laboratory research with personal interactions."

Photo: Courtesy of Lucy Park '26

JUST HOW SELECTIVE IS GOLDWATER?

454
GOLDWATER SCHOLARSHIPS AWARDED IN 2026

5,000+
STUDENTS CONSIDERED NATIONWIDE

482
INSTITUTIONS REPRESENTED

4 FOR 4

4 OF 4 BUCKNELLIANS NOMINATED, 4 SCHOLARS AWARDED IN 2026

MORE NATIONAL RECOGNITION IN STEM

Three members of the Class of 2026 also earned National Science Foundation Graduate Research Fellowships, which support promising researchers as they pursue advanced study for groundbreaking work.



EVELYN HERGENHAN '26, biomedical engineering
At the University of Virginia, Hergenhan is pursuing a doctorate in biomedical engineering and developing innovative therapeutic ultrasound approaches to improve chronic wound healing.



COLE KRATZ '26, mathematics and physics
Kratz is pursuing a doctorate in mathematics at Penn State University, where he focuses on using mathematical methods to investigate complex problems in pure mathematics.



LUCY PARK '26, chemistry
Now a bioengineering doctoral student at the University of Pennsylvania, Park is designing biomaterials that address clinical challenges, connecting molecular-level chemistry with biomedical applications.



Tony Gomez '16 (left) helped Kenneth "KJ" Scott Jr. '26 secure a job at Clark Construction Group before graduation.

Closing the Career Confidence Gap

A new program provides seniors with personalized coaching to navigate today's competitive job market

by ADAM GRYBOWSKI

WHEN KENNETH "KJ" Scott Jr. '26 accepted a project engineer position with Clark Construction Group, he credited faculty mentors, alumni and Bucknell's new Career Search Accelerators initiative.

Launched in the Freeman College of Management in spring 2026, the program embedded dedicated career professionals in the student experience to help graduating seniors navigate a job market shaped by evolving hiring practices and technologies such as artificial intelligence.

Rather than waiting for students to seek assistance, the Career Search Accelerators proactively identified and contacted seniors still searching for jobs. They provided tailored, one-on-one guidance that blended industry-specific advising with practical skill development, including interview preparation and salary negotiation.

Freeman graduates saw improved career outcomes in the program's first year. When the Career Search Accelerators program launched in January 2026, 121 members of the college's Class of 2026 had yet to receive a job offer. By Sept. 30, just six graduates — 3.7% of the class — were still seeking employment, compared with 14.6% of the Class of 2025 at the same point after graduation.

"Ensuring our graduating seniors are ready to succeed in their job search is a top priority," says Michelle Roehm, Kenneth W. Freeman Professor & Dean of the College of Management. "We were very proud to offer a specialized, embedded layer of support."

The initiative proved pivotal in Scott's path to Clark Construction Group. Career Search Accelerator **Tony Gomez '16**, a Posse alum with over eight years of recruitment experience, helped him refine his interview skills.

For Scott, who was a first-generation college student, securing a job before graduation was significant. "It made all of the stress and hard work worth it," he says.

A MODEL BUILT TO GROW

Following the success of Freeman College's Career Search Acceleratorssame pilot in spring 2026, Bucknell is expanding the initiative to reach more students. In the 2026–27 academic year, dedicated career coaches will support seniors in the College of Arts & Sciences. Bucknell also plans to extend the model to the College of Engineering.

Photo: Emily Lamparter

The Numbers Are In

Bucknell entered the 2026–27 academic year with several notable achievements to celebrate, including record enrollment and strong showings in national rankings that measure career outcomes, academic excellence and the student experience.

4,000+

RECORD INCOMING CLASS

Bucknell welcomed the largest incoming class in the University's history, a record for opening enrollment for the sixth consecutive year, surpassing a student body of 4,000 for the first time. Bucknell's enrollment strength comes at a time when colleges and universities are navigating significant demographic and economic pressures, making Bucknell's sustained growth noteworthy.

No. 1

LIBERAL ARTS COLLEGE FOR CAREER SUCCESS — AGAIN

For the second year, Bucknell has been ranked the No.1 liberal arts college on LinkedIn's list of U.S. schools that best set graduates up for long-term career success. The ranking draws on data from the professional networking platform, including alumni employment, advancement into senior-level positions, internships during college and entrepreneurial activity.

No. 16

Bucknell also climbed six spots in LinkedIn's overall ranking of U.S. colleges, reaching No. 16 nationally, up from No. 21 last year. The recognition comes as Bucknell continues to expand its investment in career preparation. Sean Schofield joined the University in August as the inaugural Freeman Family Associate Vice President and Director of the Center for Career Advancement, where he will lead a five-year approach to career development that begins before students arrive on campus to start their Bucknell education and extends beyond graduation. (Learn about Bucknell's Career Search Accelerators program; see opposite page.)



AMONG THE NATION'S BEST

Bucknell also continues to earn recognition across a range of measures in the U.S. News & World Report *2027 Best Colleges rankings.*

No. 29

The University ranked No. 29 among National Liberal Arts Colleges, moving up from No. 30 last year and marking the third time in four years that Bucknell has placed among the top 30.

No. 10

Bucknell tied for No. 10 among the Most Innovative Schools among the Liberal Arts Colleges rankings, a recognition of the University's commitment to forward-looking programs.

No. eight

The College of Engineering also ranked No. 8 among the Best Undergraduate Engineering Programs at institutions that do not offer a doctorate. Several engineering disciplines earned especially strong national placements:

- No. 4 — CIVIL ENGINEERING
- No. 4 — ELECTRICAL ENGINEERING
- No. 3 — MECHANICAL ENGINEERING
- No. 4 — COMPUTER ENGINEERING *(tie)*

"It's less important for us to help students prepare technically for a single career and more important to help them build strategies for adaptability and resilience."

— Sean Schofield, Freeman Family Associate Vice President and Director of the Center for Career Advancement



Richard Chi '29, who brought traditional lion dance to Bucknell, performs at the Asian Cultural Association's spring 2026 Asian Gala.

PATHWAYS

FROM LOS ANGELES TO LEWISBURG

by KATIE NEITZ

photograph by EMILY LAMPARTER



When **Richard Chi '29** came to Bucknell as a Posse Scholar from Los Angeles, he brought more than academic ambition as an electrical engineering major. He brought his love for lion dance. Rooted in East and Southeast Asian New Year traditions, lion dance features two dancers animating an elaborate lion costume to the sound of rhythmic drums and cymbals. Having performed with a team in high school, Chi was eager to continue in college.

Within weeks of his arrival, he began recruiting students, securing funding and gaining official club status. He purchased lion heads and instruments from LA and coordinated their shipment to campus. His goal was simple but ambitious: Be ready to begin practicing after winter break concluded in January. Just three months later, Bucknell's Bison Lions debuted at the Asian Cultural Association's spring 2026 Asian Gala.

For Chi, the club isn't just about performing. "I wanted to bring onto campus an experience that reflected my identity and to create a reminder of home for students far from where they grew up," he says.

At its core, he adds, it's about building a connection between culture and community. "In lion dance, everyone is encouraged to coach and pass on skills," he says. "Everyone is a leader."

Photos: Emily Lamparter



The App Makerspace opened this fall (top). BuckBlock, an app in development (below), will be featured in our Spring 2027 issue.

A New Hub for Digital Innovation

The App Makerspace gives students from any major the tools to create apps, websites, games and digital experiences

A PSYCHOLOGY STUDENT with an idea for a mental health app. A biology student in need of a dashboard to visualize their research data. An aspiring entrepreneur with a concept for a marketable product.

In Bucknell's new App Makerspace, those ideas can come to life — no computer science background required.

Opened in Taylor Hall during Family Weekend in September, the App Makerspace is an initiative of the Perricelli-Gegnas Center for Entrepreneurship & Innovation (PGCEI). The space was designed by Professor Brian King, computer science; Professor Joe Meiser, art & art history; and Anna Wiest, PGCEI manager of external relations, marketing & communications, to help students develop mobile apps, websites, games and extended reality experiences.

The makerspace gives students in any major the tools and guidance to turn ideas into digital products, removing technical barriers to experimentation and innovation.

"I've been watching AI transform and disrupt software development over the last few years," King says. "App development is no longer something reserved for those who know how to code."

King sees AI as a tool that can democratize software development — and the makerspace as a place where students can work alongside faculty, staff and peers to learn modern design and development tools. "If you have an idea, you belong here," he says. — *Matt Jones*





Childhood friends Amanda Seyfried, Maureen North and Anne Lutz Hoehn'07 (L-R) turned their desire for less plastic in their homes into a line of 100% recyclable cardboard playhouses.



OUT OF OFFICE

WITH
Anne Lutz Hoehn '07

CAREER
Co-founder

WORKPLACE
Make It Cute

by ERIC BUTTERMAN // photos courtesy of MAKE IT CUTE

With two lifelong friends, **Anne Lutz Hoehn '07** is helping families rediscover imaginative play — with a little less plastic. The Make It Cute co-founder teamed up with childhood friends from Allentown, Pa., including actor Amanda Seyfried, to create a children's brand centered on creativity, thoughtful design and reduced plastic use.

A MOTHER OF AN IDEA

Hoehn met Maureen North in preschool and Seyfried in kindergarten. Years later, all three were expecting their first children. "Our homes quickly filled with plastic toys," says Hoehn, who majored in art history. "I had been making DIY cardboard playhouses for my own kids, and thought, 'What if this could be something bigger?' "

LESS PLASTIC, MORE PURPOSE

From the start, Make It Cute set out to create products that families could feel good about bringing home, with plastic reduction at the center of every design.

THE PLAYHOUSE

Introduced in 2023, the company's cardboard playhouses encourage imaginative play and offer an alternative to plastic playhouses. They've since become the foundation for a growing collection of children's products.

BUILDING A BUSINESS

As co-founder and CEO, Hoehn, who lives in Lewes, Del., focuses on strategy, fundraising and growth while helping shape each product's creative direction. "I think about how a child will interact with it, how a parent will feel about it and how we can continue to grow the business."

JUST IMAGINE

Since its launch, Make It Cute has expanded its product line to include Tiny Craft Kits and other play products. The company is now preparing for its first major national retail launch.

A FAMOUS CO-FOUNDER

Seyfried boosts the company's visibility, but Hoehn says their mission is what matters. "Amanda helps us get in the door, but our products and the community we've created are what keep people with us."

THE BISON BASE

For Hoehn, Bucknell remains part of the story. "The Bucknell community keeps showing up in my life. It gave me lifelong friendships, the confidence to build something of my own and the resilience I gained as a Division I field hockey player. When Make It Cute launched, our very first customer was a Bucknell alum."

Voices Carry

For more than a decade, Bucknell students have found harmony through a local church's Choral Scholars program

by MATT JONES

Bucknell's Choral Scholars took their Sunday tradition abroad, singing in St. Edmundsbury Cathedral in the U.K.



FOR MANY COLLEGE students, the weekend is a time to slow down and sleep in. However, for some Bucknellians, even the proverbial day of rest begins early. "It takes a special type of student to want to wake up at 7:30 a.m. on a Sunday morning, get in the car, drive half an hour and then start singing," says Professor Ryan Malone, music, who runs the Choral Scholars program — a collaboration between Bucknell and Trinity Episcopal Church in Williamsport, Pa.

Now in its 12th year, the Choral Scholars program is an exercise in musical training, self-discovery and community-building. Students from a variety of majors across all three colleges perform alongside Trinity's choir over the course of 14 Sundays each semester. "Between the carpooling, singing and rehearsals, I spend a lot of time with my fellow students and the Trinity community," says **Macey Webber '27**, a markets, innovation & design and music — vocal performance double-major.

Initially drawn by the chance to improve her sight-reading skills and perform challenging music with a small ensemble, Webber soon found a second home. "Collegiate life is all about finding your people — and Trinity Episcopal Church has provided me with that," she says.

This summer, supported by the Douglas K. Candland Fund for the College of Arts & Sciences, the scholars traveled to the U.K. with Trinity's choir to serve as the ensemble-in-residence at St. Edmundsbury Cathedral in Bury Saint Edmunds. They were joined by program alumni **Becca Lipsky '25** and **Molly Manhoff '25**, as well as **Sam Robinson '15**, who served as organist for the services.

"IT'S NICE TO FEEL THAT YOU HAVE A SENSE OF BELONGING AND MUSICAL SANCTUARY EVERY SUNDAY THANKS TO THE COMMUNITY THAT WE HAVE BUILT."

— MACEY WEBBER '27

The choir sang six services featuring music from Gregorian chant to works by living composers. To honor the United States' 250th anniversary, the choir concluded the residency with music by American composers, including Professor Emeritus Jackson Hill's Lichfield canticles. Because Hill's work is well known in Episcopal and Anglican choral circles, Malone says the performance created a meaningful connection between Bucknell and the cathedral community.

Photo: Bethany Collier

Four Leaders Join Bucknell's Board

Bucknell's newest trustees bring wide-ranging professional experience and a shared commitment to advancing the University's mission. Each will serve a five-year term.



Joe Riggione P'27 co-founded True Platform, a global executive talent management firm, where he is executive vice chair, and True Equity, where he is a general partner. A HEADstrong Foundation board member, he is the father of **Brandon Riggione '27**, a computer science major and men's lacrosse player.

ON EXPERIENCING BUCKNELL AS A PARENT: "What has stayed with me most is watching my son's focus expand beyond lacrosse. He talks about his professors, engages with the computer science community and explores new interests. Watching that awakening speaks volumes about the experience students get at Bucknell."

ON WHAT HE BRINGS TO THE BOARD: "My work in the talent industry has shown me what makes Bucknell students special. They're smart, emotionally intelligent and have grit. I'm excited to bring that perspective to the board and help Bucknell unlock its potential."



JM Schapiro '91 is CEO of Continental Realty Corporation, a nationally recognized real estate investment and management company, where he leads the firm's strategic direction. He has decades of experience in real estate acquisitions, finance and operations.

ON AN UNFORGETTABLE MOMENT: "I remember my mother and grandmother visiting Professor **Dick Peterec P'82**, **P'84**, **P'86**, **P'01**, **G'15**'s geography class during parents weekend. When he posed a particularly difficult question, my 76-year-old grandmother raised her hand and answered it correctly."

ON STRENGTHENING HIS BUCKNELL CONNECTIONS: "Over the past year, I have had the chance to speak to several classes. Bucknell students are smart and intellectually curious. Being on the board will allow me to engage with students even more. I've also enjoyed getting to know fellow trustees and alumni who share a commitment to helping Bucknell thrive."



Kiran Mishra Smith '93, P'30 is a marketing executive who recently served as chief marketing officer of Norwegian Cruise Line. Her career has included senior leadership roles focused on brand strategy and growth. Smith is the mother of **Lily Smith '30**, a Freeman College of Management student.

ON THE EMOTIONS OF SENIOR YEAR: "My senior year brought together everything I valued about Bucknell — meaningful relationships with professors, friendships I knew would last well beyond graduation and a growing sense of what might come next. It was a perfect combination of nostalgia, excitement and trepidation."

ON RETURNING AS A TRUSTEE: "Bucknell had an amazing impact on me, and I love the idea of giving back in this way. With my daughter Lily now beginning her own Bucknell experience, I'll be able to see the University through her eyes while also drawing on my professional experience in marketing to help tell the Bucknell story."



Karen Horn Welch '97, P'28, is a chief investment officer for Spider Management Company, which manages the University of Richmond's endowment and investments for other non-profits. She is married to **Tom Welch '97, P'28**, and their son, **Kellen Welch '28**, is a mechanical engineering major and men's basketball player.

ON THE PEOPLE WHO MADE BUCKNELL MEMORABLE: "My greatest memories center on relationships — with my track teammates, roommates and sorority sisters, and the economics professor whose classes I supported as a teaching assistant. I also met my husband in a Japanese class on our first day."

ON COMING FULL CIRCLE: "After serving as a student representative to the Board, becoming a trustee feels like a full-circle moment. I'm eager to give back at a time of significant change and opportunity in higher education and serve alongside such an accomplished group of trustees."

Photos: Joe Riggione; Continental Realty Corporation (Schapiro); Rick Bern (Smith); Kim Lee Photography (Welch)

LEADING THE HERD

Power & Precision

Two throwers. One championship mindset.

by KATIE NEITZ

THE JAVELIN THROW AND shot put may look different, but both demand precision, power and control. One converts momentum built down a runway into a carefully timed release. The other turns a controlled glide across a circle into explosive force.

At the highest level, both require the same thing: the ability to make a single moment count after thousands of hours of preparation. Years of training are distilled into one movement, where each step, shift in balance and fraction of a second can affect the result.

Few athletes in Bucknell history have mastered their sports quite like **Evelyn "Evie" Bliss '27** and **Wade Shomper '26**.

Bliss has established herself as one of the nation's premier javelin throwers, becoming a three-time All-American, a three-time Patriot League champion and a national title contender. She has competed on some of the sport's biggest stages — from the NCAA Championships to the U.S. Olympic Trials and the World Athletics Championships — while continuing to raise the standard for what a Bucknell athlete can achieve.

The same pursuit of excellence has defined Shomper's career. He's a school record-holder, three-time Patriot League champion and the first shot putter in program history to earn All-America honors. Just as impressively, he paired his athletic achievements with academic distinction, earning third-team Academic All-America honors and becoming one of Bucknell's most accomplished student-athletes.

Different events, different skills, same pursuit: throw farther, compete harder and leave a mark that lasts.

EVELYN BLISS '27

(JAVELIN)

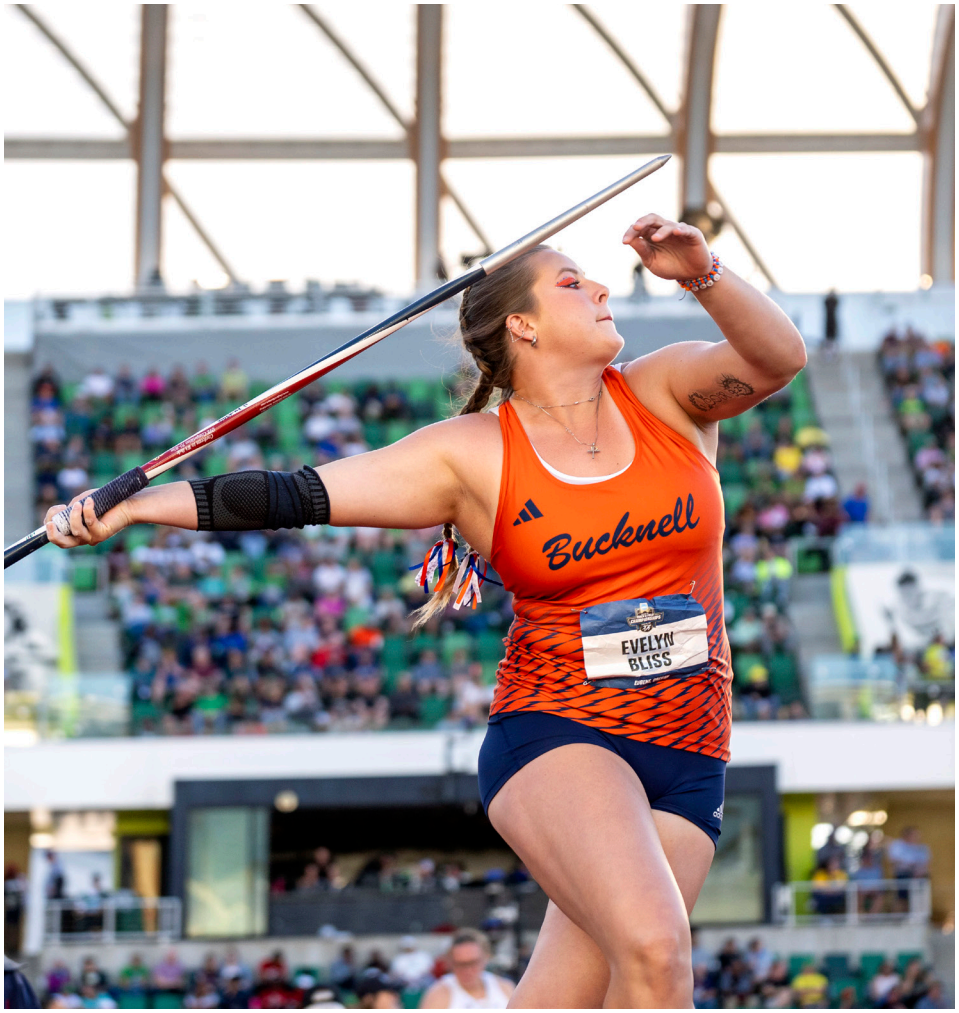
61.34
METERS (201'3")
Personal best
April 2026

U.S. NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP SILVER MEDALIST
60.41 meters (198'2")
July 2026

NCAA CHAMPIONSHIP SILVER MEDALIST
60.28 meters (197'9")
June 2026

Three-time
PATRIOT LEAGUE CHAMPION

3x
NCAA ALL-AMERICAN



Photos: Eamonn Ryan



WADE SHOMPER '26

(SHOT PUT)

18.94

METERS (62'1.75")
Bucknell outdoor record throw
May 2026

3x

PATRIOT LEAGUE CHAMPION

NCAA ALL-AMERICAN

ACADEMIC ALL-AMERICAN

WHAT MAKES A THROW?

JAVELIN

Speed + Timing + Precision

APPROACH Bliss accelerates down the runway, building speed while controlling rhythm.

CROSSOVER STEPS Bliss transitions into a series of quick, sideways steps while drawing the javelin back, creating separation between the upper and lower body.

PLANT The final stride is where speed becomes power. By creating a stable base, Bliss channels momentum from the approach through the body and into the javelin.

RELEASE With a powerful whip-like motion, Bliss releases the javelin at the optimal angle, sending it soaring down the field.

SHOT PUT

Strength + Technique + Explosive Power

SETUP Shomper positions the shot against his neck and prepares the body for movement inside the circle.

GLIDE Using the traditional glide technique — a classic style that predates the rotational method used by many elite throwers today — Shomper drives backward across the circle while building momentum.

POWER POSITION Shomper assumes a powerful stance, the body loaded and ready to transfer energy forward.

RELEASE In one explosive move, Shomper drives upward and outward, launching the shot.



Gianna Sangillo '29 (left) applies business strategy to biomedical innovation.

EXPLORATIONS

Interdisciplinary Insights

Bucknell students spent the summer exploring the intersections of disciplines — where art informs engineering, artificial intelligence influences human behavior and entrepreneurship advances healthcare

by MATT JONES // photographs by EMILY LAMPARTER

Art + Engineering

In a biology lab in Rooke Science Center, **Tanner Tighelaar '27**, biomedical engineering, spotted an old wooden skin model and wondered if it could be replaced with something more modern. "I was taking a sculpture class and thinking about how cool it would be if there was a model that felt like skin, something that showed different cells and layers," he says. "That's how I started working with silicone."

Tighelaar's artistic instincts are closely tied to his analytical mindset. When he sees a problem, he wants the solution to work — and be aesthetically pleasing. "I wanted to create a model that could teach students but also serve as a piece of art," he says.





Art meets engineering as Tanner Tighelaar '27 creates realistic models of epidermis, muscle and connective tissue.

With guidance from Professor Theo Hopper, biomedical engineering, and Professor **Jayne Kubat '08**, biology, and support from the biomedical engineering department, Tighelaar spent the summer figuring out how to turn his idea into a working prototype. By varying additives and curing times, he created silicone models that mimic epidermis, muscle and connective tissue. "I'm trying to make artificial skin grafts that help students practice everything from surgeries to sutures," he says.

For Tighelaar, engineering and artistry are inseparable. "Efficiency matters, but aesthetics shape how people interact with a tool," he says. "I don't want to make a museum display — I want to make something students want to use."

Artificial Intelligence + Finance

When **Grace Gerosa '29**, economics, arrived on campus, AI tools like ChatGPT, Claude and Gemini had already entered the mainstream, raising questions about how they might reshape education, work and decision-making.

With support from the Program for Undergraduate Research, Gerosa connected with Professor James Lawson, accounting, to study how generative AI influences the disposition effect, a behavioral bias that describes investors' tendency to sell winning investments too early and hold on to losing investments too long. "Specifically, I'm interested in people who use AI for financial trading advice, and whether this same bias appears in AI systems," says Gerosa, who learned basic coding through the Dominguez Center for Data Science to conduct her research.

"It's a complex issue, but Professor Lawson has been a great mentor," she says. "Being able to take ownership over my work and have in-depth conversations with him has given me a lot of skills that will benefit me in the future."

Healthcare + Entrepreneurship

Gianna Sangillo '29, accounting, discovered an interest in healthcare innovation through Bucknell's MedTech Entrepreneurial Fellows Program, led by Professor Charles Kim, mechanical engineering, and Professor Bill Meek, management & entrepreneurship. The summer program allows students to research innovative business strategies for biomedical technologies.

In Sangillo's case, she conducted market research for an NDA-protected healthcare management technology that was created by **Sean O'Connor '26**.

Her team completed 30 to 40 customer discovery interviews with patients, doctors, clinicians and healthcare leaders, identifying unmet needs, refining the product's value proposition, developing a prototype and creating a pitch deck with a commercialization strategy. Sangillo presented the team's research to healthcare executives in Philadelphia.

She credits her preparation for the MedTech program to Bucknell's Design Thinking Leadership Pre-Orientation program, where she conducted research for ThermaIV, a self-heating IV bag created by **Elizabeth Malley '26**, who won Bucknell's 2025 BizPitch competition.

"That experience showed me how market validation drives innovation," she says. "Working at the intersection of business strategy and medical technology showed me how patient-centered solutions can become commercially viable products. It inspired me to pursue a minor in entrepreneurship so I can help bring patient-centered solutions to market."

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SECOND ACT



On a Pittsburgh job site, civil engineering major Dominic Viozzi '27 (right) gains hands-on experience from mentor Italo Merante '18 during a summer internship.

photograph by JEFF SWENSEN


MERANTE
CONTRACTING

The Proving Ground

With one year left before they walk across the Commencement stage, members of the Class of 2027 put their education to the test inside workplaces from coast to coast. Whether testing prototype vehicles for Porsche in Los Angeles, analyzing healthcare policy in Washington, D.C., or structuring financial transactions in New York City, these students applied their skills, built confidence and discovered new career paths. These experiences illustrate why Bucknell was named LinkedIn's No. 1 liberal arts college for long-term career success for the second consecutive year.

by KATIE NEITZ



Photo: Gregg Segal



Zachary Ebilane '27 interned in Porsche Engineering's early prototype and development group.



Zachary Ebilane '27 helped test powertrain components and infotainment systems in prototype vehicles.

Behind The Wheel

Zachary Ebilane '27 | PORSCHE ENGINEERING | *Los Angeles*

MOST DRIVERS WON'T SEE the Porsche vehicles **Zachary Ebilane '27** worked on for another three to four years.

Last summer, the mechanical engineering major helped test those future vehicles as an intern in Porsche Engineering's early prototype and development group. He supported evaluations of everything from powertrain components to infotainment systems. He also served as a "vehicle companion" for five prototype vehicles, collaborating closely with test drivers on testing activities and requirements.

"They started me with one car to see how I learned and performed," he says. "By July, I had five that I was responsible for."

The opportunity began with a chance encounter. While home in Long Beach, Calif., over Thanksgiving break in 2025, Ebilane reconnected with mechanical engineering alumnus **Brian Dsouza '25**, a vehicle engineer at Porsche. After learning about an internship opening, Ebilane applied, earned a referral from Dsouza and advanced through a competitive, multi-round interview process.

Ebilane credits Bucknell's hands-on engineering curriculum and collaborative classroom environment with preparing him for the role. He says the communication and teamwork skills he developed in Bucknell's collaborative classrooms helped him stand out during the interview process.

The level of access and responsibility he had during the internship made a lasting impression. "It was incredible to be able to work on them," he says. The experience also affirmed his career ambitions. "I've made it pretty clear to my managers that I'd love the opportunity to come back," he says. "I really enjoyed the work there."

From Dent Drive to Madison Avenue

Max Wilson '27
PNC
New York City

FRESH FROM STUDYING abroad in Rome, **Max Wilson '27** traded one bustling city for another, interning on Madison Avenue with PNC's asset-backed finance group.

His path to PNC began with a Bucknell connection. Wilson met **Doug Frankel '98, P'30** while representing the Freeman College of Management at a prospective student event. Impressed by Wilson, Frankel contacted the Freeman College's Office of Experiential Learning to see if Wilson would consider applying for an internship with PNC, where Frankel is an executive vice president and managing director.

Frankel helped open the door. Bucknell's career resources prepared Wilson for the opportunity. The Office of Experiential Learning guided him through the application process, while Patti Meyers, a business & consulting career coach with the Center for Career Advancement, provided industry-specific guidance.

Wilson, a business analytics and computer science double-major, began his internship with several weeks of training alongside six other interns. He then joined PNC's structuring team, where he helped assess risk for large asset-backed finance transactions.

After graduation, Wilson will return to PNC in New York for a full-time role. In time, he hopes to offer future Bucknell students the same kind of support and mentorship he received.

Photo: Gregg Segal



Guidance from Doug Frankel '98, P'30 (right), helped Max Wilson '27 turn his PNC internship into a full-time role.

Photo: James T. Giffen

Following his internship, Vincent Torres '27 was offered a full-time role with Kearney & Company.

A Career That Adds Up

Vincent Torres '27
KEARNEY & COMPANY
Arlington, Va.

VINCENT TORRES '27 arrived at the Center for Career Advancement's fall 2025 career fair with a stack of resumes and one goal: hand out every copy. By the end, the accounting major had done just that. And in the process, he made a promising connection with representatives from Kearney & Company.

After learning more about the accounting and consulting firm, Torres secured an internship on its audit team supporting the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services. He reviewed government contracts, gathered client information, participated in client calls and prepared audit work papers.

The experience helped Torres explore different areas of the firm and confirmed that auditing is the right path for him. It also led to his next step. Torres has accepted a full-time offer: After graduation, he will return to the firm as an audit associate.

Looking ahead, Torres hopes to combine his interest in accounting with opportunities to travel and work with clients in different locations. That goal builds on a love of travel sparked by his Bucknell study-abroad experience in London.

Photo: Sam Levitan Photography



Kelly Byrne '27 brought a Division I athlete's focus and discipline to her research internship at Fox News.

Training for the Moment

Kelly Byrne '27 | FOX NEWS | ***New York City***

AT FOX NEWS IN MIDTOWN Manhattan, psychology major **Kelly Byrne '27** drew on skills she developed both in the classroom and the pool. As a Division I swimmer, Byrne knows the value of preparation, discipline and time management — lessons that helped her navigate the fast-paced media industry.

Byrne's path to Fox began through the Bucknell University Alumni Association's mentorship program, which connected her with alumni in the media industry who helped her find an opportunity with Fox's research team. There, she analyzed audience data to support teams across the company, including ad sales, programming and public relations.

One of her biggest projects involved developing a presentation pitching a national restaurant brand as a potential Fox advertiser. Sharing her team's research and recommendations gave Byrne the opportunity to apply the same preparation and focus she has developed through years of competitive swimming.

"Swimming taught me that practice has value because it prepares you for the moment when it matters," she says. "I spent so much time practicing and rehearsing my presentation in the same way. I wanted to make sure I was ready."

The experience boosted Byrne's confidence and showed her how skills developed at Bucknell — from research to communication to persistence — can translate into a career.

"I came in not knowing much about research, so the first few weeks were really about learning," she says. "Now I have this valuable experience that I can carry into my career, which is really exciting."

Photo: James T. Giffen

Eager to Learn

Dominic Viozzi '27

A. MERANTE CONTRACTING INC.

Pittsburgh

WHEN DOMINIC VIOZZI '27 first met **Italo Merante '18**, he wasn't looking for an internship. He was looking for an opportunity to learn.

The two connected through the Constructors Association of Western Pennsylvania Student Estimating Competition, where Merante, an estimator and project manager with A. Merante Contracting Inc., coached Bucknell's team. The competition gives students experience analyzing project plans, calculating costs, developing a competitive bid and presenting their proposal.

After the competition, Viozzi, a civil engineering major, stayed in touch with Merante, asking if he could visit Pittsburgh over winter break to learn more about his work. That visit led to several more — and eventually to an unexpected opportunity.

"We were sitting at lunch, and Italo said, 'Dom, I've been impressed with you. I like your drive to learn. I'd like you to intern with me next summer.' "

Viozzi accepted the offer and put his classroom knowledge to work, gaining experience in office and field operations while learning what it takes to move a construction project from planning to execution.

Beyond the technical skills, Viozzi says Merante's mentorship was the defining part of the experience. "The support I had from Italo is unmatched," he says. "His commitment to helping young people learn and grow in the industry really stood out to me. Having someone willing to invest that much time in helping me develop as a young construction professional has been incredibly valuable."



Photo: Jeff Swensen



Dominic Viozzi '27 will join A. Merante Contracting Inc. as a project engineer in Pittsburgh after graduation.



Max Quan '27 (center) benefited from the support of David R. Hamill '81 (left) and Jack Hoadley '72.

Policy in Practice

Max Quan '27 | GEORGETOWN UNIVERSITY'S CENTER ON HEALTH INSURANCE REFORMS | *Washington, D.C.*

BEFORE ARRIVING IN Washington, D.C., in May 2026, **Max Quan '27** thought he had a clear picture of what a legal career looked like. A few weeks into his internship, his perspective expanded.

Through Bucknell's new **David R. Hamill '81** Washington, D.C. Experience — which provides housing and financial support for students interning in the nation's capital — Quan worked at Georgetown University's Center on Health Insurance Reforms. The business analytics major and English — literary studies minor analyzed insurance rate filings and researched how the No Surprises Act is shaping healthcare costs and coverage, ultimately reporting his findings in policy blog posts.

"It's completely opened up the possibilities," Quan says. "Before, I thought law school meant working at a litigation firm. Now I've seen this whole policy side. I see how a law degree can be applied in so many ways."

The program, which supported four Bucknell students this summer, also helped Quan enroll in a health policy course at American University and connect with Bucknell's Washington, D.C. alumni network.

With mentorship from **Jack Hoadley '72**, research professor emeritus at Georgetown University's Health Policy Institute, Quan gained career advice, feedback on his work and introductions to other Bucknellians in the city. Those conversations shaped his thinking about law school and his future career.

"The Bucknell network here has been super helpful," Quan says. "People have been generous with their time and eager to help me."

Quan says Bucknell prepared him well for the role, particularly through writing-intensive coursework that strengthened his confidence in research, analysis and professional communication — skills he relied on throughout the internship.

Photo: Sam Levitan Photography



Haden Williams '27 was offered a full-time role with Vanguard and will be returning after graduation.

Photo: April Gamiz

A New Lens

Haden Williams '27
VANGUARD
Malvern, Pa.

ON A PARK-LIKE campus outside Philadelphia, **Haden Williams '27** found an unexpected pathway for her interest in consumer behavior.

The markets, innovation & design major had not considered working at a financial services company until **Danielle O'Sullivan '24**, a Vanguard data analyst, encouraged her to complete North Star, a two-week virtual introduction to Vanguard. That experience led Williams to a business leadership internship with the global brand marketing team.

She spent the summer researching consumer behavior for Vanguard's personal wealth division, applying concepts from Professor Ankita Kumar's Understanding Consumers course. "We were trying to understand what people want, why they make the choices they do and what gets in their way," she says. "It's storytelling grounded in data."

Although Williams expected to gravitate toward marketing's creative side, the internship instead sparked an interest in the research and analysis behind it.

"The projects we did to analyze patterns in different generations were really interesting," she says. "I found a lot of value in seeing how research translates into decision-making." ■



Be the

A $1 BILLION CAMPAIGN FOR THE FUTURE OF BUCKNELL

ray



IN *2035*, ONE OF TWO FUTURES WILL BE TRUE.

Bucknell will have adapted
to a future shaped by others
OR it will have shaped
what comes next.



BUCKNELL WAS BUILT FOR THIS MOMENT

The world Bucknell students will enter after graduation will be defined by complexity, rapid change and questions without easy answers. To lead within it, they will need to think beyond conventional boundaries — bringing together different perspectives, forms of knowledge and ways of solving problems.

Bucknell has always lived at these intersections.

SINCE 1846, Bucknell has prepared students to think deeply, act responsibly and lead across complexity. That model has not become outdated. It has become more necessary.

Because what once felt like a tension between disciplines is now the defining condition of every field. This moment is not something Bucknell adapts to. It's what Bucknell is built for.

COMMITMENT 1

The Bucknell Advantage

Every Bucknell student will learn across disciplines and graduate ready to solve complex problems.

The challenges that will shape the future cannot be understood — or solved — through a single field. They demand people who can connect knowledge across disciplines, bring multiple perspectives to complex questions and translate ideas into action.

KEY PRIORITIES

- Expanded academic programs and interdisciplinary learning opportunities across all three colleges
- Greater access to transformative global education experiences
- Expanded research opportunities that connect students with real-world challenges
- New interdisciplinary centers built around questions no single discipline can answer

BECAUSE THE FUTURE BELONGS TO THOSE WHO CAN SEE CONNECTIONS WHERE OTHERS SEE BOUNDARIES.

COMMITMENT 2

The Foundation

A campus that builds community and shapes leaders.

Intellectual experience and personal development converge in Bucknell's residential experience. In every corner of our campus, students find belonging, discover their strengths and learn to lead.

KEY PRIORITIES

- Leadership development integrated across student activities
- Enhanced well-being and mental health support
- Expanded student gathering and community spaces as well as programs that enhance community and connection
- Stronger academic support resources

BECAUSE EXPERIENCES BEYOND THE CLASSROOM SHAPE THE LEADERS STUDENTS BECOME.





COMMITMENT 3

The Arena

Competing at the highest level — on the field and beyond.

Bucknell student-athletes will continue to excel in competition while being fully supported as students first — developing discipline, leadership and resilience that lasts long after graduation.

KEY PRIORITIES

- Integrated, championship-level support for holistic student-athlete development
- National competitiveness across programs
- Academic success as a defining priority
- Support for recruiting and retaining talented student-athletes

BECAUSE EXCELLENCE ISN'T JUST MEASURED IN WINS.

COMMITMENT 4

The Launch

Every Bucknell student will graduate prepared for meaningful careers — and a lifetime of professional success.

The value of a Bucknell education is measured not only in what students learn, but in how they are prepared to lead, adapt and contribute from day one.

KEY PRIORITIES

- 100% of graduating students employed or in graduate school within 6 months
- Expanded career readiness and mentorship programming
- Stronger integration of career preparation into all three colleges and athletics

BECAUSE READINESS IS NOT AN OUTCOME. IT'S A RESPONSIBILITY.

COMMITMENT 5

The Promise

Talent, not circumstance, defines access.

A Bucknell education should be shaped by potential. This foundational commitment ensures that the students who belong here get here — and stay here.

KEY PRIORITIES

- Meeting 100% of demonstrated need
- Eliminating loans for families earning under $150,000
- Expanding merit scholarships to attract and retain exceptional students

BECAUSE OPPORTUNITY SHOULD BE AVAILABLE TO THE MOST TALENTED STUDENTS.





WHAT HAVEN'T WE IMAGINED YET?

A bold initiative

The next defining chapter of Bucknell will require an investment as ambitious as the future we imagine: a single investment that propels one or more of our five commitments faster and farther than anyone imagined possible. Perhaps it is something that does not yet exist, at a scale that further strengthens and distinguishes a Bucknell education. The kind of opportunity that waits for the right partner and the right moment. A single idea powerful enough to elevate how Bucknell is understood in the world.

THIS IS AN INVITATION TO LEAVE A LEGACY THAT WILL SHAPE BUCKNELL FOR DECADES TO COME.

Artificial intelligence is reshaping work.

Entire industries are emerging.

The skills students will need tomorrow are not the same skills they needed yesterday.

- The question is no longer simply “Where should I go to college?”
- It’s “Which institutions will prepare me for what comes next — and which will spend the next decade trying to catch up?”

For Bucknell, this is a moment of choice.



RIGHT NOW,

THERE IS A BUCKNELL STUDENT READY TO ASK THE QUESTION NO ONE ELSE HAS THOUGHT TO ASK.

THAT STUDENT HAS THE TALENT, CURIOSITY AND DETERMINATION TO CHANGE A COMPANY, DISCOVER A CURE, STRENGTHEN A COMMUNITY OR SOLVE A PROBLEM WE CANNOT YET RECOGNIZE.

Your support is what brings them here and helps them thrive.

It is why exceptional faculty choose to teach and mentor here — and why generations of students will continue to leave Bucknell prepared to solve complex problems, lead with purpose and make a meaningful difference in the world.



"THIS CAMPAIGN IS NOT ABOUT MAINTAINING WHAT BUCKNELL HAS BEEN.

It's about building what Bucknell can become, and ensuring that the next generation inherits a Bucknell prepared not merely to meet the future — but to define it."

— Scott Perricelli '94, P'25, P'31, campaign chair

Be the 'ray

FOR THE FUTURE OF BUCKNELL

Visit betheray.bucknell.edu to learn more.

The next issue of Bucknell Magazine*, the University Report, is a special edition that will be devoted to the Be the 'ray campaign and its supporting commitments. It will be published this winter.*



THE NEXT SEASON

FOR MARK TALLMAN '02, ACTING IS A NEW KIND OF COMPETITION — ONE WHERE PREPARATION, DISCIPLINE AND RESILIENCE STILL TAKE CENTER STAGE

by PETER FLAX

Photo: Jon Lopez

MARK TALLMAN '02 IS TALKING ABOUT LOVE. These days, his passion is acting — but it's not his first love. That would be sports. Tallman was an accomplished student-athlete — the co-captain of Bucknell's football team — who turned to the dramatic arts after his playing days ended. But as someone who knew a thing or two about preparation, resilience and performing under bright lights, it's no surprise that the former education major has achieved Hollywood stardom.

"Acting is very similar to sports in that it's a game we get to play," says Tallman, chatting in his New York City home moments after greeting his 11-year-old son after school. "It's just a different game where you step into a character's skin instead of stepping onto the field to execute plays."

After a brief post-college stint coaching, Tallman pursued acting professionally. In 2007, when he landed his first paid role on the soap opera *All My Children*, he and his wife moved to New York City — and,



Mark Tallman '02 brings charisma — and plenty of swagger — to the role of retired NBA All-Star Nick Brandes in Apple TV's *Your Friends & Neighbors*.

as he puts it, they've basically never left. "There's just something about New York — the energy, culture and accessibility to opportunities and experiences this city offers are unmatched," he says.

While he remains fit and a self-proclaimed sports fanatic, he channels much of his competitive drive through his two sons, who both play on a travel soccer team.

Still, there's no doubt that Tallman remains on top of his game. Many career actors hope to land a juicy role on a popular TV series, but Tallman is presently enjoying his second such success. After a three-season run as David Montgomery on the BET comedy series *First Wives Club*, an adaptation of the 1996 film, Tallman earned another major role. Alongside an all-star cast that includes Jon Hamm, Amanda Peet and Olivia Munn, he plays a curiously likable retired NBA All-Star named Nick Brandes in *Your Friends & Neighbors*, a dark comedy-drama series on Apple TV.

Tallman's journey to Hollywood did not follow the usual path.

"I grew up as an Army brat, lived in Hawaii, Germany, Texas, Washington and finished high school at Fort Drum in upstate New York," he says. "We were way up in the middle of nowhere. No one came to recruit up there." But luckily, after his football team reached the state tournament at the Carrier Dome in Syracuse, N.Y., the exposure put him on recruiters' radar and opened doors he hadn't expected.

Tallman says he knew Bucknell felt right from his first campus visit. But it was after he became a student that he discovered the faculty relationships that would shape his experience, including his connection with history professor emerita Leslie Patrick, whom he credits with helping him see possibilities beyond football.

"As a Black student at a predominantly white institution, having a Black professor as a mentor was particularly meaningful to me," he says. "She

"WITH [COACH JOE TILLMAN], IT WAS ALL ABOUT YOU BECOMING THE BEST YOU; IT DIDN'T NECESSARILY HAVE TO BE FOOTBALL."

Photo: Courtesy of Apple TV

believed so much in me. That made a huge difference. I'm forever grateful for her efforts."

During his time in Lewisburg, Tallman says his coaches had a significant influence on his personal development. "Tom Gadd was just excellent in terms of being a leader of men," Tallman says of the legendary head coach, one of the most successful football coaches in Bucknell history. Gadd died of brain cancer in 2003. "He was really progressive in what can be a rigid space."

In a similar vein, Tallman says his position coach, Joe Tillman, taught him a lot about football — and about life. "With Joe, it was all about you becoming the best you; it didn't necessarily have to be football," he says, hinting at how the confidence to pivot from sports to the arts arose. "From the beginning, he told me to follow my passion — that it doesn't necessarily have to be what everyone else sees you doing. I've kept that with me."

Tallman credits Tillman with helping him earn First Team All-Patriot League honors as a linebacker. The coach's simple mantra still guides him today: Play with a controlled intensity. The best version of you is both relentless and relaxed.

At Bucknell, though, acting was not yet part of Tallman's plan. His days were focused on the demands of being a student-athlete. The creative path that would eventually define his career emerged later, though the seeds had been planted long before.

"My father was part of an all-Army acting troupe, so I had exposure to the arts from an early age," Tallman says. "I remember my family being stationed in places like Washington state and traveling to New York City to see Broadway plays. Deep down, I wanted to be involved."

Taking the leap into acting also helped him rediscover something he'd worried he'd lost when football ended.

"I think every athlete constantly chases the high that sports give you, and I was afraid once my playing career was over that I'd never experience that again," he says. "On my first day filming *All My Children*, I stepped away from the set and thought, 'Oh my God, that was just like playing in a game.' You practice so hard, the lights come on and then it's time to perform."

He also discovered that the discipline he'd honed as an athlete would prove just as valuable in his career.

"As artsy-fartsy as people in the acting industry want to be, if you want to make a career of it, you'd better be organized, disciplined and have a strong work ethic," he says, noting that both athletes and actors need emotional resilience to survive when losing streaks inevitably occur. "When I started acting, I don't think I was aware that I'd have to audition 100 times before one thing came to fruition. Thanks to sports, I was prepared for it."

Two decades later, Tallman has gotten a few yeses that have paid off. "I'd like to say it's a testament to my hard work and my skill set as an actor, but I've been fortunate to be in the right place at the right time," he gracefully admits.

Tallman knows that other talented actors have not been so lucky. "If I'm keeping it real, this industry is so difficult that, more than anything, it's this huge weight lifted off your back when you land a series that is a bona fide success," he says.

And *Your Friends & Neighbors* definitely meets that standard. Season two, which premiered in April, was nominated for an Emmy for outstanding drama series. The show just wrapped filming its third season.

Show creator, Jonathan Tropper, has said in interviews that Nick was the hardest role to cast. "I remember Jonathan said that this guy had to be so funny and likable that you can watch him do something really bad and still want to forgive him," Tallman says. "When people see me in the street, they almost always say, 'Man, I wanted to hate your character, but I love him.' "

Tallman describes Nick as a loyal but flawed former NBA All-Star with an unmistakable swagger — a quality he drew from his own experiences. "Any athlete who's successful has to carry a sort of swag everywhere they go," he says. "Also, I think my upbringing as an Army brat was helpful in developing that swag because I was forced to be the new kid at school every few years."





Before performing under Hollywood lights, Mark Tallman '02 made his mark on the football field as a co-captain and First Team All-Patriot League linebacker.

Working alongside actors such as Hamm and Peet "has been a dream," Tallman says. He particularly admires the leadership Hamm brings to the set as the show's star and an executive producer. "He's funny, endearing and a consummate pro. He carries a sense of leadership when he steps on set that establishes the tone for the cast."

With another season of *Your Friends & Neighbors* ahead and a recent guest appearance on Netflix's *Survival of the Thickest*, Tallman is enjoying his success while continuing to pursue new goals.

"I'd love to step into the Marvel Universe," he says. "Having been a former athlete, I see myself in that superhero world. I feel like it's a realistic dream. Plus, my kids would love that." ■

Photos: Courtesy of Bucknell Athletics

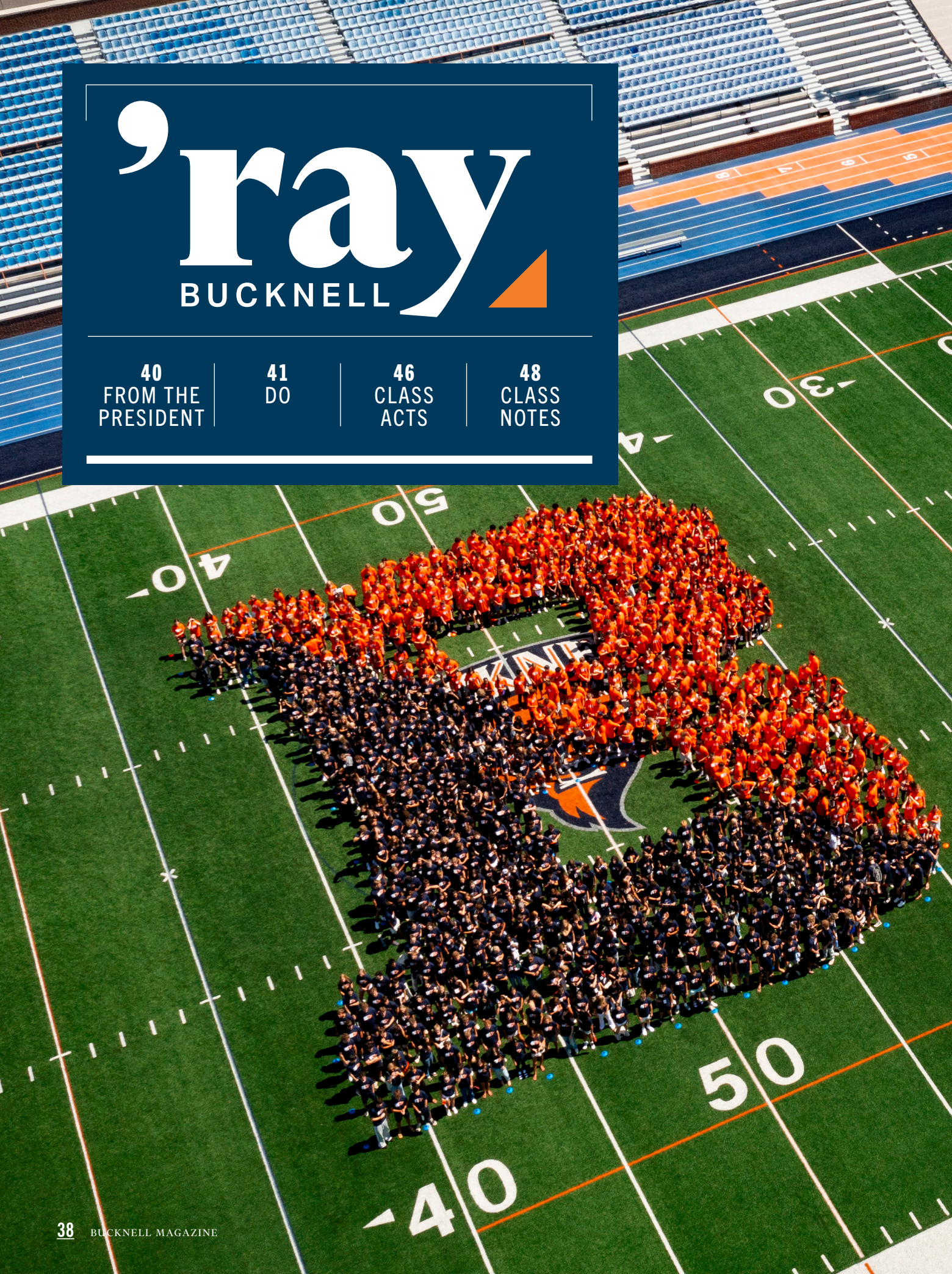
'ray BUCKNELL

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Members of the Class of 2030 marked the start of their first year during Orientation, where students took part in school-spirit activities, including forming the Bucknell "B."

photograph by EMILY LAMPARTER

FROM THE PRESIDENT

Our Moment to Be the 'ray



FOR GENERATIONS, BUCKNELLIANS have come together to shape the University's future. Through ambitious campaigns and countless individual acts of generosity and service, they have created scholarships, strengthened academic programs, supported faculty, transformed the campus and opened doors for students.

Each generation has built on the work of those who came before it. Together, Bucknellians have demonstrated time and again that when we act with shared purpose, we expand what is possible for the students who follow.

On Nov. 6, we launched the Be the 'ray Campaign. With a $1 billion goal, it is the most ambitious comprehensive campaign in our history. But its purpose is larger than a number. This campaign will strengthen Bucknell for the students we serve today and for the generations who will follow.

NO SINGLE ACT WILL CARRY THE FULL WEIGHT OF THIS CAMPAIGN. THAT IS THE POINT. WHEN MANY BUCKNELLIANS PARTICIPATE, EACH IN THE WAY THEY ARE ABLE, WE CREATE OPPORTUNITIES THAT NONE OF US COULD CREATE ALONE.

Our students will enter fields that artificial intelligence and emerging technologies are transforming — work filled with questions that do not sit neatly inside one discipline. They will need to connect ideas, work with people of all backgrounds, use new tools with judgment and turn what they learn into action.

Bucknell is built for that kind of education. Here, students combine the breadth of the liberal arts, the depth of professional preparation and the formative power of a residential community. They learn with faculty who know them and challenge them. They connect ideas across fields and graduate prepared to build successful careers as the world around them continues to change.

Be the 'ray will strengthen that promise through five interrelated commitments: an interdisciplinary education that helps students connect ideas and solve complex problems; a residential experience where students belong, grow and lead; support for student-athletes as they compete for championships and national rankings while graduating prepared for lifelong success; a comprehensive and fierce commitment to experiential learning and career outcomes; and a significant expansion of our scholarship program so more students choose Bucknell.

Together, these commitments offer a clear assurance to our students and their families: A Bucknell education is worth the trust they place in us. It will prepare them to enter strong career paths and lead lives shaped by judgment, resilience, community and purpose. It will connect them to a network that opens doors long after graduation.

The name Be the 'ray carries an invitation. It asks each of us to play a part in what comes next for Bucknell and for the students whose lives will be changed here. Some will make transformational gifts. Others will support the scholarships, programs, teams or places that shaped their own Bucknell experience. Still others will mentor students, open professional doors or strengthen the network that connects generations of Bucknellians.

No single act will carry the full weight of this campaign. That is the point. When many Bucknellians participate, each in the way they are able, we create opportunities that none of us could create alone.

To Be the 'ray is to help prepare the Bucknellians the world needs next: students who can think across boundaries, bring different perspectives together and turn knowledge into meaningful action. It means bringing exceptional students to Bucknell, surrounding them with faculty and mentors who challenge and guide them, creating a community where they can thrive and ensuring they graduate ready to shape what comes next.

The next generation deserves nothing less. I invite you to join me and Be the 'ray.

Please visit betheray.bucknell.edu to learn more.



John C. Bravman, President

Photo: Emily Lamparter

STAY INFORMED. STAY CONNECTED. 'RAY BUCKNELL!

Do



Environmental engineering students tested water samples collected in Ghana as part of a Senior Design project. Learn more in the College of Engineering report.

Photo: James T. Giffen

READ THIS

College Reports Now Available

Discover the people, projects and achievements that defined the year in engineering and management

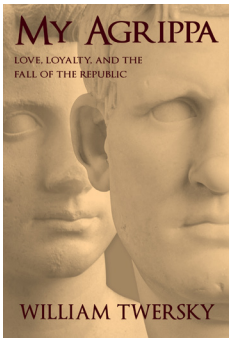
BUCKNELL'S LATEST College of Engineering and Freeman College of Management reports are packed with stories of discovery and ingenuity. A few things you'll learn:

- Freeman students helped a Lewisburg bagel business reduce waste after discovering that sweet bagels outsell savory varieties.
- A Freeman student became the only undergraduate selected to present in person at a major marketing conference in Madrid.
- An engineering Senior Design team created a sustainable, year-round well system for a community in rural Ghana.
- Engineering students traveled to Argentina to explore how infrastructure, policy and community interests intersect around three of the country's defining resources and industries: water, wine and beef.

Find the digital reports for the College of Engineering and the Freeman College of Management at publications.bucknell.edu.

Do

READ THIS



WILLIAM TWERSKY '12

My Agrippa: Love, Loyalty, and the Fall of the Republic

Twersky brings the final days of the Roman Republic to life in a historical novel centered on two often overlooked figures: Octavia, sister of Rome's first emperor, Augustus, and Marcus Agrippa, his friend and military commander. Twersky, a historian and award-winning museum professional, has received accolades for his curation and design work. (All Things That Matter Press, 2025)



MARIA HINKLE FRAWLEY '83, P'17

Jane Austen in 50 Words

Frawley's most recent book offers readers a fresh way to explore the language that shapes Jane Austen's novels. Through short essays, she reveals how 50 words central to Austen's world — from gentility and delicacy to impertinence and indolence — have shifted in meaning over time, helping readers better understand Austen's characters. Frawley, an English professor at The George Washington University, studied English at Bucknell. (Bloomsbury, 2025)



JAN BALAKIAN '83

The Twilight Swim

Balakian blends literary fiction with coming-of-age themes in a story about an Armenian-American teenager who persuades her aunt to swim across the Hudson River. Their journey becomes an odyssey as encounters with fellow swimmers compel them to confront their fears. Balakian, who majored in English, teaches literature and writing at Kean University. She has published essays on American drama and has written two award-winning screenplays. (2026)



DAVID LOPERA '08

The Safe Room

Drawing on longtime interests in philosophy, religion and art, Lopera's writing explores the complexities of the human condition through themes of morality, meaning and resilience. A double-major in English — film/media studies and economics at Bucknell, Lopera began writing thriller novels two years ago while working full-time as a special education teacher. Learn more about Lopera's writing collection at davidloperafiction.com (Shock & Suspense, 2026)

LISTEN TO THIS



"Plant People FTW"

Chris Martine, the David Burpee Chair in Plant Genetics & Research, has found a new way to spread his love of plants — through song.

At the Botany 2026 conference, Martine closed his address as the incoming president of the Botanical Society of America with an unconventional number: "Plant People FTW" (for the win), an anthem celebrating botanists.

Written with Grammy-winning producer Dean Jones and recorded in New York's Catskill Mountains with musician Billy Kelly, the track features voices of plant enthusiasts from 25 locations across the world, including Bucknell students who were recorded shouting "Plant people!" at Bucknell's Morrow Farm.

The project is a fitting blend of Martine's passions. Before becoming a botanist, Martine spent a decade performing with an independent rock band. The song, available on streaming platforms, is a playful reminder that science can be fun — and worth singing about.

SHARE YOUR WORK WITH US

Bucknellians, have you recently published a book, launched a podcast, released a film or developed an app? We'd love to hear about it! Send your news to bmagazine@bucknell.edu

Photos: courtesy of All Things That Matter Press (Twersky); courtesy of Bloomsbury (Frawley); Robin Lehovitis (Balakian); Shock & Suspense (Lopera); Wyeth Martin (Martine)

CROWDSOURCED

IF YOUR BUCKNELL MAJOR HAD A WARNING LABEL, WHAT WOULD IT SAY?

"Caution: a physics major may cause you to make waves."

MIKE LYON '75, P'03, P'05, PHYSICS

"**BEWARE, CRITICAL THINKING AHEAD.**"

MARIA DEMPSEY JAIMES '79, BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION

"Beware the odor of biogenic amines! I stunk up a whole refrigerator and caused general havoc for a semester."

MIKE SHIFFLET M'96, CHEMISTRY

"Might get included in a Bucknell LinkedIn post."

JACK SCHREYER '27, CHEMICAL ENGINEERING

"**Warning: May request access to your data.**"

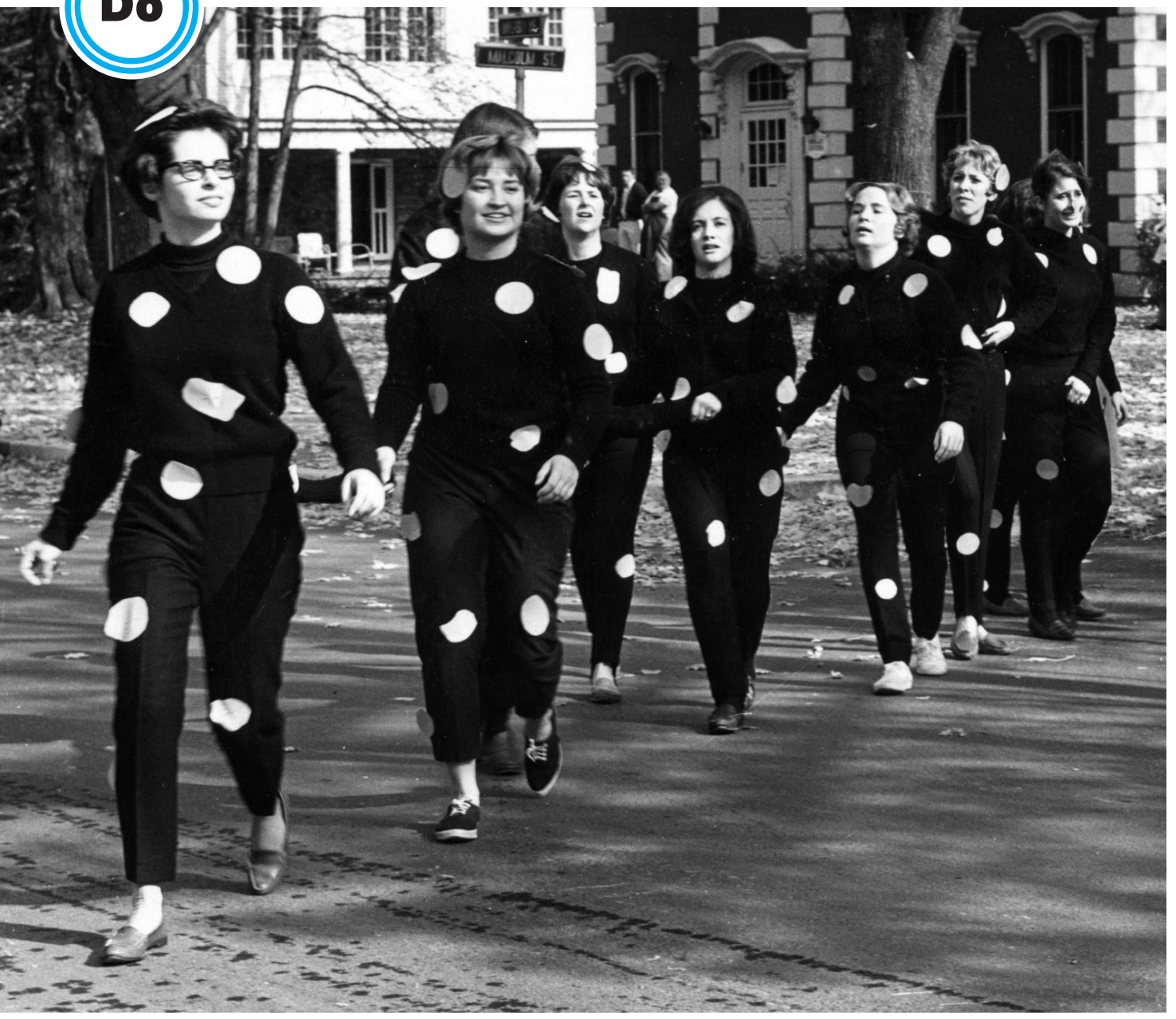
PROFESSOR JOE WILCK, ANALYTICS & OPERATIONS MANAGEMENT

ANSWER THIS

What would surprise your college self the most about your life today?

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

Do



Recognize yourself or a 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.

Photo: Courtesy of Special Collections/University Archives

WITTY WINNERS

Here are our favorite caption submissions from the summer issue:

"Steve starts to wonder if engineering is the right major for him."
— Robert McGarry '88

"WELL, I GUESS I WON'T BE NEEDING THAT FIRE EXTINGUISHER AFTER ALL."
— Barbara Dixon Ryan '76

"THE MARINE BIOLOGY PREREQUISITE SUDDENLY MAKES SENSE."
— Zack Vogel '93

"We're going to need a bigger kart — err — boat."
— Ann Donick Somerset '98

"NEXT TIME HE'S GETTING HIS OWN BALL."
— Elliott Merrill '61

"Bucknell taught me to think like an engineer. It did not teach me to check the depth of the Susquehanna first."
— Mike Knudtsen '00



The Story Behind the Image

That handsome fellow is me! What a surprise to see that in the latest *Bucknell Magazine*! Bucknell's mechanical engineering department had a senior elective course in the spring of 1982 that required us to build an amphibious vehicle from scratch and compete with other schools. My teammates included **Rob Mathai '82** and **Robert Dalton '82**. We all drove to Rochester Institute of Technology for the competition and won second place, behind the University of Maryland. This picture was taken during our first water tests at the pond next to the Inn at Lewisburg (and the former Country Cupboard restaurant and gift shop).

— Scott Dahlgren '82

Photos: Courtesy of Special Collections/University Archives (vehicle); April Gamiz (awards)



Meet Your 30 Under 30

They're artistic visionaries, changemakers, entrepreneurial innovators, and industry standouts making an impact in their communities and beyond. Celebrate the achievements of Bucknell's 2026 30 Under 30 honorees and see how they are making their mark at **go.bucknell.edu/30under30.**

Nominate a Bucknellian

Know an outstanding Bucknellian? Nominate a fellow graduate for a Bucknell Alumni Association Award! Learn more and submit your nomination at **go.bucknell.edu/alumniawards.**

WRITE TO US

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

STAY CONNECTED

New job? New city? New email? Keep us in the loop.
go.bucknell.edu/records

Class Acts

Five Principles for a Life of Good

by KATE WILLIARD

Parents of children in pediatric intensive care units sometimes ask the hospital chaplain to hold their dying child. It's a weight that is heavy and sacred. **Julia Shank Dawson '48** spent much of her life in those moments, sitting with families facing loss, uncertainty and grief.

She retired in 2020 at the age of 94 after a 24-year chaplaincy at St. Joseph's University Medical Center in Paterson, N.J. It was the second career in a life defined by service. On July 9, she turned 100.

Here are five principles that have guided her through a century.

Put your actions where 'your talk is.' At Bucknell, Dawson fell in love with **Chester "Chet" Dawson '48**, a World War II veteran and football player. After marrying in 1947, they bought a home in one of Philadelphia's first integrated neighborhoods. Chet's words stayed with her: "We have to put our actions where our talk is."

Turn grief into service. The Dawsons' three children had cystic fibrosis, requiring hospital stays and focused care. Philip died in infancy; Jeffrey at 12; Julie at 39. In 1990, Julia and Chet established the Jeffrey, Julie Ann & Philip Dawson Scholarship at Bucknell in their children's memory. Chet died a few months later. Rather than allowing grief to keep her away from hospitals, she returned to them, transforming her own experience of loss into compassionate care for children and families facing similar journeys.

Say yes to a new calling. At 64, she entered seminary. At 70, she began serving as one of the first Protestant women chaplains in a Catholic hospital in New Jersey. At 80, she earned her doctorate.

Choose love before doctrine. Dawson worked alongside Catholic priests, cared for Jewish, Muslim, Hindu and Christian families and built relationships rooted in compassion. "I have never felt that the doctrine is more important than to love one another," she says.

Be present. From studying psychology and sociology at Bucknell and advocating for equality in women's sports to serving single mothers in Bucks County, Pa., to caring for her children, and ultimately entering the ministry, Dawson sought to be present wherever she was needed — in hospital rooms with grieving families and in conversations across differences.



Julia Shank Dawson '48, who turned 100 in July, holds a photograph of her husband, Chester "Chet" Dawson '48, a former Bison football player.

Photo: Kate Williard

Teaching Where She Once Learned

by KATIE NEITZ

In the same sixth-grade classroom where she once sat as a student, **Sandra Castillo '17** now hears a familiar refrain: students who have already decided that they're "bad at math." Castillo is determined to change that narrative.

Castillo was recently honored with a Latino Educators Shine Award, which celebrates Massachusetts educators who make exceptional contributions in their classrooms while fostering cultural pride and student success. She was one of 57 teachers recognized statewide.

Growing up in Salem, Mass., Castillo felt supported by her teachers but rarely saw educators who shared her background.

"I wish I had more educators of color I could identify with," says Castillo, whose family has roots in the Dominican Republic. "It means a lot to be someone my students can connect with beyond academics."

In her classroom, equations are only one part of the lesson. Castillo works to help students replace "I can't" with confidence by celebrating small victories and encouraging students to solve problems collaboratively.

"Of course, I'm teaching math, but really it's helping them build skills and see themselves as capable," she says.



Sandra Castillo '17 received a Latino Educators Shine Award in recognition of her outstanding teaching and support of students in Salem, Mass.



Brendan Lowery '22 brings his business analytics background and Division I athletics experience to his work at FanDuel.

A Numbers Game

by KATIE NEITZ

For **Brendan Lowery '22**, numbers have always been part of the game.

As a Division I baseball player, Lowery came to Bucknell to pursue both competitive athletics and excellent academics. When the Freeman College of Management launched its business analytics major during his first year on campus, it affirmed that he had chosen the right university. "I knew I eventually wanted to work in sports analytics," he says.

Today, Lowery brings those interests together as a senior commercial analyst on the sportsbook team at FanDuel. He uses data to forecast activity, assess performance around major sporting events — including the World Cup — and help teams refine business strategy and operations.

His lifelong understanding of sports also gives him an edge.

"When I'm forecasting around an event, understanding the sport itself helps me ask better questions," he says.

Although his technical skills — including SQL, Python, Tableau and advanced Excel — are critical to his role, Lowery says Bucknell taught him that successful analysts need more than the ability to interpret data.

Through the Freeman College of Management, Lowery says he gained experience solving practical business problems while developing the communication skills needed to present insights to stakeholders.

His experience as a student-athlete also helped prepare him for the fast-paced nature of his career. Balancing practices, games and academics taught him the time management and discipline he relies on in his career.

"Bucknell really set me up for the work I do today," he says. "You can have the best analysis in the world, but if you can't communicate it and explain why it matters, it doesn't have much impact."

Photos: Christopher O'Donnell (Castillo); courtesy of Brendan Lowery '22

Class Notes

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

1952

I have not heard from anyone in a long time — probably because many of us are now 95 and don't go anywhere exciting. I can only report that the Erdle family grew from 10 great-grandchildren to 13 this year — all boys. This year three more are due: twins in July (a boy and a girl) and another Dec. 26. As with many of you, the family has gotten so big that we will have to meet at some place like the Air Force Academy's Falcon Stadium reception area. Life goes on — happily, we all agree. That is all I have to report except to say: Pray for peace around the world. — *Carolyn Knies Erdle*

1953

This spring, the ArtX Contemporary art gallery in Seattle presented a retrospective of **Don Cole**'s work, beginning with his early career in the creative hotbed of the 1970s in New York City through his travels abroad in the '90s to his current life in the woods on Vashon Island in Washington state. An abstract expressionist painter for six decades, Don is a recipient of multiple awards and grants, including two from the National Endowment for the Arts. His work has been exhibited abroad through the Art in Embassies program of the U.S. Department of State. Throughout his career, he has taught painting and design at various schools and universities. His work is in private collections both here and abroad and is included in the Portland Art Museum, the Worcester Art Museum and the ARCO Center for Visual Art in Los Angeles. Don writes, "Finding ourselves in our 90s with brains and body intact and being involved in what we enjoy doing is a blessing. Even with eyesight too bad for driving, making bright paintings helps with that." Check out doncoleart.com to see Don's brilliant works of art.

Bill Durland has written *How Democracies Become Dictatorships,* a very thorough U.S. voters' guide. "The guide is designed to help our voters decide whether they will take the opportunity to act in preserving our democracy or changing it to a Trump MAGA dictatorship, which would allow eligible voters to make a new declaration of independence and act upon it. I have written this guide to provide the reader with some of my personal experiences on democracy and dictatorships, and to give examples of how democracies become dictatorships and dictatorships become democracies in ancient, medieval and modern history. Also included is how various political, economic and religious organizations have aided that process. I hope this guide is helpful in bringing our people to a 'new birth of freedom.' " Bill's years of experience as a lawyer, a scholar and a peacemaker are evident in this extensive voters' guide intended for the November election.

Ruth "Bette" MacDonald Becker died April 26 just a few days before her 95th birthday. At the wedding of one of her best friends, she met future husband Larry, and they married in December 1953. They settled in Palo Alto, Calif., and later in San Marino, Calif. The family also enjoyed their beach home at Dana Strands, Calif. Upon retirement, they moved to Colorado. Larry died in 2013. In addition to enjoying golf, Bette was a bridge player, an avid reader and a crossword puzzler, and was always up for family activities. She is survived by five children, seven grandchildren and five great-grandchildren.

Ramona "Mona" Rogers Larrabee died Dec. 16. She and **Robert M'53** married soon after their graduation from Bucknell. While Bob pursued advanced degrees, Mona used her math skills in her work. Bob's career took them to several places and finally to the U.S. government. They settled in suburban Washington, D.C. Mona was dedicated to advancing education for women through her involvement with the Philanthropic Educational Organization, and as a member of the Sweet Adelines International [now SingUnited International] for over 45 years, made many friends with her warmth and graciousness. She enjoyed attending national conventions of the Sweet Adelines and sharing her passion for music by singing in double quartets, larger ensembles and church choirs. She enjoyed painting, birdwatching and crocheting cherished keepsakes for those she loved. Bob died in 2010. Mona is survived by her two children, David and **Susan Larrabee Albohn '79**, five grandchildren and four great-grandchildren.

Frank Meredith recalled that his wife, **Ann Lewis Meredith**, and Mona were the only two women in the calculus class at Bucknell — early STEM gals. Frank and Ann live in an independent unit at a retirement community in Virginia, close to a daughter.

Happy 95th birthday and congratulations to each member of the great Class of 1953.

— *Christine Hill Killough and John Manbeck*

1954

Let's send a simple entry of city, state or country you live in; any other entries are distinctly welcomed — consider current activities, charitable work, number of grandkids or great-grandkids, type of animal that is your companion, any Bucknell activity attended, Bucknell grads encountered, for example. Be creative to reflect our emeritus status.

Bert Johnson lives in Silver Spring, Md., and has three grandchildren.

I left my New Jersey continuing care retirement community to live with my daughter in Landenberg, Pa., after my wife, **Tozia Beckley Hemecker '57**, passed away. As a U.S. Army retired colonel, I've continued my troop support, recently as a West Point Military Academy Liaison Officer. I'm providing hospice to veterans with Veteran's Last Patrol to those who are almost all younger than I am. I look forward to your input. — *Ralph Hemecker*

1955

It was great to see **Ken Langone '57** on Fox News and looking so well.

For the first time ever, I read the 1955 *L'Agenda*'s entertaining and thought-provoking introductions of administrators, majors, sports and activities — each one introduced as a different

part of the body with its function, using the skull, embryo, rib structure, jaws, cells, lungs, pituitary gland, etc., to describe the subject — well done. If you have your yearbook, read it to see what part of the body your major or activity worked to create a Bucknellian.

We should also celebrate the 1955 *L'Agenda* staff — the late **Marian Kennedy Titus**, editor-in-chief; the late **Barbara Glenn Leva '56** and the late **Ed Burg '56**, assistant editors; the late **Allison Almy Kenworthy '56** and **Joseph English**, academic editors, and the late **PollyAnn Keller Owen '56** and **Norman Kerewsky**, activities editors — for taking the extra time and thought on the creation of what made a Bucknellian. — *Eleanor Mackie Pigman*

1957

I'm working on a memoir, and in the last issue, I gave you a sample chapter dealing with my freshman year. My father, **Vic Meyer '29**, was also a Bucknellian. Here is a condensed version of a Bucknell chapter in his life.

"It's the summer of 1928, and Vic Meyer has finished his junior year at Bucknell University. He's living with his parents outside of Philadelphia, and he is crazy about a freshman named **Peg** [**McGeary Hare '31**] who lives in Pittsburgh. Every night he writes to Peg, and he writes in his diary. The romance is not going well. Vic has given Peg his fraternity pin, but her letters are too short. He suspects she's seeing other boys. Well, then, he will date other girls — but just one a month, a total of three for the entire summer.

"He meets Beatrice in church, and they go dancing. The next week he meets Jacqueline on a canoeing trip. A week later he's back again; they're gazing up at the stars. 'Jacque kissed a flower and gave it to me. If I had my fraternity pin back, I would have asked her to wear it.'

"But Peg still has his pin, even if she claims she isn't wearing it.

"To get his mind off Jacque, Vic goes canoeing with Jeanne, a girl he used to date, who French kisses him. At church, he runs into Betz, 'The sweetest girl I've ever gone with. If I could win her again, I'd be faithful to her until death did us part.'

"A week after that, he has a date with Frances, another past love. 'We kissed just the way we used to, and I told her I loved her. I could marry that girl and be the happiest of men.'

"If you've been counting, that's six girls in three months. And he loves them all!

"Vic returns to Bucknell for his senior year, and there is Peg McGeary. They go for a walk along the river, and she hands him his fraternity pin. It's over. 'The tears poured down my cheeks,' he tells his diary. 'I couldn't hold them back.'

"My father has been dead for 14 years when I find this diary, 50 years since he wrote about Peg McGeary. I wonder whatever happened to Peg. I call the Bucknell alumni office and ask if they have an address for her. They do: Peg is now Mrs. Clarence Hare, living in Vero Beach, Fla.

"I write her a letter, identifying myself. 'I know that he was very fond of you, and I wonder if someday we might meet, and you'd be willing to share with me some of your memories.'

"I'm surprised to get a reply. 'I do remember your father. I would enjoy meeting you, and if you are ever in the neighborhood, do come by.'

"I immediately make plans to fly to Florida. And I begin to imagine how it will play out.

"Peg and I will have tea, and we'll talk about Vic Meyer. She'll remember what a charmer he was, her eyes alight with the memory. Then she'll say, 'You must stay and have dinner with me.' I'll accept, of course. Then later she'll ask, 'Where are you staying tonight, **Carolyn**? Of course, you must stay here!'

"The next morning after breakfast, as I get ready to leave, we'll embrace, and Peg will say, 'It's as though I've found another daughter.'

"If only! But this is what actually happens: I arrive in Vero Beach. An elegant silver-haired woman greets me. She is pleasant without actually being *friendly*. She does not offer me tea.

"I show her photographs of my father in his World War II uniform, and later when he visits me at Bucknell. She glances at them politely, without much interest.

"A paunchy, ruddy-faced old guy in golfing togs wanders in, and she introduces her husband, Clarence Hare. This is who she married instead of Vic Meyer? He shakes my hand and wanders out.

"I give up and gather my photographs. 'It was nice to meet you, Mrs. Hare.' 'Likewise,' says the former Peg McGeary, with a chilly smile.

"I climb into my rental car. It's 1979, and there's a gas shortage. It's tourist season, everything is booked and I have no place to stay. But I find a dingy motel with a dingy bar, and I have a couple of glasses of wine and promise myself that someday I will tell this story." — *Carolyn "Callie" Meyer*

1961

Bob Scott's book *How University Boards Work*, originally published in 2018, has been updated and published in a second edition in April. Aimed at university trustees, his work offers a practical guide for navigating the complexities of board service in the current atmosphere of enrollment challenges, political interference and changing public attitudes. Drawing on his long experience as a college president, Bob continues to publish monthly articles of interest to college and university administrators.

Although we are not all as well published and experienced as Bob, surely there are some events in your life that you might share. Like the trip I took to China in March; it was a real eye-opener for those of us who hadn't been paying attention to Chinese engineering, gardens and cityscapes. The best part was four days on the Yangtze River, enjoying the three gorges as well as a dam. Where have you been lately? What bit of the world have you been exploring? Why not share your travels, your reading or your new address with your classmates. We're still keen to hear from you. — *Jan Powers*

1963

After graduation, **Fred Giffords** went into the Army Ordnance Corps at Aberdeen Proving Ground in Maryland and was sent to Thailand for a year, then returned to Edgewood Arsenal. His Bucknell roommate, **Mike Kalis '64**, fixed him up with a blind date, and four months later they married. Fred went into the family heating oil business on Long Island, N.Y. Fred and wife Leslie, who split their time between Great Neck, N.Y., and Boynton Beach, Fla., will celebrate their

Class Notes

61st wedding anniversary in August. They have two daughters and four grandchildren.

Ron '58 and **Carol Bradshaw Follmer** attended the Bucknell Band reunion in April, and Ron, who was the only attendee from the '50s, played the trumpet which he has continued to play since graduation. Carol said **Bob Terio** played in the reunion band, too, and she added that **Barbara Potts Kelshaw** and her daughter, Beth, drove in from Virginia to enjoy the concert. Bob played with the Fairfax Wind Symphony at the Association of Concert Bands in Towson, Md. He has played with them for 23 years.

— Penny West Suritz

1965

Not many of our classmates made it back for Reunion, but those who did had a great time. **Toby Decker** reports, "**Jay Giardina**, **Don Niddrie** and I returned for our 61st and had a great time. Also returning were three '66 brothers, **Jim Dusenbury '66**, **Rick Parsons '66** and **Alan Hanford '66**. Perhaps the highlight was visiting our old SAE house on St. George Street. We stayed on the porch for a couple hours, reminiscing and enjoying a mini-reunion of brothers. Five or six other brothers from SAE classes joined us. Jim emailed a summary of our hours on the porch of our SAE house: 'Somehow the years melted away and we were no longer 80-plus. For that brief time, we had our youth back (until, of course, we started to move). I thank God for your friendship and enriching my life.' " Don adds, "Great weekend. We had a few beers with a nice bunch of '91s at the old SAE house. The University took it over, and it is now used as a residence for the Perricelli-Gegnas Center for Entrepreneurship & Innovation. We also went to the new SAE house on the hill, which the University built. None of us knew why any of these changes happened. The University lumped all the classes beyond their 60th Reunion as the Emeritus classes for dinner on Saturday night and breakfast Sunday morning. Some of us went to listen to a jazz ensemble after dinner on Saturday. They were good but not as much fun as being with the younger set who were lighting up the dance floor under the big tent on our old lacrosse field. I can still hang with them for a while. This group of brothers agreed to make Reunion an annual event until we can't."

Bob Gatski also enjoyed being at the Reunion but didn't connect with anyone in our class. However, he did enjoy a different, informal reunion as reported by **Frank Panczyszyn**: "Retired orthopedic surgeon **Bill Newcomb** made his annual visit back to his original home in Wilmington, Del., from his retirement home near Teton Village, Wyo., site of the Jackson Hole Mountain Resort (Bill is notorious for skiing nearly every ski day in the season). He was able to have a mini-reunion with three others from the Class of '65: **Frank** from Rochester, N.Y., **Bob** from Danville, Pa., who enjoys proximity to Bucknell and participates in many educational and entertainment events there, and **Mike Solon** from Hazelton, Pa., where the reunion took place.

"Hours were spent sharing fond memories, remembering many Bucknell friends and discussing each other's numerous medical issues. It was followed by a wonderful dinner and breakfast the next day in Hazelton. Since Bill expects to return next year, we agreed to get together again, and try to lure a few others."

Forrest and **Valerie Silbernagel Chilton** were disappointed not to be able to attend Reunion this year. Forrest writes, "I have attended about 20-plus, with the majority being after I retired from active duty in 1996. I have had Reunion leadership positions, starting with our 40th, and I've been the class Reunion chairman each year since our 50th. At one time the Reunion office told me that the leader in attending our class reunions was **Jim Rowbotham** with 45 Reunions attended. He has fallen off a little in recent years, though that does not detract from his extraordinary record."

Jim, a marketing consultant in New York, created a multimedia tagline for Bucknell: Bucknell BUilds Success, which could apply to all promotional material and "merch." He hoped University administrators will test it against other taglines. When he posted it on Bucknell's LinkedIn,

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

We welcomed the following new members during FY26:

Cheryl Beck '86
Mitch Blumenfeld '91, P'23, P'27
Ken Byk '80
Al Conti '73
Jerry Farano '88
Charlene Demmy Fleming '76 and Fred M. Fleming
Michael Hanrahan '74
Gwen Grabowski Krivi '72 and Robert E. Krivi
Eric '97, P'29 and Katharine Taft Leinwand '97, P'29
Ann Loar '75
Heddy-Dale Matthias '71
Michael O'Reilly P'91, P'96
Monica Palko
Thomas '67 and Bonnie VanKirk
(2 anonymous)

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

We celebrate the legacy gifts of members who passed away during FY26:

Eugene Bolter '54
Paul Davis
Mary DeCredico '81
Marilyn Ekiss Fries '59
Pat Reish Hemphill '59, P'86, P'88
Joyce Williams Lee '63, G'27
Walt McConnell '53, P'81, G'13
John Rasmussen '56
Bob Rooke '13, H'51, G'06, G'07, G'12, G'12
Gail Rothenberger Shand '55, P'81, P'87, P'90, G'12, G'25
William Sharp '59, P'90, G'21
Anne Wagner Silberfarb '62
Nancy Beasten Speer '56, P'83
John Stadler '75
Arlene Nemeth Stec '49
Barry Tague '60, P'84, P'86, P'95
Alice Windeknecht Totten '52, P'76, P'81
Max Van Buskirk '53, P'78, G'09, G'13
Doug Warman '72

THE ELLEN CLARKE BERTRAND SOCIETY

response from students, alums and staff was 100% positive. Your class reporter joins with others to encourage Bucknell to adopt Bucknell BUilds Success.

Please send news to me, **Jackie Hornor Plumez**, at plumez.dr@gmail.com or careerdoct@aol.com.
— *Jackie Hornor Plumez*

1966

Father Time has a way of marching on, and as he does so, he is taking away more and more of us. Since our last report, we have lost a couple of fine FIJIs in nearby classes and likely others of whom we do not yet know. **Allan "Big Stew" Stewart '64**, who died May 28, had a stellar career after Bucknell, including U.S. Army Airborne School, being president of Sears during a more than 30-year career there and a lovely retirement in Kiawah Island, S.C., for nearly another 30. Big Stew was married to his beloved Bucknell wife, **Pam Scholl Stewart '67**, for 59 years, and their family of four children grew to 20, including all grandchildren (who were instructed to call him Big Stew rather than Grandpa). Allan lived his life with commitment, integrity and great appreciation and was admired by all.

Another FIJI brother, **Bill Weidenfeller '65**, my cherished "beau-frère," followed soon after. Bill served in Korea after Bucknell and then worked in marketing with several pulp and paper companies, including International Paper from which he retired as a vice president. Bill and wife Betty then moved from Connecticut to Naples, Fla., where they enjoyed competitive tennis, and where Bill, fluent in French, became administrative head of Alliance Française de Bonita Springs, coached Special Olympics tennis and cycling teams, participated in Bucknell and Naples book clubs and, in his spare time, biked from coast to coast several times across the U.S. and all over Europe and South America, including conquering Mount Ventoux and high peaks in the Andes Mountains. He also condescended to join my late husband, **Chuck '64**, and me for more ordinary biking trips in France's Provence and Burgundy. After losing Betty to cancer, Bill married the widow of his tennis coach, and Bill and Joyce enjoyed another decade of tennis, biking and other active adventures.

At our 60th Reunion, **Judge John C. Uhler (Ret.)** was honored with the Service to Humanity Award. As assistant U.S. attorney, district attorney, judge and trial attorney, John was an advocate of professionalism, ethics and civility as foundations for the respect and rule of law and of the need for an independent judiciary as well as an advocate for children. At Bucknell he was a member of Omicron Delta Kappa, was president of Student Faculty Congress and was a member of Delta Upsilon, many of whose brothers were in attendance to honor him in this award. John lost wife Sue in March 2025 and appreciated the support of his DU brothers and friends.

Dick Pace reports, "The Bucknell FIJI classes of '64, '65 and '66 had their annual reunion in June. We don't play golf as well anymore; we don't drink as much as we used to, and most of us are in bed by 10 p.m. We do, however, still tell the same hysterical stories and laugh until we can't breathe. The brothers came from all over the U.S. to attend, hailing from Hawaii, San Francisco, Denver, Houston, New Hampshire, South Carolina, New York, Connecticut and Pennsylvania. The Class of '66 was well represented by **Roland "Cappy" Capone**, **Ben Elliott**, **Jim Marcille**, Dick, **John Skiavo M'68** and **Jerry Thimme**. Sadly, we are at the age where we lose a few brothers each year. Our leader, **Jim McCloskey '64**, calls for a moment of silence as he reads a list of those brothers and wives who have passed on, but once that is done, we go back to telling stories about them and remember the great times we had at FIJI and Bucknell."

Speaking of our renowned **Jim McCloskey**, he was once again honored for his work as founder of Centurion Ministries, this time with a front-page photo and accompanying story in *The Phi Gamma Delta* magazine. Jim and his team have successfully exonerated and freed over 70 clients who were wrongfully convicted who had collectively spent over 1,500 years in prison. If you haven't yet read Jim's book, *Framed*, written in conjunction with John Grisham, you should.

My parting advice this time is to go out and make a nice memory today that you can cherish tomorrow and beyond. These memories can propel us to "carry on" and give us the chance to make some new ones as well. Adieu for a bit as the winter issue of *Bucknell Magazine* will not include Class Notes.
— *Jackie Pearson Weidenfeller*

1967

Glenn Danks lives in Lexington, Va., which is quite close to my home. He worked as a civilian engineering manager for the U.S. Navy until his retirement several years ago. He is enjoying living in this beautiful small town where two colleges are located (Virginia Military Institute and Washington and Lee University). His interests include antique cars, hiking (for which he is ideally located in the Blue Ridge Mountains) and, in the past, golf. He has several grandchildren and is helping one of them navigate college admissions. He would enjoy hearing from TKE brethren.

Vic Ciuccio M'67 left Bucknell and finished his degree at Lycoming College. He came back to the University for his master's degree and got his Ph.D. in anthropology at Penn State. He lived in Bethesda, Md., for many years, where he figured out a way to use his degree in a practical setting by working for labor unions and interviewing the workers in several industries and using the information for negotiations. He had a small construction company prior to retirement and is taking courses at the University of Maryland. He is at vciuccio@gmail.com.

John Ark got an MBA after Bucknell, then earned his law degree at the University of Buffalo, after spending some time at Syracuse University law school, where he had a notable classmate: Joe Biden. John was an elected district attorney in Rochester, N.Y., and then served as a judge in the New York State Supreme Court for 28 years. Although we scarcely knew each other at Bucknell, we reminisced about mutual acquaintances and events of the time (especially Vietnam) for 90 minutes. Several years ago, I interviewed **Cess Guzetta Molak**, who made a point of citing John as a positive influence on her legal career. John and I talked about the fraternities we belonged to and how they were important to us. After our conversation, we both regretted not knowing one another as undergraduates.

Class Notes

BUCKNELL REUNION weekend
JUNE 4-6, 2027

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Kathi Barry Albertini also lives in Rochester. She worked as an adviser to several small privately owned businesses, helping to improve their management and their profitability. Since retirement, she has been doing what she had dreamed of: writing. She has written two novels and books of poetry. She has four grandsons and spends time with them, including going to their soccer games. While at Bucknell, she was involved in theater and her sorority, Alpha Phi. She would like to hear from some of her Bucknell friends.

My wife, Cheryl, and I traveled to Washington, D.C., in order to spend a weekend with several of my fraternity brothers and their wives. We met with **Al** and **Linda Peoples Ruhl**, and **Dick Baxter** and **Bob Costos** and their wives, and had a delightful time. It was of interest that, of the four couples, three of us are actively in the process of moving from our homes into continuing care retirement centers in our respective cities of New Haven, Conn., Fairfax, Va., and Roanoke, Va. Only the Costoses are planning to stay in their home for the foreseeable future.

As an aside, I am sure that we aren't the only classmates who get together to renew friendships. If you are reading this and it applies to you, please let me know about it for these notes. Most people are interested in hearing what you are doing.
— *Chuck Gilliland*

1968

Among the expected visitors to Vermont this summer was **Lynne Huntsberger Killheffer**. Even though she lives on the West Coast, she does manage to get back East periodically and this fall was on her schedule. She and five other classmates have been Zooming with each other every other week since COVID-19 and periodically meet up at special places, such as California and Alaska to name recent destinations. In addition to Lynne, the culprits include **Brenda Crouthamel Adams**, **Jenny Payne Reese**, **Nancy Weber Vetter**, **Kathy Fenton Wagner** and **Susan Penecale Zolla**. Other prospective visitors include **Jim Reese '69** and **Bob Brush**, who makes a regular trip to Vermont to see his brother who lives just up the road.

Another group of classmates who Zoom regularly includes **Marilyn Olson Parks** who reports, "In May, seven of us who Zoom about once a month decided that, with all of us turning 80 this year, we should celebrate together. While we have met at different locations over the years with spouses, we decided that this year it should be just the women. A Road Scholar trip was selected to help with logistics and so we met in New Orleans for six days. Attending from the East Coast were **Alice Woltz Durkin**, **Arlene Adams Manning**, **Judy Kerr Ellis**, **Judy Pitts Griffiths**, **Kay Glazier Turner**, Marilyn and, all the way from Seattle, **Linda Goodwin Powell**. **Roberta Carraine Glaser** wasn't able to join us but has attended past gatherings. While we learned a lot, it was mostly about sharing memories and having fun."

The last magazine prompted an email from **Dotty Hornberger Ford**: "I just read the article 'The Long Game' in the spring *Bucknell Magazine*. I'm happy to say that I am still being productive as I approach my 80th birthday. I had two of my mixed-media art pieces juried into an upcoming exhibit at the Palmer Museum of Art at Penn State University. The exhibit is titled *Dreaming American Futures: Invitational 250* and runs from June 13 to Nov. 29. The new Palmer Museum of Art is a beautiful place, and I'm thrilled to be included in this show.

"I still serve as an 'ambassador' at the museum. I spend two hours per week in the galleries talking to visitors about the collection. I also had a one-woman show at the Bellefonte Art Museum titled *Art Comes from Art*."
— *George Vince*

1969

Here's an update from **Chuck** and **Bonnie Eickhoff Berk**, who were members of Sammie and Pi Phi, respectively.

"We are both semi-retired, living in Sandy Springs, Ga., a suburb of Atlanta. Chuck was an executive with Sears for 27 years, serving in numerous positions including national sales and marketing manager for lawn, garden and outdoor living products, group national marketing manager for Sears automotive, sporting goods and recreation products, and prior to leaving Sears, was vice president of home improvement and product services in which his team generated approximately $1 billion in annual revenue.

"He was recruited by Home Depot in 1997 to open a new at-home services division catering to the 'do it for me' customer in which he designed, then rolled out national Home Depot programs for the sale, furnishing and installing of

roofing, siding, windows and HVAC. These businesses have grown to over $1 billion in annual revenues for Home Depot.

"Chuck left Home Depot in 2001, and Bonnie and Chuck invested in smaller entrepreneurial ventures. They owned a mechanical services company (HVAC and electrical) in Virginia for 12 years, which they sold in 2015. They currently own and operate BCR Properties, which has built, purchased and managed real estate in Georgia, North Carolina and Virginia.

"Bonnie and Chuck also have been very active in politics and various charities. He serves on the Georgia State GOP executive committee, and with Bonnie, he co-chairs the Republican Jewish Coalition for the Atlanta area. Chuck was appointed by then-Gov. Deal to the Georgia Commission on the Holocaust in 2016 and was appointed by then-Gov. Kemp as the board chair in 2021.

"Chuck and Bonnie are strong supporters of the state of Israel. They both serve on the Atlanta Israel Bonds Advisory Board Council. Chuck served as the Atlanta chairman and then chair of the Israel Bonds National Advisory Council. He serves on the Israel Bonds International Board. They are also active with numerous organizations that support Israel, including the American Israel Public Affairs Committee, Birthright Israel and Friends of the IDF.

"On a personal side, we have two married daughters living in Colorado and four grandchildren. It's hard to believe, but our youngest granddaughter just graduated from the University of Colorado–Boulder." — *Peter E. D'Orsi*

1970

John Richards sends this update: "My professional journey began with foundational work at Procter & Gamble immediately after graduating from Bucknell, followed by earning an MBA from The Wharton School in 1976. After a formative stint at McKinsey & Co., I pursued a management career focused on building emerging international consumer businesses, notably serving as executive vice president of Four Seasons Hotels and president of Starbucks Coffee Co., during their rise as dominant businesses within their sectors.

"I later translated this experience into leadership roles in both private and public companies as a CEO and board member, striving to improve individual quality of life in the fitness and health services fields. Notably, I served with LifeTime Fitness and The Joint Chiropractic — both of which emerged as public companies and leaders in their sectors.

"I am pursuing 'profit with a purpose' as an investor and board member in the vocational education and consumer goods fields. Along the way, I have shared this journey with my spouse, Catherine Beardsley, also a Wharton MBA graduate, and together we have two wonderful daughters, **Jennifer '12** (the ninth in our family to attend Bucknell) and Jacquelyn, as well as four cherished grandchildren.

"I would enjoy hearing from anyone — certainly, any of my old lacrosse teammates or Phi Gamma Delta fraternity brothers who are still kicking around — with best wishes and good health to all." — *Lydia Haller Dodd*

1971

Thanks again from Class Reporter **Lou Kissling** now that three classmates have responded to my plea for an update.

From **Jeff Sharon**: "When we were all shut in during COVID looking for opportunities to interact with other humans, I set up a Zoom call — almost out of desperation — with my '71 KDR fraternity brothers. Flying in the face of 'desperation is a poor adviser,' it was well-received and has become a monthly event.

"Eighteen brothers have participated at one time or another with about 10 participating nearly every month. While the focus of the call is the Class of '71, we have included others with whom we were close from the classes of '70 and '72. Participants from '71 include **Larry Diehl**, **Mark Gebhardt**, **Jim Hagan**, **Dick Harris, Walt Molawka**, **Hugh Mose**, **Bruce Nadler**, me, **Mike Sussman** and **Ted Terry**." Those joining from other classes include **Will Fagan '70**, **George Frey '70**, **Jim Silvius '70**, **Bill Winkler '70**, **Bruce Cooper '72**, **Marty Erb '72** and **Al Larsen '72**.

"There's always plenty to talk about — anywhere from hilarious recollections of our antics at KDR to thoughts about how fortunate we have been to have had the experience of attending Bucknell and to discussions about our careers, our families, our

COMING SOON

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Class Notes

activities during retirement and — yes, of course — the aches and pains we share as old men. Not surprisingly, most of our calls end with issues the world is facing and our assertions as to what needs to be done to fix them. We have the answers because we went to Bucknell.

"We also strongly share the belief that fraternity life was good for us and an experience that not only made our Bucknell days more enjoyable but also more enriched. We lament the reduction of the involvement of fraternities on many campuses today.

"We've been doing this continuously for six years. It's still going strong. It's a little mind-blowing to realize that this has been going on for that long. We are reconnected and closer as a group than any time since we graduated more than a half-century ago."

A second response to my plea for info comes from **Melanie Axel-Lute**: "After I moved into a retirement community in Albany, N.Y., I noticed the woman across the street wearing a Bucknell sweatshirt — turned out to be **Mary Ellen "Mel" Caccetta Lee**, who lived across the hall from me in Larson freshman year. Small world, as she spent her years before retirement on Long Island and I lived in New Jersey. We hadn't seen each other in over 50 years. Greetings to the rest of the women from Crackpot Corner." Now, we just need an update from Mel.

Joni Scherer Bullock writes, "Trips to Africa seem all the rage amongst our class. This past January, **Liz Hyde Gamble** and spouse Jim joined me and spouse Rob Conway on Cunard's newest ship, *Queen Anne*, for a 23-day cruise from Southampton, U.K., to Cape Town, South Africa. Joni and Rob had actually started the voyage from New York City on Cunard's *Queen Mary* crossing the North Atlantic to Southampton the first week of January. Needless to say, deck walks were 'bracing' that time of year at those latitudes. The voyage south to Cape Town was mostly smooth sailing with few ports of call after Cape Verde. By the time we reached Namibia, the passengers were definitely ready to walk on land. While onboard, Liz and I had almost non-stop laughs over our memories of Bucknell while Jim and Rob were clearly a bit stunned hearing of our escapades. We separated ways on arrival in Cape Town as Liz and Jim headed into the continent for safaris, hot air balloon rides and onward to Italy where they embarked on a Viking cruise of the Mediterranean. Their four-night safari in Masai Mara National Reserve was the highlight — retired life can be tough. Rob and I had to cut our African land trip short and head back to the U.S. due to an unforeseen medical issue. Those 'big five' wildlife sightings will just have to wait a bit longer." — *Lou Kissling*

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1974

Bob Owen writes, "I had a great time at the Emeritus Reunion, and I encourage all to gather friends and take advantage of this event in the future. I enjoyed my companions **Mark Reifsnyder**, **Norb Church**, **Scot Chadwick '75**, **Tom Wason '76** as well as seeing **Don Labowsky**, **Jon Sprout**, **Mark Stephanou '75**, **Fred Fontein '76** and **Greg Gilpatrick '76**. The food and entertainment were first class (the dorms, not so much), and the campus was beautiful and relaxing. We also had a chance to cycle around the area and visit the familiar downtown strip — wonderful memories and an enjoyable experience." — *Norbert W. Church Jr.*

1976

The Class of '76 had a fantastic 50th Reunion celebration on campus in late May. We had over 150 attendees and won the prize for reaching or exceeding our giving goals. **Mary Lou** and **Gail** enjoyed seeing everyone and send their thanks to all who attended and contributed.

Nancy Williams wrote that she had a great Reunion Weekend. She met up with many of her Delta Zeta sisters, including **Debbie Pociask Duvall**, **Marlene Kurz**, **Brenda Roepcke-Palmer**, **Pattie Litwin** and **Mimi McCloskey Dow '73**, **M'78**. Nancy said they laughed all weekend long. She was totally blown away by how different the campus looked compared to 1976.

Stuart Strongin notified us of the passing of **David Berkheimer** in February. David graduated with a degree in chemical engineering. He followed up with an MBA at Drexel. He spent decades with Mobil Oil, traveling worldwide for them. When he retired, he moved to Ocean Isle Beach, N.C., where he enjoyed golfing. He had a son and daughter as well as three grandchildren.

Gary A. Graves passed away May 5. His wife, Elaine, held a celebration of life service for him June 12 at St. Isidore's Catholic Church, Danville, Calif., with a reception that followed. Gary was a long-time public servant and retired in June 2016 as the chief

operating officer of Santa Clara County. Bucknell attendees at the service were DU fraternity brothers **Bob Shipway**, **Gary Allen**, **Bob Ackerman '77**, **Paul Mischinski**, **Curt Gillespie**, **Scott Guthman '77**, **Andy Blundell '75**, **David Stuckey '75**, **Bob Fasciana** and **Stephen Stewart**. We will miss our good friend along with his big smile and infectious laugh.
— Mary Lou Kupfer and Gail Waterbury Ferri

REUNION 2027

1977

Kurt Waters got together with **Peter Anderson** in Virginia for three days of golf and early Reunion planning. Kurt traveled to Jordan and Egypt in February and March, but the Dubai portion of his trip was canceled due to the Middle East conflict. Pete and wife Tamara traveled through Europe in May on a Rhine River pilgrimage cruise and then met up with son Robert for an additional week of adventures in Italy. Both Peter and Kurt are looking forward to attending Reunion and catching up with classmates.

Jeff and **Cathy Karpuk Seward** will celebrate 45 years of marriage in August and have lived in South Burlington, Vt., for almost 39 years. Jeff retired in March 2022, after 44 years in the healthcare software industry. Cathy retired as the women's head diving coach at the University of Vermont in 2023. Jeff writes, "Since our retirement, we've been to Italy, hiked five national parks in Utah, gone on biking trips in Portugal and Croatia, hiked a number of national parks in California and, 10 months ago, celebrated the arrival of our first grandchild, a boy, Callan Matthew.

"Last November, we bought a villa in Hilton Head, S.C., which we plan to rent out in the summer months and use ourselves and/or have available for family and friends during the rest of the year. We have no plans to move South because we love Vermont, and, most importantly, because all three of our sons and their families live within 30 minutes of us. We feel so blessed.

"Cathy heads out on another biking trip in September to England with an added side-trip to Scotland with her siblings. I've decided to stay home with the dog and enjoy fall in Vermont — September is so beautiful here.

"We've been back for several milestone Bucknell Reunions (10th, 20th, 30th, 45th). We really look forward to attending our 50th Reunion to see and catch up with old friends."

Mike Golub shared that his wife, **Charlene Kara Golub**, passed away June 4 in Ashland, Mass.

John Yeigh drove from his Belmont, N.H., home on Lake Winnisquam July 3 to visit **Brian Knapp** and family who were gathered for the week at Brian's son-in-law's camp on Merrymeeting Lake in New Durham, N.H. John and Brian caught up in person for the first time in 49 years. They were sophomore-year roommates in Larison Hall. John's wife, **Karen DiEgidio Yeigh**, was in the process of turning over two of their lake rental properties for their next guests. John and Karen's two adult children live in New Hampshire and continue to do sail racing with John.
— Susan Hunsicker and Brian Knapp

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1978

Greetings from the other side of 70 — dreaded its arrival but made sure to celebrate it accordingly by stopping at Bucknell en route home from visiting **Jean '13** and family. Campus looked great, but I must admit several tears were shed when I pulled into where the Mods once stood. Oh, the parties we had out there.

My birthday not only made me a year older but welcomed me into retirement. I celebrated that, as well, at Bucknell. I headed to campus the morning after my last day of work to help **Jill Campana Potdevin '76** celebrate her 50th Reunion. The Class of '76 looked great, and by all accounts, had a great turnout and plenty of fun. I loved getting a sneak peek at what lies ahead for us in two years. Plan on attending now.

My inbox received a great update from **Tom McLean** with news that he was attending the Penn Relays where he served as an official (clerk of the course), watched the Bison track and field team, visited with **Roger Gary** and **Kim Burney** and watched **Evie Bliss '27** and **Brylee Tereska '26** throw and impressively take first and second place in the javelin [See P. 16].

In addition to his trip East to the relays, Tom shared he would be

Class Notes

returning East in June to attend Blair Academy alumni weekend. He has been in touch with **Milton "Skip" Waddell '77**, who retired from practicing law in the D.C./Maryland area, and **Gerald Purnell M'79**, who retired from the bench.

I have sadly learned that **Harvey Edwards** passed away Oct. 30, 2025. One of my fondest memories of Harvey was the keg party he was somehow behind at the Mods for our 10th Reunion. We all gathered there, and we were having such a great time the school sent someone out to find us as very few of our class had showed up to the Class Dinner. Harvey was a 'big man on campus' with a smile to match and a Frisbee at hand. The Ultimate Hall of Fame noted that Harvey was "considered the greatest natural athlete of his era in the game." He founded and captained the Bucknell Mudsharks and went on to play with several top teams, including the Berkeley Flying Circus. In the 1990s, he added three Club Masters World Championships with the Seven Sages of the Bamboo Grove. He devoted his career to education, teaching English at Selinsgrove Area High School for 28 years before continuing to share his love of literature, language and teaching as a professor at Susquehanna University. Harvey was also a passionate golfer who played three days a week with friends at the Bucknell Golf Club and was an enthusiastic traveler who loved exploring the world with his family.

Now that I shared my tale of turning 70 and retirement, please share yours. Tips on both events will be welcomed by all.
— Kathy McDonald Adelberger

1979

Do any of you ever have dreams where you are back at Bucknell? I do. Maybe it's because of my duties as your class reporter. In any event, I do hope some of you attended Reunion in May and can send me some news. Here is what I have for now. **Glenn Weiss** met a Bucknell alumnus but he did not reveal the name and added that it was the first time for such an encounter in the 26 years since moving to South Florida. Glenn and wife, Maria Foladori, live in Delray Beach. Both he and his wife are school teachers and are still teaching. Thanks for the update, Glenn. Please tell us more about your teaching in the next issue.

Amy Broza wrote about the newly formed Bucknell Cape May, N.J., club, which met at the summer retreat of **Tom Sanders**. Also there to celebrate 50 years of friendship were **Linda Christman Sepsy**, **Karen Suchoza Chesko**, **Stacey Merrigan Smith**, **Laura Cochran Morris**, **Sue Huang Correll** and **Laurie Byers Wilson**. A follow-up reunion is scheduled for later this year. It warms my heart to know fellow alumni are getting together to celebrate their many decades of friendship that started in the fall of 1975.

I am in phone or email contact with **Dave Stoddard** and **Bill Dunn**.

Your class reporter just celebrated 40 years of marriage to my wife, Tamar, who I met my first year in Israel back in 1985. Tamar hails from Metuchen, N.J., but it took a date in Israel to bring these two Northeasterners together. Please send more news to include in the spring issue of *Bucknell Magazine*.
— Alan Schriger

1980

I was thrilled to get together with **Deb Cassara** when I was in New York City seeing shows and enjoying the city vibe. She is retired from 40-plus years teaching math in Port Jervis High School in N.Y. but misses the student connections that keep us teachers inspired in our jobs. Deb does, however, keep in touch with high schoolers through SAT prep and college application help. Her love of theatre takes her to the city (and sometimes London) often to see the latest productions or repeats of those she already loves. She admitted to being a Billy Porter addict. It was wonderful to catch up on a 50-plus year friendship. Trips to the Big Apple might just become an annual event for me.

Be well everyone; send me some news.
— Deborah L. Hennel

1981

Our 45th Reunion was another big success last June with over 90 classmates (many with guests) gathering in Lewisburg for a weekend full of friendship and goodwill. **Bob Pollokoff** describes it best in a post on our Class of '81 Facebook page: "I really enjoyed talking with classmates who, while we were students, I may not have known or said two words to. I think as students we were 'silo-ed' by dorms, majors, fraternities or sororities so much so that some of us may not have broken out of our immediate circles. Whenever we get together now, whether it is on campus every five years or at some mini-reunion in our travels, I find I'm catching up with old friends without regard to who we might have been during our years at Bucknell. I like that about our class. I look forward to seeing you all again at our 50th, if not sooner in our travels."

I completely agree with Bob that the level playing field our class nurtures and values is what allows us to thoroughly enjoy each other's company at Reunions and at other gatherings. There were many conversations about growing families, retirement, travel, health challenges and favorite times at Bucknell. Many of those in attendance have been to many of our Reunions over the years, but we were happy to have some classmates join us who have never attended a Reunion or have rarely attended. They included **Mike Loughead M'83**, **Laura Hofman**, **Paul Moore**, **Mary Kealey Ricci**, **John "Skid" Rowe M'81** and **Rich Schaberg**.

Reunion Weekend started for quite a few of us on Thursday with some (mostly) guys like **Mike Page**, **Alan Sigler**, **Larry D'Amico**, **Tom Ganter** and **George Kangos** enjoying golf (they raved about the course and its affordability), while the rest of us were content to just hang out and catch up. Friday brought more golf, time at the bookstore to buy Bucknell swag, campus wandering and interesting seminars organized by the University. Our first official event was a Welcome Picnic outside of the fieldhouse followed by a fun gathering of our class at the Bull Run Tap House. Lots of reminiscing and catching up was enjoyed by all.

Saturday was busy with kayaking, lunch (that lingered for hours), a session with former lacrosse coach Sid Jamieson and then cocktails and dinner in the Terrace Room. We were all grateful to **Jim Zimmerman** for providing all of the wine (incredibly generous). **John Diffenderfer**, our featured speaker, offered an interesting and hysterical talk on his globe-spanning career and what it was like to live in places like the Ivory Coast and East Timor (go to Google maps for a refresher on geography).

Thanks, John, for sharing your warmth, humor and perspectives with us — we all loved it.

Sunday morning brought us back to reality as we had to say goodbye and really didn't want to. Everyone (and hopefully all of you reading this column) are already making plans to attend our big 50th Reunion the last weekend of May 2031. There is talk of trying to get together as a big group before that. Two universal takeaways were that we're too old to stay in the dorms anymore and that we would prefer a quieter, more intimate venue than the Tent Party to end the weekend — ah, the wisdom that comes with age.

Many thanks to the committee who pulled it all together: **Amy Viener**, **Bill Cusick**, **Brenda Lapinski Horwitz**, **Jim Hollen**, **Linda Martin McGowan**, **Patti Flowers-Coulson**, **Mary Child Smoot**, Jim Zimmerman and yours truly. We had fun working together and would welcome more classmates on the committee for the 50th. Be in touch. — *Carol Christie Rosner*

REUNION 2027

1982

Sue Willis reached the quarterfinals of The People's Artist arts competition, a national program sponsored, in part, by actor Johnny Depp, to raise money for art opportunities, education and training. Most recently, she has focused on the art of protest and works in what she calls multimedia pareidolia. "I see surprising images in manmade objects and naturally occurring patterns and then photograph them. Then with found items, acrylic paint and pens, I create my art on top of these 'pareidolia' photos. For instance, a photo of a crack in the sidewalk becomes an aerial view of a riverfront beach." In June, Sue met Gloria Steinem at her home in New York City and gave her a copy of her prototype book, *The Art of Protest*. Sue is looking for an art-book publisher. Her art is at suewillisarts.com.

I was back in Lewisburg for **George '81**'s 45th Reunion. It's hard to believe that our 45th Reunion is next year. As always it was wonderful to be back but I definitely felt like a visitor in a different world. From the massive West Campus and all the buildings where the Mods used to be to the shuttle bus that students can catch to go from one end of campus to the other or to downtown or shopping at Walmart or Weis Markets, etc., the campus is not in a bubble anymore. I enjoyed catching up with many of the Class of 1981. I had a nice chat with **Patty Flowers-Coulson '81** (a.k.a. PF Coulson); I'd seen her name on Facebook but didn't realize that was her. Every Reunion I meet someone I didn't know during our undergrad years. This year I sat with **Rick Sacks '81** and his wife at dinner and enjoyed some really fun conversation. Everyone was mingling and friendly and social lines were pretty much gone. There was a lot of, "I know I know you but where from?" The funniest was when a guy came up to George, and said: "George! How are you?" He was in the Class of 1991 and misread George's 1981 class tag. (The Bucknell Reunion Committee finally listened and the names are in a significantly bigger font than previous years.) We talked to him and his friend for a while. It turned out his friend was **Chris Lodge '91**, **Tom Lodge**'s younger brother. We heard some funny stories of a 12-year-old Chris visiting Tom at Bucknell. **Doug Smoot** was at wife **Mary Child Smoot '81**'s Reunion and had just returned from a bike trip to Portugal.

I also caught up with **Pat D'Agostini Perazzini** at a few events, but she was quite busy working for Bucknell in her role as a development officer. Hopefully next year she'll be a guest.

Jeff Cross emailed with news of **Susan Burnap Boston**'s passing in March. She was a lifelong resident of New Canaan, Conn., and was very active there, volunteering with the Girl Scouts, National Charity League, Daughters of the American Revolution, the Veterans of Foreign Wars and a food pantry. She also was very active at St. Mark's Church. With her husband, Loren, they created the Jack Jacobs Congressional Medal of Honor for Citizenship fund, which honors a student each year for their selfless leadership and service to their community and country. As her obituary stated: "Susan gave her time, energy and compassion to countless individuals and causes. She deeply believed in lifting others up and made a lasting impact on her community through quiet, selfless acts of kindness." She leaves behind her husband and three children.

Save the date for our 45th Reunion: June 4–6. Hope to see you all there. — *Becky Goodwin Kangos*

1983

Dave and **Caroline Dillon Marren** were thrilled to welcome a granddaughter April 7. Eliza Mary Martin is the daughter of the Marrens' oldest, Katie Martin, and husband Peter. Baby Ellie joins brother Mac, 2. No sooner did they celebrate that milestone, than they hosted another beautiful wedding in Harwich Port, Mass. at Wychmere Beach Club June 6. Daughter **Molly '15** married Eric Hahn. **Jim '82** and I were so sorry to miss the weekend, but Bucknellians in attendance were **Craig** and **Eileen McCarthy Born**, **Cari Cardaci**, **Gerry '84** and **Ann Joyce Berrigan**, **Mark** and **Sue DeKimpe Glenn**, **Paul** and **Mary Stark Bamford '85**, Deane and **Jim Hiles** and **Dan Willcoxon**.

Craig and Eileen were thrilled to welcome their granddaughter on Father's Day. Iris McCarthy Weaver's delighted parents are Madeline and Tucker Weaver, the Borns' oldest daughter and son-in-law.

Scot Minesinger met **Jim** and **Susie Young Mangano** in Fairfax, Va. "It was great catching up. I moved to Arecibo, Puerto Rico, four years ago, and we enjoy many visitors." Scot is at rscotm@rscotm.com.

I was so happy to read of a classmate's gift to the University. The following appeared on Bucknell's social media: "At Bucknell, we have an opportunity to really do something important for the country and for the world, and the only way we're going to be able to do it is to work together and work across differences.

"**Catherine Kolb Stroup** holds a belief that democracy depends on people to communicate across differences with respect, empathy and integrity. It's what drove her to make — together with her husband, Chris — a $2 million lead commitment to the Bucknell Initiative for Dialogue & Democracy (BIDD).

"'We're in a polarized nation,' she says. 'But we can't fear partisanship, we can't fear talking to each other. Bucknell has been working on this for a while — through the Dignity & Dialogue Circles program and the Bucknell Forum speaker series. The University's commitment to advance and formalize those efforts through BIDD made us enthusiastic about being the lead donors in this initiative.'

"[Catherine] traces her passion for this endeavor to growing concerns about civic disengagement and political polarization in the U.S., particularly among younger generations. Her interest in BIDD deepened after reviewing research on civic disengagement among young Americans. A 2024 report from the American Association of Colleges and Universities found declines in confidence in democratic institutions among Gen Z voters.

"The findings alarmed her: 58% of voters between the ages of 18 and 34 were not certain they'd vote that fall; almost one in three members of Gen Z said it made no difference whether they lived under a democracy or a dictatorship; and one in five believed a dictatorship could be a good idea in certain circumstances.

"Those statistics reinforced [Catherine's] belief that universities have a critical role to play in civic life, and she sees BIDD as a practical and hopeful response to national challenges. 'I feel that universities, historically, have been the holders of knowledge, of truth and light through all sorts of times — dark or light,' she says. 'Bucknell is a place that is strong in this tradition.'

"Her commitment to democratic engagement is also rooted in personal experience. During a visit to Washington, D.C., she stood in front of the U.S. Capitol building and thought about the values represented in its architecture and artwork.

" 'In their pursuit of liberty and justice for all, our nation's founding fathers understood the virtues — peace, unity, empathy, integrity, discipline, patience, perseverance, kindness and compassion — as foundational principles of democracy. In order to grow as a country, in order to be powerful by empowering others, in order to lead our democracy, we need to teach those virtues and be able to communicate more clearly in our personal lives and our interactions with each other.'

"The Stroups view their philanthropy as both an investment in Bucknell students and a contribution to the future of democratic society. 'I love Bucknell more now than I loved it when I was a student,' she says. 'Part of that is because of the wonderful people I know there now — the administration, the professors and President Bravman — and their collective hope for the future.'" — *Tracey Trusk Eick*

John B. Manbeck '53 submitted this remembrance of **Ralph W. Hemecker**, a prolific television director, producer and writer who died July 10 at his home in Glendale, Calif. John writes: "Ralph had recently celebrated his 65th birthday. At Bucknell, where he majored in English, Ralph played rugby and soccer and took up skiing. His fluency in French earned him the opportunity to spend a semester in Paris, broadening his appreciation of film, literature and other cultures.

"His interest in filmmaking began at Bucknell. For an amateur film project, he persuaded Professor Dennis Baumwoll to appear in several scenes and continued the venture in Paris.

"After Bucknell, Hemecker worked on early issues of *New York Magazine* before moving into television. His early directing work included *America's Most Wanted* and *Silk Stalkings*. He also directed the pilot of *Roar*, starring then-newcomer Heath Ledger.

"In 2000, Hemecker directed the TNT film *Witchblade*, which led to a two-season series on which he served as a writer and executive producer. That year, he also founded Mythic Films, a production company dedicated to developing film and television projects.

"His many television credits included *The X-Files*, *The Flash*, *The Vampire Diaries*, *Once Upon a Time* and *Blue Bloods*. He also directed feature films and



IN MEMORIAM

Robert Hammerlee

For Robert Hammerlee, tennis was a "sport for a lifetime" — one he spent decades teaching to players of all ages. Hammerlee, a former head coach of Bucknell men's tennis, died July 20 at age 87.

Hammerlee became Bucknell's head tennis coach in 1992 and led the program for 10 seasons, becoming the fourth-winningest coach in program history. In 1997, he was named Patriot League Coach of the Year. After retiring from Bucknell in 2002, he continued giving private lessons, sharing his love of the sport with players in the local community.

Before coming to Bucknell, Hammerlee spent two decades as a tennis teaching professional at Claremont Country Club in Oakland, Calif. An elite professional and 30-year member of the United States Professional Tennis Association (now known as the Racquet Sports Professionals Association), he devoted much of his life to teaching what he called the "sport for a lifetime."

Hammerlee was a U.S. Navy veteran, an avid traveler and musician who sang, played banjo and ukulele, and performed in musical theatre. He is survived by two nephews and three nieces.

Photo: Courtesy of Special Collections/University Archives

television movies including *Dead On*, *Blade Squad*, *Fatal Desire* and *Midnight Bayou*.

"Beyond his work in film and television, Ralph retained the intellectual curiosity fostered by his Bucknell education. An avid reader, he found inspiration in literature, history and philosophy. He also admired the courage and discipline of the U.S. Navy SEALs. His family requests that memorial donations be made to the SEAL Future Foundation in his memory.

"Ralph is survived by his father, **Ralph C. Hemecker '54**; his sister, Carol; his brother, **Kurt Hemecker '86**; one niece; three nephews; and one great-nephew.

"In a tribute, close friend Lana Parrilla wrote, 'Ralph was one of the kindest, most generous souls I've ever known. If Ralph was directing, we were in good hands. Thank you, Ralph, for your friendship, your genius, your generosity and the light you brought into my life.' "

1986

Our 40th Reunion is in the books. The weather was perfect and 115 classmates attended. There are photos on our class Facebook page and on Bucknell's Reunion site. Email me if you need links.

I enjoyed catching up with former Leiser Housemates **Cheryl Gilbert Morris**, **Lisa Stenberg Edgerton**, **Dorys Codina**, **John Bennett** and **Tim Maclay** plus **John Battista** and **Rich Klein**. Shout out to **Nancy Florent Beard** and **Peter Wert** for their custom Bison outfits (Bison poodle skirt and Bison jean jacket). I even ran into **Megan Brott Sullivan**'s daughter **Meredith '21**, who was celebrating her 5th Reunion.

I talked to many other classmates and sorority sisters, too many to list here — if you promised to send an update, here's your reminder. Kudos to **Phylliss Kreis** and **Donna Gaetano Pearson** for all they did to organize the weekend.

Mark your calendar for 2031 and our 45th Reunion weekend.

— Joan Daughen Cadigan

1988

Bucknell celebrated its 176th Commencement in May on a picture-perfect day in Malesardi Quad. Just a friendly reminder that our Commencement was the 138th, and I don't think it could have been any hotter.

July will have me traveling heavily in the Northeast to attend Bison gatherings to welcome the Class of 2030. During my travels, I will spend a weekend in Bay Head, N.J., with Bucknell roommates **Alison Beech Valli**, **Heather McBride Leef** and **Kathleen Healey Hogan**. It has become an annual tradition.

I'm marking my calendar for football on Saturday, Sept. 26 when the Pittsburgh Panthers host the visiting Bucknell Bison — a fun tailgate is planned.

Mel Blount checked in one day after attending his first-ever World Cup game (Brazil vs. Norway) at MetLife Stadium with (and courtesy of) his sister-in-law, **Sue Bailey Thomson '86**. He and wife **Karen Bailey Blount** went to see the Yankees vs. the Red Sox baseball game the previous Sunday.

He adds, "The Blount family experienced a once-in-a-lifetime event — four times over this past May when we attended our youngest daughter, **Kathryn '26**'s, Bucknell graduation. She joins sisters **Melissa '18**, **Samantha '20** and **Caroline '22**, capping a wonderful 12-year run with a Blount on campus every semester. I could never have dreamed of that future in 1988 after graduating with a 2.08 GPA.

"During graduation weekend, **Stacie Velisaris de la Parra** graciously let us use her 7th Street house. It was a great weekend that included seeing **Josh '90** and **Sue Dean Trager '90** and Josh's dad, **Mike Trager '63**, **M'68**. We also saw **Scott Rifkin**, **John Heuer '87**, **Margot Metz Klingman**, **Linda Van Deusen Mohr**, **Kyle McGee '04** and **Annie Seibold Drapeau**, Bucknell's Board of Trustees chair. Annie's spot on stage allowed her to capture an incredible photo of Kathryn receiving her diploma with the class, crowd and Bertrand Library in the

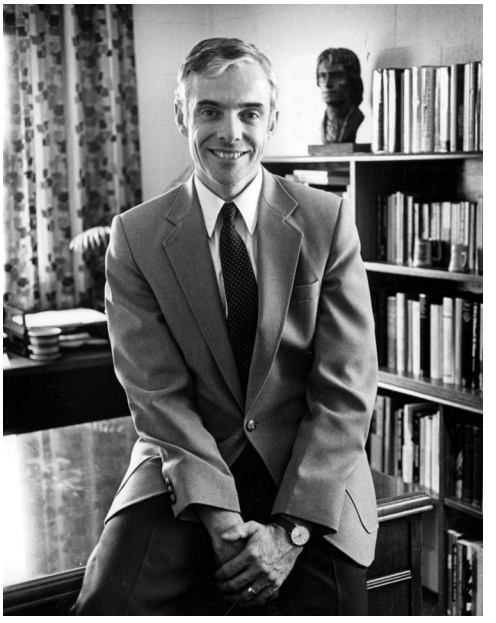


Photo: Courtesy of Special Collections/University Archives

IN MEMORIAM

Jack Pyper G'16

Jack Pyper G'16, a longtime Bucknell University administrator who dedicated nearly three decades to supporting students, faculty and staff, died June 24. He was 90.

Pyper joined Bucknell in 1969 as associate dean and went on to serve as dean of the College of Arts & Sciences and as a member of the faculty before retiring in 1998. Known for his kindness, quiet wit and unwavering commitment to students, he taught a course on the U.S. presidency, sharing his deep interest in government and public service with generations of Bucknellians.

Pyper earned two degrees in political science from the University of Michigan, where he met his wife, Sallie. He began his career in higher education with a passion for helping others find their path. During a 1986–87 sabbatical, he taught at Kyoto University in Japan, an experience that sparked a lifelong love of travel.

The Pypers made Lewisburg their home for more than 50 years, raising their family, volunteering in the community and serving the First Baptist Church of Lewisburg. Pyper is survived by Sallie; four children; eight grandchildren, including **Estelle Pyper '16**; and two great-grandchildren, with a third expected.

background. Thanks again, Annie."

Leading up to graduation, Mel attended a Bucknell event at the New York Athletic Club hosted by **Bobby O'Neill '23** and caught up with **Jon Leef**, **Ed Robinson '86** and **Pat D'Agostini Perazzini '82**.

Mel was on campus several times in April where he saw **Todd Newcomb** and **Tim Pavlechko '91**, **M'93** at the spring football game. Karen and he watched Bucknell men's lacrosse beat Holy Cross, where they later went on to qualify for the Patriot League tournament for the first time since 2017, with **Bryan '87** and **Sandy D'Alesandro Huber '86**.

"I also returned for FIJI's Pig Dinner weekend and spent time with **Gaet Tyranski '91** (keynote speaker), **Joe De Piro '90**, **Michael "Ty" Moore '92**, **Dave Vituccio '91**, **Denny Wuyscik '90**, Ed and **Kyle Yearick '84**. I emceed the event and remembered several of our '80s and '90s FIJI brothers who have, sadly, passed away too soon, including **Carl Chambers '89**, **M'95**, **Bob Scheurer** and **Doug Besselman '85**. I also made an egregious oversight by not mentioning **Dan Scocca '91**, one of Gaet's and Ty's best buddies, who was a bundle of life every time you saw him. I'm so sorry for that omission."

Karen and Mel played tennis and golf with **Andrew Huntley-Robertson '85** (and wife Kathleen) in early May. After graduation, the couple attended a Bucknell event at Baltusrol Golf Club in Springfield, N.J., hosted by **Neale Trangucci '79** and saw Pat, **Tom Rooke '06**, **Randy Faust '89**, **Bob Scott '85** and **Jeff Temple '81**.

Mel celebrated **Stu Frank**'s 60th birthday with a round of golf at Morris County Golf Club with **H.J. Willcox** and **Dave Miller** then played in the Tedesco Cup at the Tedesco Country Club in Marblehead, Mass., with **Tom Collins '87** the next two days.

"Other Bucknellians in my orbit over the past few months included **Chris Golding '09** (played in the Morris County golf tournament for the 14th straight year), **Jason Tiede '99**, **Chris '02** and **Megan Atanasio Reynolds '02** and **Leslie Northrup Long '87**. The Blounts will miss our frequent trips to Bucknell during the school year, but we are forever faithful and grateful Bison."
— Stacie Velisaris de la Parra

1990

Jeff and **Gail Behrens Dickson '89** moved to Louisville, Colo., last year. Jeff started with Digital Realty and is missing his sabbatical. They've had dinner a couple of times with other local Bucknellians: **Paul '88** and **Cindy Phillips Freud '88**, **Rob '87** and **Faun Ellwood-Digel '88**, **Andy '80** and **Priscilla Slocum Lacy '91** and **Hilary Back '89**.

I have some sad news to report. **Jamey Bennett** passed away in June.

Stay safe and be well.
— Laura Michalec Olszewski

2005

Eileen Ketterer Guest went to Greensboro, N.C., for the U.S. Masters Swimming National Championships where she medaled in the 100 free and the 100 butterfly for her age group. She met up with **Ashley Aiken McDuffee** and **Amy Wollish-Harney '06**. While in the stands, Amy and Ashley came across **Douglas Sayles '90**. At home, Eileen and husband **Jeremy** had more to celebrate as he was appointed department head of civil & environmental engineering at the University of Illinois Urbana–Champaign.
— Nikki Hollister Olszyk

2009

Jeff Ayres and wife Jackie had Mia Elizabeth May 29. Daughter Olivia is loving having a baby sister.

Erica Lopatofsky Kryst M'09 was promoted to assistant vice president for Career and Professional Development at Cornell University.
— Nikki Seaman Iselin

2010

It's always great to hear from members of the Class of 2010. From career milestones, growing families and even a memorable appearance on TV, our class has been keeping busy.

Congratulations to **Sean Coyne** who was promoted to associate professor of psychology with tenure at Washington & Jefferson College in Washington, Pa.

There was plenty of baby news this spring. **Chrissy Reilly Cecot** and husband Robert had their third child, Isabelle Maria, May 12. Isabelle joins proud sister Anabelle, 4, and brother Arthur, 2. Congratulations to **Chris Petersen** and wife Kimberly on the arrival of their son, Cooper Thomas, who was born in May.

Derek Lombardi competed on *Jeopardy!* in June. He finished as runner-up in a close game against an eventual 12-game champion. **Renee Alemi Senesac** hosted a watch party in Philadelphia with **Mary Brown**, **Maureen Rodgers Hartung**, **Billy** and **Melissa Hodge Rittase** and **Steven Schmaltz '09**. *— David Iselin*

IN MEMORIAM

1948

Janet Mallett Zachara P'73, **P'85**, **G'16**, May 11, Glen Falls, N.Y.

1949

Barbara Bond Jackson, April 7, Mount Vernon, Wash.

Arlene Nemeth Stec, June 7, Edison, N.J.

1950

Patricia Hiatt Brown, April 13, West Grove, Pa.

1951

Donald Bennett, May 3, Williamsport, Pa.

Richard "Dick" Roush, May 23, Mifflintown, Pa.

1952

Janet Herrold Crovatto G'22, April 21, York, Pa.

Jane Stahl Hergenhan, March 18, Portland, Ore.

James Muffly P'82, April 10, Muncy, Pa.

Alice Windeknecht Totten P'76, P'81, April 9, Tenafly, N.J.

Robert Wark, March 30, Tumwater, Wash.

1953

Ruth "Bette" MacDonald Becker, April 26, Montrose, Colo.

Herbert Why, April 15, Felton, Del.

1954

Lynn Hann Mullins, April 10, Aiken, S.C.

William Swartz P'84, May 6, West Windsor, N.J.

1955

Martha "Marty" Jones Barnes, May 20, Savannah, Ga.

Calvin King, March 27, Medford, N.J.

1956

Mary Ellen "Mitzi" Bowers Brown, March 25, Philadelphia

James Gardner, April 5, Elizabethville, Pa.

Elizabeth Wigginton Harrigan, May 30, Naples, Fla.

John Jacoby, April 30, Freehold, N.J.

John Rasmussen, March 2, San Francisco

Virginia "Ginny" McCully Straub, June 10, Warminster, Pa.

Muriel Weekes, June 6, Old Greenwich, Conn.

1957

Charles "Chuck" Jones, May 1, Sacramento, Calif.

Kenneth Lonoff, April 8, Warminster, Pa.

Evangelia "Diana" Vasiliades Schaaff P'85, June 17, Southport, N.C.

1958

Patricia Head Jennings, June 29, Harvard, Mass.

Diane Austin Johanson, June 11, Golden, Colo.

Philip Nerhood, April 27, 2025, San Diego

1959

Leon Diodoardo, June 4, Sacramento, Calif.

William Sharp P'90, **G'21**, May 28, Wilmington, Del.

Alan Steiss, June 6, Woodbury, N.J.

1960

Larry Mathias M'67, March 27, Stuart, Fla.

1961

Michael Kasnick, April 25, Covington, Va.

Carol Bachschmid Pulizzi P'90, April 17, Potomac, Md.

Phyllis Ihrig Supple, June 17, Durham, N.C.

DeLacy "Mul" Wyman, April 28, Durham, N.C.

1962

Frederick Graves, July 4, San Antonio

Ronald Maslanik, June 11, Mercersburg, Pa.

David Paton, June 11, Honey Brook, Pa.

1963

Henry Black, March 24, Mesa, Ariz.

Karen Glass Hall P'88, June 11, Clinton Township, N.J.

John Hinmon, May 23, Edwards, Colo.

Joyce Williams Lee G'27, May 26, Malvern, Pa.

1964

Richard Bochinski, May 31, Weston, Conn.

Ronald Dow, June 27, Tucson, Ariz.

Robert Erwetowski, April 20, Richboro, Pa.

Allan Stewart, May 28, Mount Pleasant, S.C.

1965

Susan Usmar Keller, June 26, Williamsport, Pa.

William Weidenfeller, June 18, Naples, Fla.

1966

Joanne Ferlazzo, May 30, Imperial, Pa.

Bryan Gilbert, Dec. 23, 2025, West Linn, Ore.

Margaret "Meg" Cochran Miller, Dec. 23, 2025, Stone Mountain, Ga.

Thomas Snyder, April 25, Haymarket, Va.

1967

David Collins, April 2, Madison, Conn.

Peter Taylor, May 20, Plymouth, Mass.

1968

Judith Jacobson Ratcliffe, April 28, Canandaigua, N.Y.

1969

Linda Potter Acredolo, June 12, Sacramento, Calif.

William Douglas P'00, May 19, Greensburg, Pa.

James Harris P'95, July 1, Bel Air, Md.

1970

Janet Bailey, May 16, Boston

Michael Book, April 1, West Suffield, Conn.

David Margolis, May 7, Lancaster, Pa.

1971

Craig Eby, April 17, St. Augustine, Fla.

1972

James Lackritz, March 27, San Diego

J. Douglas Warman, May 4, Riverside, Texas

1973

Frank Kirkland, May 3, Jamaica, N.Y.

1974

Sue Spiece Danielson, March 16, Tucson, Ariz.

Deborah Scott Grabowski P'07, April 14, The Woodlands, Texas

Thomas Jordan, May 22, Lutherville, Md.

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

James Morrell P'04, Feb. 19, San Diego

1975

Michael Howes, March 26, Sterling, Va.

1976

David Berkheimer, Feb. 27, High Point, N.C.

Gary A. Graves, May 5, San Ramon, Calif.

John Ryan, Jan. 16, Daleville, Ala.

1977

Charlene Kara Golub, June 4, Ashland, Mass.

1978

William Harbison, April 6, Sewickley, Pa.

1979

Ray Kennedy, March 21, Muncy, Pa.

Alan Krasner, June 29, Troy, Pa.

Patricia "Trish" Sewall, April 1, Annapolis, Md.

1981

Susan Dettbarn Bonaiuto, April 9, Needham, Mass.

1982

Susan Burnap Boston, March 26, New Canaan, Conn.

1983

Ralph W. Hemecker, July 10, Glendale, Calif.

1989

Michael Schippers, March 28, Austin, Texas

1990

James Bennett, June 25, Wellesley, Mass.

Julie Mann Edge, May 17, Mission Hills, Kan.

1992

Alexander Bergmann, April 5, Short Hills, N.J.

1993

David Van Zanten, Aug. 5, Albany, N.Y.

2007

Jacob Clark, May 17, Burlington, Vt.

2010

Katherine Lamberth, June 4, Charlotte, N.C.

2016

Bret Brachman-Goldstein, June 10, Maplewood, N.J.

2022

Corey Denn, March 26, Brookline, Mass.

Master's

Joanne "Josie" Drumm Bennett M'68, Oct. 2, 2025, Hughesville, Pa.

Larry Caid M'62, April 26, Highlands Ranch, Colo.

John Klusman M'71, June 27, Kulpmont, Pa.

Ralph Lutz M'64, March 23, The Villages, Fla.

Marcia Milne M'84, June 9, Lewisburg, Pa.

Philip Underkoffler M'68, May 9, Lykens, Pa.

John Wabby M'75, April 17, Pottsville, Pa.

Clayton Waltermire M'65, March 24, Hellertown, Pa.

Faculty and Staff

Paul Boytinck, April 4, Scottsdale, Ariz.

Paul Brann, May 6, Lewisburg, Pa.

John E. Brown, May 3, Milton, Pa.

Richard Ferraro, Feb. 25, Radford, Va.

John Kendrick, May 12, Pompton Plains, N.J.

Diane Mitch, April 6, Milton, Pa.

Jean Schindler, May 28, Danville, Pa.

Lorene Sholter, April 19, Mifflinburg, Pa.

Lynda Smith, May 1, Lewisburg, Pa.

Friends

Julie Ng P'26, May 11, 2025, Madison, N.J.

Mary Peterec P'82, **P'84**, **P'86**, **P'01**, **G'15**, Feb. 28, Winfield, Pa.

Peggy Somerville G'27, Nov. 29, 2025, Bethesda, Md.

Class Notes

CLASS REPORTERS

1950s

1950
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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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WHERE I BELONG

The Moriarty Investment Center



In the Moriarty Investment Center, Katie Sonde '27 helps manage $6 million in Bucknell endowment assets through the Student Managed Investment Fund.

"What drew me to SMIF was finance, but I stayed because of the strong connections I've made with other students in the class."

by KATIE SONDE '27 // photograph by JAMES T. GIFFEN

I come from a very analytical family. My parents were accountants, and both my older brothers majored in finance and economics. I grew up talking about what's happening in the economy at the dinner table, so I feel right at home in the Moriarty Investment Center in Holmes Hall. It's a space where I can watch the world change in real time on the Bloomberg terminals and discuss what those changes mean — not only for our class but also for the approximately $6 million of the Bucknell endowment that we manage in the Student Managed Investment Fund (SMIF).

As a finance major, I was immediately drawn to SMIF's hands-on, fast-paced nature. I'm learning to assess economic risk, anticipate market changes and apply that knowledge to make decisions. Because we are managing real money, everyone works together toward the same goal: doing what's best for the portfolio.

One of my finance professors, **Frank Schreiner '83, P'14, P'19**, says, "Risk happens fast." There's only one place on campus where I can monitor this risk and assess how it shapes our portfolio — and our lives. It's been a fundamental part of my finance education.

THIS ISN'T THE END OF THE STORY.

It's our turn to write what comes next.



That's how Bucknell moves forward: Each generation builds on opportunities created by those who came before and opened doors for the next.

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COMING THIS WINTER

The next edition of *Bucknell Magazine* will be the University Report, a special issue devoted entirely to the Be the 'ray Campaign. Explore the ambitious priorities shaping Bucknell's future, meet the people bringing this vision to life and learn how you can help shape what comes next.

Pictured: Students interested in real estate traveled to Baltimore in spring 2026 for an Industry Trek to learn from alumni working in the field.

photograph by JAMES T. GIFFEN