



happenings

gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgender alumni, allies and friends

A New Kind of College Fair

Bucknell Admissions officers and representatives attend over 200 college fairs around the country and around the globe during the course of an academic year. Usually, BU's representatives at these fairs are staff of the admissions office and alumni in that area or region. On December 1 at a college fair held on the campus of the University of Pennsylvania, Bucknell was represented by current students as well as alumni and staff. The personal touch of students' voices and perspectives on the culture and the climate of Bucknell were especially important on this day. This was not your typical college fair.

In the first of two college fairs on either coast of the United States, Campus Pride is hosting college fairs specifically aimed at LGBT students and allies. Over thirty colleges and universities signed up to participate at the college fair in Philadelphia. Businesses and organizations such as The Advocate, GLAAD and Out Magazine were also in attendance to provide support and various other resources. A second college fair is planned for the West Coast in April.

According to the GLSEN website (the Gay, Lesbian, Straight Education Network) there are over 3000 Gay-Straight Alliances (GSA) in high schools around the country. Students who are involved in these Alliances surely want to know if the college or university they want to attend will be a community where they will feel comforted and welcome. The non-profit group Campus Pride chose to address the need for information on college's LGBT community by both college fairs and publishing the Campus Climate Index (see Paul Marin's article).

Assistant Director of Admissions Lindsay Buntman was the official representative of the university at the fair. Ms. Buntman's role in the admissions office as a liaison for students who identify as LGBT during the application process makes her an ideal spokesperson

from Bucknell. She was joined by current students Christine Kassab '09 and Tyler Dinucci '11, along with alumni Theo Burnes '00 and Heather Riebeling '07. Furnished with materials and information from the Office of LGBT Awareness, high school students who are interested in Bucknell received a whole wealth of knowledge and perspective on Bucknell and its attitude for LGBT students and allies in the community.

In an important first step towards adopting an *"unwavering commitment to diversity in all its forms"* (from President Mitchell's Plan for Bucknell), Bucknell has begun to actively promote its commitment to the LGBT community. Campus Pride's college fair is one area where Bucknell can begin to recruit students for whom social justice and LGBT rights are an important part of their college decision.

-- Lee Cromwell '05



happenings

Weddings, births, adoptions, memorials, promotions, and special events that you would like to share...

Lee Cromwell '05 graduated in May 2007 with a Master of Music Degree in Choral Conducting from Westminster Choir College. After spending the summer performing in the Spoleto USA Festival and recording a CD for GIA Music with the ensemble Anam Cara, Lee has moved to the Hudson Valley. Currently he is the Director of Theatre and Choral Music at The Millbrook School, a co-ed college preparatory boarding school east of Poughkeepsie.

Stacey Waite '99 recently had a book published: *Love Poem to Androgyny*. It is available at Main Street Rag Press (www.mainstreetrag.com).

Bucknell UNIVERSITY

NOTE: The deadline for submissions for the next issue is April 15th, 2008. E-mail them to galabi@bucknell.edu or send them to the office address below.

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greetings

With the holiday season behind us, this is the time when we start looking at the New Year and make plans to travel and get involved in community projects, organizations, and events. To that end, we would like to suggest a few things, but first let me give you a quick update on where we are today.

Homecoming at Bucknell was packed with events as always, and our GALABI reception, business meeting, and lunch were only a few of the attractions, all happening at the same time. Several things have come to the fore and GALABI as an organization is poised to have a voice and influence in the future of Bucknell. We have approved a set of updated By-laws, a mission statement, and voted upon an Advisory board that will act as liaisons between the membership at large, the university, and the Executive Alumni Board. It is an exciting time, the face of Bucknell is changing, and I would encourage all of you to look to the future and become involved. President Mitchell's initiative mentions increasing diversity in all aspects, and specifically includes sexual orientation.

There are many ways you can stay connected and become involved. There is the traditional method of financial giving and we would suggest directed donations. Not only can you donate to traditional funds, but you can also direct money toward areas that impact diversity and LGBT programming on campus (see insert page). We can also become involved through volunteerism, acting as mentors, or contacts for graduates or alums in a new area.

We are also looking for ideas for LGBT themed events that can bring us together either in Lewisburg, or elsewhere. There are alumni groups in various cities around the states, why not create our own? As communications via the web become more prevalent in our world we are also looking to become more connected and accessible electronically. *If you have an e-mail address that would be appropriate for receiving communications from GALABI, please send it to either the LGBT office (lgbt@bucknell.edu) or GALABI (galabi@bucknell.edu). The alumni office has generously donated the funds to have this newsletter printed and mailed, but is going green and moving toward electronic*

communications. Future edition will be made available on the website and sent out via e-mail.

Mark your calendars now for a special weekend series of events Feb 29th and March 1st. Friday night (29th) marks the performance of **51st Dream State** at the Weis Center, and we are scheduling an offsite social gathering on Saturday (article - page 4)

Many of us may not have had wonderful experiences at Bucknell, or have become disconnected from Bucknell. I would encourage you to read through this newsletter, check out the website, see what the LGBT office has done, and look at how far we have come.

- Ann Malcolm Bidelspach '80

20 By 20 - A Call to Action with Numbers

In the previous message, Ann issued a call to action that encourages several forms of alum participation to promote LGBT inclusiveness at Bucknell. While I echo her sentiments, I would like to focus on one of her points in particular - financial contributions.

Once called our annual "Shameless Plea," my particular call to action is for GALABI to achieve a measurable financial contribution that will improve LGBT life on campus.

My particular goal is to reach "**20 by 20**". I would like to see an additional \$20,000 contributed to campus LGBT funds by GALABI's 20th Anniversary Celebration during Homecoming 2010. GALABI Advisory Board Member David Murray explains on the insert of this newsletter how to contribute. With an additional \$20,000, we can significantly help finance LGBT inclusiveness activities on campus.

We would like to spend our 20th Homecoming together celebrating the dual accomplishment of reaching 20 years as an organization, and having built a stronger financial base for LGBT awareness activities on campus. Foremost in my mind in convening GALABI alums and friends for a 20th Homecoming event that will signal to the University our strength, our mission, and our desire to be an effective force on campus.

Mark your calendars for our 20th anniversary in 2010 (date to be determined). And if you can, mark your checkbooks for one of the campus LGBT funds.

- Paul Marin '90

homecoming 2007

Recap of the business meeting held on Saturday October 20, 2007:

Twelve alumni gathered to approve the revised by-laws and mission statement. It was also stated that although GALABI is the acronym for the group its full name of Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, Transgender Alumni, Allies and Friends is used in all communications within and outside the University. An advisory board was defined in the by-laws as a maximum of seven individuals including one or two co-chairs to act as point persons to coordinate several areas of interest. The following were approved to serve for a term of one year:

Co-chairs:

Paul Marin '90 & Ann Bidelspach '80

Development: David Murray '92

Admissions: Lee Cromwell '05

Bison Club/Organizations:

Jen Carter '93

Events: Cindy Peltier '94,

& Mary Wyeth '98, '04

Mary Wyeth also agreed to act as scribe for the group. Other alumni (Theo Burnes '00, Heather Riebeling '07, and Joel Berelson '85) volunteered their services and time in support of the group in various other aspects.

A brief summary of an earlier meeting with the Alumni Board Executive Committee gave our group direction to work with both the Executive Board and the University to advance the acceptance of LGBT individuals and support student programs. Giving in various forms was discussed and a reminder that the 20th anniversary of GALABI at Bucknell is coming up in 2010. Other initiatives under consideration include: Campus Pride Admission Fair which is a venue to recruit LGBT High Schools students, Develop/update admissions material, LGBT alumni conduct admission interviews, Develop employment outreach for current generation (e.g., utilize FaceBook), and Coordinate events to be held outside of the usual Homecoming and Reunion weekends to re-engage GALABI alumni.



safe space...

The Office of LGBT Awareness' peer education program The ALLIANCE at Bucknell: Creating Safe Space, has been making presentations to groups on campus in aiming to promote a safer and more inclusive campus environment. Many of the ALLIANCE educators are members of the student group FLAG&BT (Friends of Lesbians, Gays, Bisexuals, and Transgenders).

Presentations have been given to six Greek chapters (sororities KΑΘ, ΔΓ, ΧΩ; and fraternities ΧΦ, ΔΥ and ΣΦΕ), the Social Justice Residential College, a first year residential hall, Bucknell Student Government, the office of Prospect Research and Management, and 3 groups of faculty/staff. A number of presentations have been scheduled for the spring semester. Over 750 students and 75+ faculty and staff have participated in Safe Space presentations during fall 2007. During 2006-2007 all six sororities and one fraternity were safe spaces. This is the first year that such a variety of student groups have requested the presentation, and the first year faculty and staff have been invited to participate.

The Safe Space presentations are meant to educate the audience with LGBT terms, issues faced by LGBT individuals, the process of coming out, the use of derogatory terms, what it means to be a Safe Space, and available local resources. The presentations are interactive, allowing for participants to ask questions and clarify how they might be most helpful to achieve the goal of a safer campus community. The peer educators interweave their own experiences as LGBT-identified or an

ally of the Bucknell LGBT community. These experiences demonstrate the need for creating safe spaces for both their peers and the faculty/staff. Each presentation is confidentially evaluated by the participants, and so far, the majority have been rave reviews, especially with regard to importance of the students sharing their experiences.

All individuals who participate receive visual symbols to display on their door or window to project their support and acceptance of LGBT and allied individuals. An online resource is made available to all participants who want to get ideas on new ways to behave, and to learn more about specific areas, (ex. "Being Greek and Gay or Lesbian" or "Homophobia in Sports"). Student groups have to reaffirm their commitment to the ALLIANCE on a yearly basis and have to participate in ongoing active and passive events to stay in good standing during the year.

Presentations given thus far have made a huge impact on the LGBT individuals that may have been in the audience. We know this because students have gone out of their way to contact either myself or another presenter to let them know how meaningful it is to have students speak out about LGBT issues, etc. Having "out" LGBT identified students contribute really helps with the presentations, since they are able to tell their story.

The Safe Space presentations, paired with our First Student NCOD Support List, are really pushing for change on campus. Positive change is happening - students have written in evaluations that because they know there are so many student supporters on campus (over one-third), they are more prone to show support themselves and are more comfortable with the idea of Bucknell even having an Office of LGBT Awareness.

- Cristie Winkler '08

Check out the LGBT Office and GALABI webpages for upcoming events and news.

LGBT Office: www.bucknell.edu/LGBT.xml
GALABI: www.bucknell.edu/x5768.xml

Call the Weis Center to reserve your tickets and keep Saturday open for a party to be held off campus. Cindy Peltier is working on details and they will be disseminated later via e-mail or on our website.

**mark
your
calendars
NOW!**

From a poetic inquiry into citizenship, America, and our collective state of mind...

Sekou Sundiata's *the 51st (dream) state*

Part Two of The America Project at the Weis Center for the Performing Arts Friday, Feb. 29, 2008, 8 pm.

the 51st (dream) state is nationally acclaimed poet Sekou Sundiata's contemplation of America's national identity, of its power in the world, and of its guiding mythologies. This multi-media performance features a cycle of songs, poems and monologues supported by still and moving projected images. Performed by an all-star ensemble of singers and musicians, including keyboards, trumpet, drums, bass and guitar, *the 51st (dream) state* is a quest to find a vision of what it means to be both a citizen and an individual in a deeply complex, hyper-kinetic society.

Some of the project's implied questions are:

- What does "pursuit of happiness" mean in a society that places so much emphasis on tangible outcomes for most endeavors?
- Given the multilingual reality of daily life in much of the U.S, what is the American language?
- Can the old, central myths about such things as beauty, power, and destiny sustain the nation?
- What does a public imagination steeped in violence say about who we are?
- What are the prospects for love, compassion and human solidarity?

the 51st (dream) state was created with the specific purpose of joining art and civic dialogue. It is designed to initiate and illuminate public discussions related to the questions outlined above, among others. This performance piece was developed through Sundiata's America Project, composed of a series of community dialogues held throughout the country. The dialogue activities included "community sings," which are public events featuring cast members and community members singing and discussing their relationships to a variety of American folk, popular, traditional and patriotic songs. Community sings and similarly structured "poetry circles," along with "citizenship dinners," workshops and discussion forums will continue to be offered as *the 51st (dream) state* tours.

Bucknell will kick off its own America Project engagements during the week of February 4-8, 2007 when vocal arranger Richard Harper and other *51st dream state* company members will be on campus for a residency program. Contact Cindy Peltier at (570) 577-3981 for more information. Events will include:

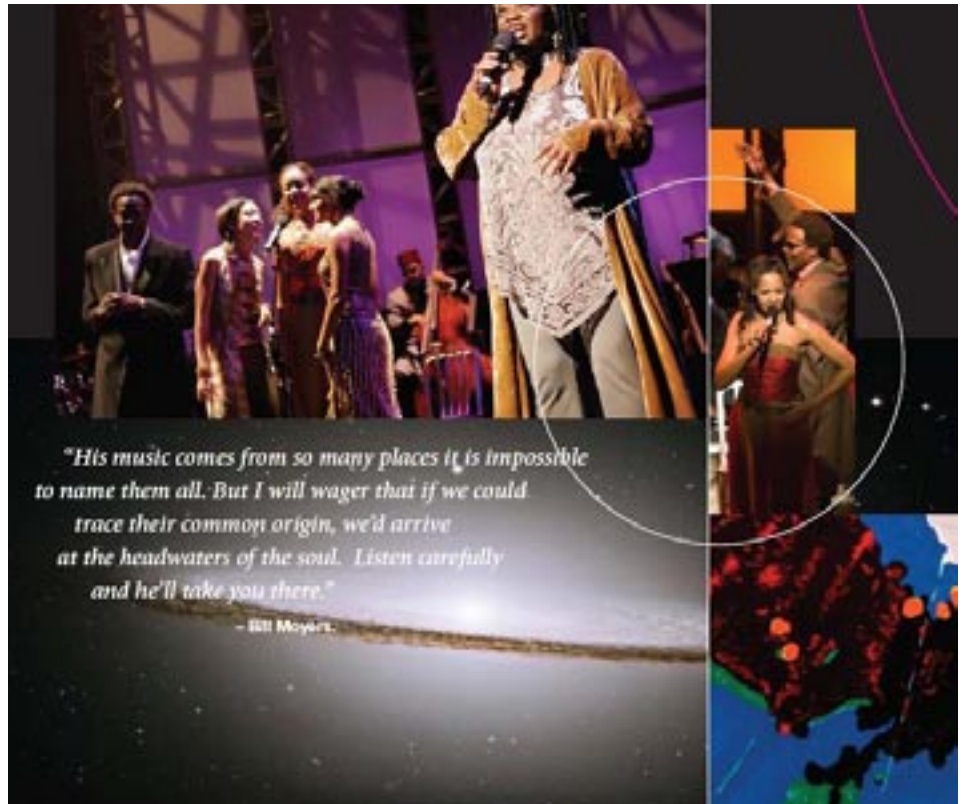
Feb. 4, 7pm Bucknell Hall - "Singing the 51st (dream) state: A Journey to Citizenship Through the Arts"

Feb. 5, 7pm Rooke Chapel - America Project Community Sings Gathering

Feb. 6, 7pm Center Room, LC - "Theater & Community Action: The America Project from New York to New Orleans"

Feb. 7, 7pm Bucknell Hall - Excerpts from "Disintegrating General Public: Waking up in the 51st (dream) state"

Feb. 8, Noon Center Room, Elaine Langone Center "Citizenship & the Arts in the Classroom"



SHAMELESS PLEA REDUX

by David R. Murray '92

Happy New Year! I'm pleased to report that 2008 will be terrific year for GLBT students at Bucknell. Won't you please join me in supporting Bucknell GALABI, as we provide services and support for gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgender students at Bucknell?

It's been a few years since we asked you to contribute because many of GALABI's goals in the 1990s were accomplished. The LGBT Advisor position became full-time with benefits, the University's nondiscrimination policy was amended to include sexual orientation, and domestic partner benefits were made available to University employees.

But now we have a new mandate. Under the superb leadership of President Brian Mitchell, Bucknell is embracing diversity more broadly than ever before. GALABI and the on-campus Office of LGBT Awareness have a reserved seat at the table of change. We've discussed LGBT-specific initiatives in admissions, athletics, Greek life, academics, and student life. And we need your help to make our dreams a reality.

There are two ways to give. One allows your money to be spent immediately,

sponsoring lectures, promoting outreach, and supporting student workers in the Office of LGBT Awareness. We encourage most gifts to be designated in this way — just indicate "GALABI" or "LGBT Office" when asked how you want your gift used, or use the form below.

The other option adds your gift to the University's permanent LGBT fund, called the Schlegel-Deibler Memorial Endowment. Approximately 4% of your initial gift is then made available to the LGBT Office each year in perpetuity. The Endowment works to foster a supportive environment in which LGBT students, as part of their education, can explore their identities in an atmosphere of tolerance. If you'd like to make a contribution to the Endowment, or remember LGBT Bucknell students in your will, please designate your contribution to the "Schlegel-Deibler Endowment" and call Kathy Graham, Director of Gift Planning, at (570) 577-3200 or e-mail her at kathy.graham@bucknell.edu.

However you choose to give, please join me in making a contribution. Together, we can meet our goal of adding \$20,000 in new LGBT funding before GALABI's 20th anniversary in 2010.

My gift to support Bucknell GALABI is enclosed!

\$50 \$100 \$250 \$500 \$1,000 other _____

Name Class Year

Address

City State ZIP

Preferred Phone

Preferred E-mail Address

My check is enclosed, payable to Bucknell Univ.

Please charge my:

Visa MC AmEx Discover

Card Number Exp. Date

Signature

My employer's matching gift form is enclosed