

# Increasing the Focus

*Bison Spectrum* delves into the international student experience.

By Adam Hinsbarw '09

**B**ison Spectrum, a student newsletter from International Student Services, has increased awareness of international students on Bucknell's campus. It focuses on the University's international student community and covers topics such as events, projects, alumni news and job opportunities. Many campus organizations provide content and frequent contributors include the Office of Multicultural Student Services, the Women's Resource Center, the Office of LGBT Awareness and the Career Development Center. Students, both international and domestic, contribute articles and viewpoints.

Rajaa Qadri '10, editor of *Bison Spectrum*, started the newsletter under the guidance of Director of International Student Services Paula Myers in 2007. During Qadri's watch the newsletter has evolved both in terms of style and content. Most importantly, it has made an impact on campus. "Before *Bison Spectrum*, the international community was kind of closed off from the rest of campus," Qadri says. "Once the newsletter got going, it really helped to show the rest of the campus that the international student community is accessible. Students have really responded and become involved with it."



Rajaa Qadri '10



Tyler Szwarc '11 admires both the mystery and science of the cosmos.

## STUDENT PROFILE

### Tyler Szwarc '11

The study of astronomy is one of humanity's many attempts to contemplate our place in the universe. "We're at a time in human existence where we can finally begin to answer the oldest questions people have been asking themselves," says geology and physics major **Tyler Szwarc '11**. "Where are we? Where did we come from? What will happen to us in the future? Is Earth a special place in the universe? Because of astronomy, we have been able to scratch the surface of these answers, and we can only hope that the rest of the answers will emerge in time."

These questions are enough to fuel a lifetime of study, but Szwarc also loves the simplest aspect of this complicated science. "I enjoy looking at the sky and admiring the beauty of it," says the Hillsborough, N.J., native. "Appreciating the science behind the sky is important to me, but my favorite part of astronomy is embracing the sense of wonder that arises when looking up at the night sky."

Szwarc started the Astronomy Club to give Bucknellians the chance to see the universe in the same way he does. "I realized Bucknell needed the club when I was working as a teaching assistant for the Astronomy 101 night labs," he explains. "Students had a real passion for astronomy. They wanted to learn about and enjoy the beauty behind the stars. The Astronomy Club was the best way to create these opportunities for the Bucknell community."

The club now hosts observing nights at the Observatory once a month for students, faculty and the local community. "It feels great to be able to explore my passion while helping others discover it in themselves," says Szwarc. "My wish is that the spirit of the Astronomy Club will live on after I graduate, and that everyone at Bucknell who wants to enjoy the night sky will be able to benefit from the club in some way."

— Heather Peavey Johns