Speak Up Bucknell

By Padma Ravichandran

Speak UP Bucknell is a peer education group that works to educate fellow students about preventing sexual violence on campus. The organization, which is jointly coordinated by the Women’s Resource Center and Psychological Services, uses the positive bystander model which emphasizes the fact that sexual violence is everyone’s problem and that we all have a role to play in preventing it.

This year, Speak UP Bucknell has been very active in the Bucknell community, presenting to over 900 first years, hosting three tabling events, and helping to plan Take Back the Night and Sex Signals, all while continuing to do presentations and spreading the positive bystander message through social media and other avenues. The peer educators also worked on a postcard project, which gave Bucknell students an opportunity to share their reason for speaking up against sexual violence on our campus. These postcards will be photographed, edited into a video, and shared with the campus during Sexual Assault Awareness Month, which takes place every April.

This semester, Speak UP Bucknell partnered with Fraternity Affairs to pilot a sexual violence prevention fraternity training. The Fraternity Allies, who participated in this training, went through a six week-long training to gain a deeper understanding of sexual violence, bystander intervention, rape culture, and survivor support. The voluntary training provided these fraternity men with the necessary tools to recognize inappropriate language and behavior, in an effort to be more effective positive bystanders, both in the Bucknell community and in society as a whole.

As Speak UP Bucknell expands, we hope to continue our work to find creative ways for engaging Bucknell students in positive bystander behavior because sexual violence is not just a women’s issue or a men’s issue. It is a community issue. As members of the Bucknell community, we all have a role to play in preventing sexual violence on our campus, and our hope is that you will join us in this endeavor.

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In March 2014, the Tchada community, located in Baleng/West Cameroon, received a $10,000 grant from the Davis Projects for Peace and a $1,000 grant from the Accenture Innovation and Entrepreneurship Fellowship. The grants will be used primarily to provide bicycles, carts and two sets of grain grinders to the thirty-three families located in Tchada. The funds will also be used to facilitate workshops for the Baleng Youth Association on topics such as the value of education, leadership management and agricultural small business management. This project aims to make the transportation of goods and people in Tchada more cost effective. It will allow families to transport heavy goods of up to 1,650 pounds based on the strength of the cart connected to the bicycle. The grain grinders will give the local community immediate access to commercial-size grinders that will facilitate the local processing of grains for home use and for sale.

In Tchada, walking, head-loading, and back-loading dominate every single activity. The lack of adequate transportation linkages with other areas has forced the community to remain within the vicious cycle of poverty and to suffer from serious issues like a high child mortality rate. Since the local people rely on agricultural production to sustain the community, this project will help to unleash Tchada’s economic potential. It will create opportunities for Tchada families to accumulate enough human, physical, financial and social resources with which they can tackle problems such as: the socio-economic uncertainty in the community, the migration of young adults to other countries, and the increasing illiteracy rate among young children.

This project will deliver a reliable and eco-friendly mode of transportation for short and long distances. It will profit one of the most vulnerable and socially disadvantaged communities in Cameroon where several people live below the poverty line without any social security. This project will promote access to materials that will contribute to economic growth by accelerating production, increasing family income, improving the standard of living, and alleviating the existing poverty in the community. “A Better Transportation Decreases Poverty Gap” is expected to impact both adults and the youth. Tchada, like many other small village communities in Cameroon, is waiting to be connected to the key element that will enable it to accelerate its development process.

It is always wonderful to see the inhabitants of a place being totally devoted to developing their own community because they believe in themselves. Nonetheless, this can only happen if they have adequate resources to contribute to the overall growth of their community. A proper means of transportation is one of the most important factors that foster motivation and full participation in community development, resulting in an increase in productivity which ultimately reduces the poverty gap. The joy this project will bring to the people of Tchada is wonderful because it will not only change the physical aspect of the community, but it will also change the people. It will motivate and inspire them to be fully dedicated in moving their community forward.
Bucknell Brigade Continues to Change Students’ Lives

By Mia Del Duca ’16

The Bucknell Brigade has been volunteering in Managua, Nicaragua since 1999, when the very first group travelled to provide relief after Hurricane Mitch. In the following years Bucknell has been raising money to build and continue to uphold a medical clinic in Nueva Vida. Now, the students chosen for the tri-annual trips with the Brigade help raise donations to bring to the clinic and the people of the Jubilee House Community in Managua. I was fortunate enough to be chosen for the Spring 2014 Brigade trip.

It’s difficult to put into words what the experience in Nicaragua was like because it had such a special meaning for each of us individually as well as for the group as a whole. I expected the trip to be a great opportunity for me to become educated about the situation in Central America and grow close with a group of people that shared similar interests. The experience met and vastly exceeded all of my expectations. What I enjoyed most was the importance the volunteers of the JHC put on making sure each of us were well-informed and fully aware of the history of Nicaragua and its people; it was essential that each of us understood why we were there and who we were helping. Those 10 days changed my life and I’ll always have that amazing experience to share with my Bucknell Brigade (the best Brigade ever!)

If you are interested in the Bucknell Brigade or want to make monetary or medical donations, please email Janice Butler at butler@bucknell.edu.

Bucknell Advancing Communities, Educating and Serving (BACES)

Patience A. Osei ’14

This spring break I had the privilege of travelling to the island of the Dominican Republic with the student-led service organization, Bucknell Advancing Communities, Educating & Serving (BACES). Being from a developing country myself, I had often been on the receiving end of service; when missionaries and health workers would come to Botswana “to help”, therefore, during my freshman year I had made it a goal to seize every opportunity I could to serve.

The thing that attracted me most to BACES was the fact that it was student led and focused on service through sustainable means and education. After being welcomed to the Dominican Republic with a delicious lunch comprising of rice, beans, plantains and chicken (something we would soon get accustomed to), we immediately walked over to a baseball field across the street from our place of residence, and began playing with the local children. I realized that my brown skin had deceived the local children into thinking I was Dominican. I spent the rest of the week failing to impress the locals with my minimal Spanish, making me seem like a fake Dominican!

We took part in medical outreach, where we worked with local doctors and dentists to provide free medical services to almost 1000 people in an impoverished community. We were able to distribute much needed medication to families and toys to the children. The following day, we visited an inspirational man named Reuben who had returned home after living in the United States for many years, to establish an organization that teaches people in his community by teaching them sustainable means of earning a living. We spent the remainder of our time working with the children at the ACES school that Bucknell students had helped to build a few years ago.

However it wasn’t the work that we did in Santo Domingo that had the greatest impact on my life; it was in-depth conversations shared by the group at the end of each day about the power of education, the similarities between people all over the world and the impact of US foreign policy on other countries. These conversations which would always end up relating to our lives as Bucknell students often went on into the wee hours of the morning. At the end of the week the group found the perfect quote by Ralph Waldo Emerson that summarized our conclusions, “Colleges can only highly serve us, when they aim not to drill, but to create, when they set the hearts of their youth aflame.” It was then that my appreciation for the Bucknell education came full circle.

It is through unique Bucknell experiences like these that lasting friendships built on service and teamwork and developed, and the various social barriers that often divide our campus are broken down.
Senior Profiles

Name: Jack McLinden

Hometown: Lakewood, Ohio

Major(s): Religion and Classics

Favorite Bucknell experience(s): Being a first year RA, finding my “home away from home” at the Newman House with CCM, being part of the Best Brigade Ever (Jan. ’13) and the Breakfast Club!

Plan(s) after graduation: Entering the Society of Jesus (Jesuits) and heading to St. Paul, MN for my first year of novitiate.

Advice to underclassmen: Don’t be afraid of making big decisions if you know it’s the right thing for you. Only you can know what your deepest desires are and what is best for you, so find the courage to first of all discover those desires, and then act on them!

Name: Passion Creshee’ Artis

Hometown: Clinton, Maryland

Major(s): Accounting

Favorite Bucknell experience(s): Being an undergraduate Executive Intern, studying abroad in Cape Town, South Africa, the various art events (jazz concerts, gospel concerts, Samek Art Gallery exhibits, poetry slams, dance showcases, etc.), being a Residential Adviser, and being a Posse Scholar and connecting with my Bucknell Posse family!

Plan(s) after graduation: Starting a career in audit at PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP in New York. I also plan to start an arts-focused nonprofit organization. Additionally, I hope to be able to travel more and become fluent in a language other than English.

Advice to underclassmen:

- Take time to reflect. It helps you make better decisions and realize areas for improvement. Don’t be afraid of change!
- Cultivate your own meaning of “success” and go get it!
- Enjoy yourself in these four years. Day by day, you will master something, so give yourself credit.
- Be open-minded, you never know what new discoveries will become second-nature.
- Each day, talk to someone you may not talk to on a daily basis. It’s breathtaking how a simple conversation can help someone else.
- Talk to faculty and staff, they are people just like us!
Fraternity 101

Sam Roy ‘16

When I arrived at Bucknell a few years ago, I knew very little about the Greek system. It was not until the spring semester of my freshman year that I thought about fraternities. Last year before the FRAT 101 sessions started, a lot of people who I work with on campus asked me if I would be rushing in my sophomore year. After having conversations with them, I was convinced that I should give it a shot. And that is when it all started. I did not rush with a mindset of joining a fraternity; I rushed to know more about the system and get to know the men who represent 61% of the Bucknell population. I had all those stereotypical ideas in my mind about the different fraternities that I knew from the movies I watched and the gossip on campus. I thought I would never fit in the system and not get along with fraternity men. While rushing, I met a lot of people – some of them were exactly how the movies portray the fraternity guys to be and others were different from what I thought the fraternity guys are like. They were not in a fraternity for free alcohol or parties; they were there for the friendship, leadership skills and connections they wanted to make. I had never thought of this aspect before. And finally after a week of rush, I decided to pledge with a fraternity. Now if anyone asks me about my experience of the Greek life, it is very different from what most of the other fraternity men will say. I am not very fond of drinking or attending the fraternity parties but still I am happy with my fraternity. The Greek experience really depends on what one wants to get out of the Greek system. I spend a lot of time with the members of the fraternity playing sports, doing a lot of fun brotherhood activities, participating in dance competitions and other times just talking about US and the job market. In November 2013, I got elected as the Diversity Chair of Inter-Fraternity Council. As an IFC officer, I work very closely with International Students Services (ISS), Multicultural Students Services (MSS), Lesbian Gay Bisexual Transgender Queer (LGBTQ) and many other offices. I also have the pleasure of meeting with President Bravman, Dean Lantz, Dean Remley and Dean Badal every month and being a part of the decision-making committee for a lot of things on campus.

Everyone who is planning on rushing should go with an open mind and present their real identity. Don’t be scared to show who you actually are. Make your own decisions and do not listen to the stereotypes that come with each Greek organization. You should never do anything others force you to do. If at any time you find yourself doing something you are not comfortable doing, then maybe you should take a step back and reflect on whether you actually want to do it. If anything is bothering you, don’t ever let it go. Take an active role, reach out to anyone in the leadership board of your organization and make changes to the system that fits you better.

Students for Asian Awareness at Bucknell (SAAB) and Asian Gala

Kathryn Lee ‘16

After nearly three months of planning, SAAB’s long-anticipated Asian Gala was a huge success once again. With Larison Dining hall packed on Saturday March 29th, the show was kicked off with SAAB’s Bollywood performance led by Yash Bhutwala and Anmol Singh. The subsequent acts included a variety of traditional and modern performances from Japan Society, the Filipino Club, and CCSA. Students’ talents from Afghanistan, China, India, Indonesia, Korea, Myanmar, Nepal, Tibet, and Vietnam were also featured. Midway through the show, guests dined on numerous dishes provided by Sushihanna, Chantana Thai, and Peking Garden, and watched as students modeled traditional clothing during the Heritage Fashion Show.

As always, SAAB was incredibly proud to host such a memorable event. SAAB’s main goal is to share Asian culture with the Bucknell community as well as to encourage an increasingly more diverse student population at Bucknell, and in the future, SAAB members hope to collaborate more with other Asian clubs on campus in a joint effort to reach these goals. SAAB would once again like to thank all of those who contributed their time and effort to the making of Asian Gala, as well as sending thanks to all who came to support the event.
Upcoming Events

Chrysalis 2014
Performance by: M CHAMMER
9 P.M. Friday - April 25
Gerhard Fieldhouse

Samek Art Museum Exhibitions
Undertow: Annual Senior Student Art Exhibition
April 8 – 27
Samek Art Gallery
3rd Floor ELC

Weis Center for the Performing Arts
JAZZ
Jason Moran and the Bandwagon
7:30 PM Thursday April 17
Weis Center

Do You Feel Pretty at Bucknell?
6 PM Thursday April 17, 2014
Women’s Resource Center
IEA Student Space
Brought to you by Essential

WRC Book Club
“He’s a stud, she’s a slut and 49 other double standards every woman should know.”
5:30 PM Wednesday April 23
IEA Multipurpose Room

Professional Staff:
Thomas Alexander (Associate Dean)
Bill McCoy (LGBTQ Resources)
Jennifer Figueroa (ISS)
Tracy Russell (WRC)
Vincent Stephens (MSS)
Padma Ravichandran (Interpersonal Violence Prevention Coordinator)
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