Three Faiths One God Film Series

By, Syed Ahmed Nasr ‘10

Sponsored by the Office of the Chaplains and Religious Life at Bucknell, “Three Faiths, One God” is a four-part film and discussion series that looks at the numerous similarities and key differences between the three monotheistic religions of the world: Judaism, Christianity, and Islam.

Part I of the program emphasized that belief in one God and obedience to His will unites all three religions. This belief is expressed in different ways but the three faiths share similar notions of creation, have many of the same prophets, and proclaim a similar message to their followers on how to conduct one-self. God’s revelations which began with Judaism, continued on with Christianity, and according to Muslim beliefs, ended with Islam. Thus, there is a common thread linking the three religions together, and if adherents hold true that we are all recipients of God’s message, then the connection becomes even more apparent.

Part II emphasized the similarities between Judaism and Islam; the two religions can be traced back to the common figure of Abraham. Abraham is the ancestor of the Jews through his son Isaac and his grandson Jacob. He is also the ancestor of Prophet Muhammad and Arabs through his other son Ishmael. Thus, Jews and Muslims have many similar customs with regards to permissible diet, marriage, recitation of scripture, holy days, and etymological similarities in some words associated with religion.

Part III which will take place on March 19th will focus on issues of extremism and history, especially of Spain, which was conquered by the Muslims in the 8th century. It is notable that under Muslim rule, Jews, Christians, and Muslims worked in harmony to create a prosperous and enlightened society. Cordova, the capital city, became the intellectual center of Europe, where students from France and England traveled to learn philosophy, science, mathematics, and medicine from Muslim, Christian and Jewish scholars.

Finally Part IV of the series on April 16th will expound upon themes of social justice, women, marriage and family in the context of the three religions, and consider what the future holds.

Knowledge of the commonalities of the three religions is especially important, given the issues prevailing in today’s world. With regards to those issues, Queen Rania of Jordan said in an episode of The Oprah Winfrey Show that those who would seek to divide us by stirring up discord obviously do not want us to get along, and that is precisely the reason why we must get along.

By building bridges through greater understanding, the “Three Faiths, One God” series may help viewers to realize that the wider world has the potential to be a much friendlier place. We are all irrevocably connected because the three religions have the same ultimate source.

Source: http://www.xmission.com:8000/~dderhak/index/moors.htm

BASE Artistic Expressions Night

By, Rajaa Qadri ’10

Marissa Calhoun ’10, the vice president of Brothers and Sisters Empowered (BASE) has been determined to bring positive changes to the campus student body.

“When I came to Bucknell I realized that the party atmosphere was not for me,” she said. “Soon I found out that there were a lot of students like me who didn’t like going to parties all the time. I wanted to find some alternatives by doing something more expressive and meaningful.”

With the help of BASE, Calhoun was able to start Artistic Expressions Night, a modern day Harlem Renaissance for the University’s students, staff and faculty. This night features works from...
students not just limited to poetry, but also dancing, singing, karaoke open mic, or any other creative way for students to express themselves.

“Artistic Expressions takes place one Wednesday a month,” said Calhoun. “I started the event with minimal expectations. I just hoped to create a diverse and comforting environment for everyone, but I am glad to see such a great turn out in the first two occurrences of the event.”

“More students have shown up to the event than I imagined. We have around 40 to 50 students each time.”

BASE Activists Community sponsors the event. The Activist’s Community is geared towards awareness of social, political and cultural upheavals taking place in the world. According to BASE’s webpage on the University’s Web site, “BASE educates the campus community on African American issues and heritage, promotes among it's members a sense of community and provides a support group for minority students on campus.”

BASE also organizes a Kwanzaa dinner every year which involves celebrating culture and customs associated with Kwanzaa. The celebrations starts with a brief program including singing, dancing and poetry. After the program people partake in traditional foods.

BPIP Internship Experience

By Jason Suway ’08

This past summer, I spent two months interning at the Red Cross Children’s Hospital in Cape Town, South Africa thanks to the generous contribution of $2500 through the Bucknell Public Interest Program (BPIP) Internship Fund and the guidance of Connect-123.

BPIP educates students about non-profit careers and helps students learn about innovative non-profit organizations that may offer both full-time and summer internships. The BPIP Internship Fund provides financial support for undergraduate students (first-year students, sophomores, and juniors) who have secured full-time, unpaid summer internships with non-profit organization and government offices.

When coming to South Africa, like most college students, I was very uncertain of what I wanted to do with rest of my life. Thus far, my medical experience in the United States had been very discouraging. I came to Africa in hopes of finding some inspiration, and the doctors, nurses, and children provided me with the positive encouragement that I so deeply desired. With a team of interns, I researched the effectiveness of a surgical procedure to control post-operative pain. From there, we made important recommendations to both the hospital administration and key physicians on how to improve management and reduce pain.

In addition to our research, I was able to feel like a true medical student, as I was fortunate enough to learn about specific medical conditions and illnesses by attending medical classes and lectures, assisting in surgery, and completing rounds in the ward.

For the first time in my life, I felt truly proud of my accomplishments because I believed that my contributions to the children of Africa were altruistic. At the conclusion of my priceless internship, I am confident that many children in Africa will experience less pain due to my hard work. I not only learned about the unique culture of Africa, but much about myself as well. The children of Africa need your help, and I hope that more students will take on a similar role to improve the overall welfare of this great country.

Application deadline Monday, March 24, 2008. For more information about the BPIP Internship Fund, contact Emily Dietrich at the CDC, edietric@bucknell.edu
Women’s History Month

By, Susan Misur ’09

Throughout history, women of every background have made significant contributions that strengthened this nation. In order to ensure the recognition and celebration of the history of American women, the Women Resource Center tries to provide valuable information to the student body.

The Women’s Resource Center’s March issue of their newsletter Lilac will be featuring articles from female alumnae in honor of Women’s History Month.

At least four Bucknellians of graduating classes throughout the last five decades will be sharing their stories and possibly pictures of attending the university in the newsletter. Read about what it was like to attend the University after World War II, when soldiers and their families were living on campus. Find out how sorority life and the rush process was different, and get an idea of how fashion has progressed on campus through the ages. See what one Bucknellian thinks about “Abstinence Day” and the “Jan Plan,” programs happening on campus when she attended the University.

While some things are drastically different, others remain the same: One woman expressed the same anxiety about classes students feel today and married a fellow Bucknellian. As she said, “It’s changed a lot, but in some ways, the more things change, the more they stay the same!”

Check out the newsletter coming in March for more details and stories from all ages of Bucknellians.

LGBT: Creating Safe Space On Campus

By, Tyler Dinucci ’11

The Office of LGBT Awareness’ peer education program, The ALLIANCE at Bucknell: Creating Safe Space, continues to give presentations to groups on campus with the goal of promoting a safer and more inclusive campus environment. Many of the ALLIANCE educators are members of the student group FLAT&BT (Friends of Lesbians, Gays, Bisexuals, and Transgender).

Presentations have been given to nine Greek chapters (sororities Kappa Alpha Theta, Delta Gamma, Chi Omega, Pi Beta Phi, Alpha Chi Omega, fraternities Chi Phi, Delta Upsilon, Sigma Phi Epsilon, and Sigma Alpha Mu), a first year residential hall, Bucknell Student Government, the office of Prospect Research and Management, and three groups of faculty/staff. A number of presentations have been scheduled for the spring semester.

Close to 1000 students and 75+ faculty and staff have participated in the Safe Space presentations thus far this academic year. This is also the first year that a wide variety of student groups have requested the presentation, while faculty and staff have been invited to participate in the training with the support of Bucknell Human Resources Office.

The Safe Space presentations are designed to educate the audience with LGBT terms, issues faced by LGBT individuals, the process of coming out, the use of derogatory terms, the meaning of Safe Space, and available local resources. The presentations are interactive, allowing for participants to ask questions and to clarify how they could be most helpful in achieving the goal of a safer and more inclusive 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 of these reviews have been extremely positive, especially with the regard to importance of having students sharing their experiences.
Mark Your Calendar!

- Mar 2: BU After Dark, Gerhard Fieldhouse, 11pm
- Mar 4: Washington D.C Career Fair
- Mar 19: Wacky Wednesday, Vedder Lounge, 10pm
- Mar 21: International Coffee Hour-Thai Tea, Vedder Lounge, 5pm
- Mar 22: Asian Gala, Larison Dining Hall

Cultural Center Hours:
Monday-Friday: 8:30-4:30
Monday-Thursday: 7-10pm

International Student Services
Multicultural Student Services
MCOP
125 Vedder Hall
570-577-3794

For making contributions to Bison Spectrum, contact Rajaa Qadri: rq001@bucknell.edu

---

Donate it to the Locks of Love Hair drive!
Monday, March 3rd, LC Center Room 9am-6pm
Donations of 6" or more welcome. Hair may be colored or chemically treated, but not bleached.
Contact jaschwar@ to schedule an appointment!
Sponsored by the Office of the Dean of Students and Kappa Kappa Gamma

---

Do you have long hair?

Locks of Love

Bucknell

---

For making contributions to Bison Spectrum, contact Rajaa Qadri: rq001@bucknell.edu