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Farewell Class of 2008!

By, Paula Myers, Director International Student Services.

The Class of 2008 has been involved at Bucknell in so many ways. I remember when they first arrived, many of them far from home, unsure, but eager and excited to start their college careers. Some of them jumped right in, plunging themselves into making friends and planning out how they wanted their four years to go. Others moved more slowly, taking it all in, bonding in small groups, and sharing the support that everyone needs during the first semester of college. As time went by, they all seemed to find a niche here.

We have seniors who have majored in Accounting, Biology, Biomedical Engineering, Chemical Engineering, Computer Science & Engineering, Economics, Education, Electrical Engineering, English, Environmental Studies, French, International Relations, Management, Mathematics, and Philosophy.

We have Fremont Scholars, Fraternity & Sorority members, study abroad students, researchers, Dean's List members, honors society participants, Division 1 athletes, intramurals participants, club execs, dancers, musicians, cooks, planners, and connectors.

We have seniors from Bangladesh, Brazil, Burma/Myanmar, Canada, China, Ecuador, Estonia, France, India, Japan, Kenya, Malaysia, Romania, Sri Lanka, South Korea, Tanzania, Turkey, United Kingdom, Viet Nam, and Zambia.

All of them have touched International Student Services—some daily and some less frequently, but still in important ways. And all of them have touched our learning community. I know that I have grown by knowing them, which is what keeps me coming back to this job each year. I remember when they arrived how they wondered if they would find commonalities with each other and all of the others who they now call

friends. I remember that we said, "Well, you are all Bucknellians." Now, as they move on to share themselves in different places, I hope they remember that they will always be Bucknellians, part of our community and our hearts.



—Fremont Scholars 2008

By, Jess Hess, Director of Multicultural Student Services

As an alum, it is a pleasure to "send off" the class of 2008 but as the MSS Director, I will certainly miss this group of talented, intelligent and committed students. I have been able to interact with members of this years graduating class through clubs, athletics, community service, cultural organizations, student government, fraternities & sororities, academic departments athletics and a variety of other activities on campus and in the community. Many have shared their thoughts, time, service, talents and most importantly themselves with me, MSS, Bucknell and beyond. As they get ready to leave Lewisburg, I hope that they will know that they are ALWAYS welcome back, and I look forward to welcoming them.

It has been a pleasure knowing and working with you all and I hope that you are showered with blessings!

Senior Reflections

“Even though it has been a tough journey to get where I am now, there were many sunny days along the way.”

Nayo Matthews '08

Naively, I thought that since Bucknell is only 160 miles away from my home in Maryland it would somehow be familiar to me but I could never have been more wrong. I entered Bucknell on the pre-med track which proved to be very difficult. There were many times when I thought that maybe biology wasn't for me, or Bucknell for that matter; however, I "stayed the course" as my mother would say. Four long

hard years later I am graduating and following my dream of becoming a physician.

Even though it has been a tough journey to



the classroom. During my tenure at Bucknell I choose to direct my energies to mainly three causes on campus: minority issues, especially as it pertains to race relations; V-day, which is dedicated to stopping violence against women and the Bucknell Brigade. My involvements in these non-academic activities had a lasting impression on me and helped guide my future.

I would like to advise my fellow Bucknellians to get where I am now, there were many sunny days along the way. I think one of the best decisions I made was to take advantage of the opportunities Bucknell offers outside of

I would like to advise my fellow Bucknellians to dedicate yourself to those things you strongly believe in and find a support system because some days you're going to need someone to lean on!

Matt Lefurge '08

It's hard to believe that my four years at Bucknell are finally coming to an end. I, as many other students, remember moving in on the first day and making Bucknell my home for the next four years. Now I have the chance to look back and reflect on those four years here. As a tour guide, I am often asked what my favorite thing about Bucknell is. The

best answer I can give is that there are so many opportunities here. Whether you want to further yourself academically, socially, professionally, etc. there are just so many opportunities here on campus. Over the past four years I have had the chance to take advantage of a handful of what Bucknell has to offer. I have become a Resident Assistant, joined the Residential Hall Association (RHA), been

on the executive board for Habitat for Humanity, participated in numerous intramural sports, joined the concert committee (and met artists such as 311, Goo Goo Dolls, Kanye West, Ben Folds, and Third Eye Blind), became a tour guide and successfully used the Career Development Center to set up internships and finally lined up a job at PriceWaterhouse-Coppers after graduation. The list doesn't end there either, I could probably write a book about my Bucknell



experiences. But as I look on my time here, I can really say that Bucknell has not only been some of the best years of my life, but some of the years that I am most proud of.

Ben Young '08

I take pride and joy in being a four year letter winner and a two year captain of the Bucknell Men's Tennis Team. I will never forget the friends I have made and the experiences I had. My four

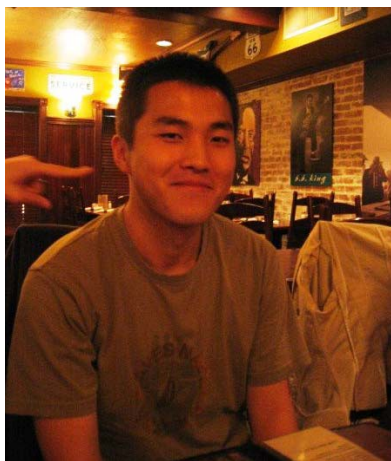


years seem to have flown by even though I tried appreciating every day I suited up for the orange and blue. Being on this team has helped me mature and grow not only on the court, but off of it as well. It helped me to shape into the person that I am today. When I talk to an incoming player or any of my younger teammates, I try to remind them to be grateful and embrace everyday they

have here at Bucknell University. No matter what sport they are playing, I encourage people to give every snap, every point, and every play their all. I want them to understand that when they put on the orange and blue, they represent something larger than just themselves. I tell others that the worse feeling they will experience is not losing, but rather walking off the court or field with regret. And finally, I try to remind the younger ones that these are the best years of our lives.

Qiushui Lang, 08

My name is Qiushui Liang but people usually call me Jim at Bucknell. My hometown is Chengdu, China. I am currently pursuing a dual degree in Biomedical Engineering and Economics. The quality of education Bucknell has offered me during the past four years is exceptional and very unique in its own way. The level of



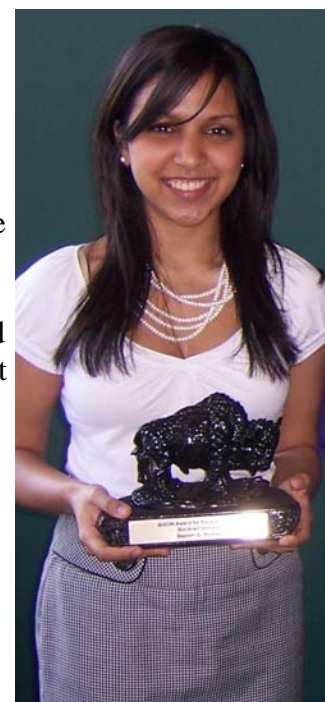
interactions I have had with my professors in both

Engineering and Economics Department has helped me grow academically and personally. Four years went by so fast, and it is almost time to say goodbye. For me, studying at Bucknell, and living in the beautiful town of Lewisburg, have been a once in a life time experience. I will certainly treasure it as I look back someday.



Naomi Hossain '08

Coming from Bangladesh, one of the poorest nations in the world, I have been extremely lucky to receive an international student scholarship from Bucknell, that has allowed me to become a prominent student leader on campus, have a remarkable academic experience and meet some really great people – be it my friends, faculty or staff. I am truly humbled by the life changing opportunity that Bucknell has given me. I have been able to bring in a very different perspective of what the world is like outside the Bucknell bubble and my efforts at creating a safe and culturally aware environment have been successful only because of the help that I



have received along the way.

I am proud to be a Bucknellian!

Antoinette Klatzky '08

I arrived at Bucknell University unsure of my purpose here and what transformations might take place. I joined various teams and organizations, becoming the President of South Asian Students Association (SASA), a coxswain on the crew team, and a part of a number of other teams and clubs. As I continued to grow at Bucknell, I kept my eyes open but felt that there was something missing. With time, I realized that the University was lacking support for diversity issues and the multicultural students at Bucknell. As a part of a five person initiative, we took our power as students and began to rally for communication and

cross-campus dialog. We spoke



with everyone we could to make a change. By utilizing our strength as students we were able to find solutions to some of the problems and set goals for the University's

future.

My advice to any and every student at Bucknell is, whatever it is that you're good at, or that you care about, take the chance and talk to people around you. Seek out the people that are interested. Even if it's only one or two people, that's all you need to make a difference. It can start over coffee, but where it ends up, that's up to you. Throughout these four years I have grown and changed a lot, I have learned through my leadership positions, a full year abroad, a last minute change of major, a senior thesis, and many other events that it's worth the risk. It's worth to follow your heart, even if it seems like you will be losing something in the beginning, in the end "the juice is worth the squeeze," (Wagner, 2004).



Doan Huynh '08

It's amazing how fast four years fly by! I have had an amazing experience at Bucknell through the various organizations, classes and friendships I have been involved with. The two organizations that have had the largest impact on me are Activities and Campus Events (ACE) and my sorority, Kappa

Alpha Theta. Through ACE I have been able to fine tune my leadership skills and learn how to receive constructive criticism. ACE has pushed me to various limits and I cannot thank ACE enough for all that it has given me. My sorority has been able to provide me with friends I am happy to call sisters. Theta provided new outlets for leadership positions, community service and sisters that are always supportive of me in everything I do. If I had to go back and relive my years here, I know that I will definitely want to be members of these two organizations again. For all the students that are trying to figure out their "niche," I would recommend trying something new. Look into organizations you have never heard of and attend a general meetings. You may be pleasantly surprised how joining a new

organization will enrich your life. In addition, GET SLEEP! As college students we are the most sleep deprived population in the country. However, sleep will only make your days go by easier and improve your mood. Definitely make time for sleep, even if that means taking some time away from your friends or studies.

Lakshmi Bhagavatula '08

I came to Bucknell University as an apprehensive teenager with no knowledge of the fabulous experience that was waiting for me. I started out as a Cell-biology/Biochemistry major but soon found my true calling after my freshmen year at Bucknell. Now, as a second semester senior, I can proudly say that I am graduating with a BA in



Psychology and Religion, going on to get my masters in social work at Columbia with the hope of working with children in the future. I owe my success to

the family I have found here at Bucknell. The friends I made freshmen year have stayed with me throughout my time here, and the professors I have met along the way have served as mentors who have forced me to discover my own potential.

My time here at Bucknell has been thoroughly rewarding and all I can say at this point to any incoming freshman is to maintain an open mind and to cherish every moment, because before you know it, it is all a memory.

Andrea Wright '08

I transferred into Bucknell for my sophomore year. Member of the Women's Track and Field team (800m and 400m) as well as the basketball team (guard/forward). I came here as an Electrical Engineer but decided to major in Computer Science instead. I would have loved to minor in Music but did not have very much flexibility in my

schedule. I liked Bucknell because



it was a nice quiet campus but sometimes it just seemed a little too quiet, especially while staying in the Mods during the winter my 1st year here.

Attending Bucknell has been a lifetime experience of ups and downs, interactions with various kinds of people and a lot of unforgettable friendships. Basically, you just have to live; laugh, and love life and a college experience is what you make of it. I'll never forget these last 3 years—I had fun!

Kris Collymore '08

The Bucknell experience has been a very interesting one. I was away from home and my mother for the first time. The transition was not easy for me since I am an only child and very close to my family. Freshmen year I think I spoke to my mother almost every day, every minute of

the day, today I can say I still speak to her frequently, however, Bucknell has helped me to grow as an individual and become more independent. The Bucknell Community has been a home away from home, and the Professors here are willing to go out of their way to help you. I do not think my learning experience would have been as



capturing without the comfort and diligence of faculty, administrators, and students. As a senior, I am almost scared to leave this little bubble—the friends and memories I have.

However, I can honestly say, Bucknell has prepared me for almost every obstacle that I could face. And so, I am determined to leave my mark when I step into the real world because I know that Bucknell University will be behind me all the way!

Go Bison!



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

International Student Services
Multicultural Student Services
MCOP
125 Vedder Hall

For making contributions to
Bison Spectrum,
contact Rajaa Qadri:
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