Bucknell’s Africa Student Association (BASA)

BASA constitutes a group of people, both African and non-African, who share a common interest in the African continent. Members of this group seek to become enlightened on the diverse cultures in Africa.

As part of BASA’s goal of being the lens through which the Bucknell community catches a glimpse of Africa, the organization holds an annual BASA Bash. Through the Bash, we hope to educate people through an educative and interactive medium while showcasing various aspects of the African culture.

This year’s BASA Bash will be held on the 17th of November in the Larison Dining Hall from 1-4pm. All who are interested are encouraged to come out and enjoy African food, music, dance, stories, and art. Learn more about BASA at www.thebasa.weebly.com.

South Asian Student Association (SASA)

The South Asian Students Association (SASA) was created to promote awareness of South Asian culture both at Bucknell and in the Lewisburg Community. To that end, the organization strives to bring the best of South Asian music, dance, food and more to the campus through various events during the year. One of the events is the annual SASA Dinner where various South Asian dances and songs are showcased by the members of SASA and treated with great South Asian cuisines. This year SASA hosted the 41st annual SASA dinner on November 3rd.

Anyone is welcome to attend the weekly SASA meetings as well as participate in putting on any of the events and performances. Their meetings are held every Monday at 5:00 PM in Vedder Cultural Lounge during the semester.

Learn more about us at http://www.orgs.bucknell.edu/sasa/index.html
I am Stefan Ivanovski, a recent Bucknell graduate and I come from the Republic of Macedonia. I graduated with degrees in International Relations and Spanish. My study abroad experiences in Argentina and Spain strengthened my passion for issues related to community and economic development as well as my interest in the Spanish language and Spanish-speaking cultures.

This past summer my friend, José Saavedra ’13, and I implemented a project named *Puerto Rico Se Anima*. Our goal was to teach at-risk youth from Caguas, Puerto Rico how to create 2D animations. Thanks to a $10,000 grant from Kathryn W. Davis who supports the *Davis Projects for Peace*, a $2,200 grant from the Flamboyan Foundation and over $2,300 in donations from the Bucknell community, we purchased hardware and software which were donated to our partner school, *Nuestra Escuela*. The resources benefited about 50 students who were taught valuable computer, writing and communication skills.

Teaching the students was the most rewarding part of the project. The classes consisted mostly of teenagers, even though we had students of other ages as young as 10 and as old as 50. The lessons were very practical and structured to include social justice elements including how animations can be used as a tool to promote awareness of social issues. In June, we taught students from Nuestra Escuela and in July we taught students from the community, who were not students of Nuestra Escuela. The best part of teaching was when students would applaud enthusiastically at the beginning of each lecture to welcome us.

At the end of the project we organized a Final Animation Festival where we showcased all of the animations that the students produced. We invited the participants, their family members and the school personnel to attend. The audience laughed and applauded the hard work and creativity demonstrated in the animations. We handed out diplomas and José gave a speech inspiring the students to start their own projects and make a difference in their communities. The festival was followed by bonding time with our students and coworkers. It was a sad day to leave Puerto Rico.

The most important lesson I learnt in Puerto Rico is to be aware of how my actions help make or break bonds with coworkers. While many people may have great ideas, it is very hard to find the right person with whom to work. I believe this project was successful because José and I were willing to accommodate each other’s needs and preferences while respecting our differences. We learnt to contribute our individual expertises and strengths and to work on our weaknesses. It was not always easy, but we had the right attitude going forward, which made it possible for us to successfully implement this project.

In the current era of austerity and public spending cuts, I would encourage the wealthy and public policy makers to invest in these types of non-traditional learning experiences. There are many people who wish to make a positive impact in their communities, but the lack of funding or the necessary support impedes them. I think that it is imperative to facilitate these kinds of projects, where students learn to step outside of their comfort zone by applying their knowledge and experiences from college to the “real world.” Giving students the freedom to design and implement major projects will teach them valuable organizational, management, communication and people skills that they can apply in the workplace and in their lives.

The growth that ensues from planting the seeds of an idea and seeing them germinate is an invaluable experience that inspires me to be creative and ambitious about how I resolve future challenges in my life. I hope that with our project we have inspired others in Puerto Rico and at Bucknell to pursue the promotion of global peace.
1. Tell us about yourself, where you're from, your academic background, any past jobs you've had, and your job here at Bucknell.

I am originally from Lahore - the city of lively hearts - in Pakistan. I came to the US at the age of 18 to study electrical engineering at Bucknell as a member of the Class of 2007. After completing my engineering degree at Bucknell, I changed my career path to Higher Education and went on to complete my Master's degree in Education from Bucknell University. I worked in Residential Life at the University of New Hampshire in the academic year 2011-12 before returning to Bucknell as the Assistant Director of Residential Education for Affinity Housing.

2. How have you seen Bucknell change over the several years that you've spent here as a student and now returning to work here?

There were 19 international students in my class, there was no community college transfer program and the Posse Foundation had not formally entered the Bucknell world. International Student Services and Multicultural Student Services were housed on the second floor of the LC and there was no Breakiron Engineering Building. Bucknell has expanded the resources available to its students and is continuously making efforts to foster a culture of learning informed by a multitude of perspectives.

3. Why did you choose to work in Residential Education (how did you develop that passion and what fuels it)?

Residential Education is a continuation of my love for student affairs that developed as a result of my work with International Student Services. Being a member of the International Orientation team for 7 years made me appreciate the value of fresh perspectives and, as cliche as it may sound, of giving back to the community.

4. What do you enjoy most about working in a university and with students?

It may give you grey hair but I would argue that working with students in a university setting keeps me young. There is never a dull day in my work life, and on most days that is a good thing!

5. Can you tell us something that people don't usually know about you?

I have a somewhat "unusual" sense of humor. It is not rare for people to be thrown off the first time they meet me. I am yet to bite someone, but if you ask a total stranger (better yet some of the IOA applicants from years past) their expressions may lead you to believe otherwise! I am tireless in my efforts to support learning and will almost never turn down an invitation to participate in a conversation that is fueled by critical thinking.

First-Year Spotlight

Name: Felix Darko
Country: Ghana and Germany
Major: Computer Engineering
Why Bucknell: Bucknell just seemed like the perfect fit for me; academically and otherwise. I am very content with my decision to come here.
Your favorite Bucknell experience so far: Bingo blingo. Although I didn’t win anything it was still quite a thrill!
Celebrate International Education Week

November 12 - 17, 2012

12th
All Day
International Attire Day
Honor a culture or nation of your choice by wearing its attire.
12 - 1 p.m.
LC 217
You CAN Afford To Go!
Finding your study abroad!
6 - 7 p.m.
Archee Lounge LC
International Students and the Internship Search
Best tips and tricks for a successful internship search.
7:30 p.m.
Wells Lounge LC
“We Went, We Lived It, We Learned!” Powerful Engagements With Differences.”
Discussion on the verification of Arabs in today’s media.

13th
All Day
Biermann Library
Vote For Your Favorite Photo
12 - 1 p.m.
Archee Lounge LC
“A River Blue Project” with Special Guests from Uganda
Free lunch
7:30 p.m.
Campus Theater
Movie: “Lady of No Fear”
The Story of Aung San Suu Kyi
FREE Admission!

14th
All Day
Biermann Library
Vote For Your Favorite Photo
7:30 p.m.
Galaxy Theater LC
Movie: “Reel Bad Arabs”
Discussion on the verification of Arabs in today’s media.

15th
All Day
Biermann Library
Vote For Your Favorite Photo
2 p.m.
Updahn
International Trivia Night
Put your knowledge of the world to the test for a chance to win prizes and bragging rights!

16th
Photo Contest Winners Announced
9 p.m.
Updahn
International Style

17th
1 - 4 p.m.
Laurellen Dining Hall
BASA BASH
Explore African Cultures through food, dance performances and fun activities!
9 p.m.
Updahn
International Dance Party
Dance the night away to hottest hits from around the world!

Look for highlights from International Education Week and 2012 Photo Contest Winners in our next edition!

International Student Services || Multicultural Student Services
Vedder 125, Bucknell University, Lewisburg, PA 17837
phone: 570.577.1095, fax: 570.577.3163
Cultural Center Lounge Hours: Monday-Friday, 8:30-4:30, Monday-Thursday, 7pm-10pm