Home Away from Home
By Eyuel Seyoum ’18

Family weekend is a great event as the Bucknell campus is livened up by the presence of our parents and loved ones. It was good to see many students share their Bucknell experience with their parents and families as they participated in a wide range of events and activities together. Such is not the case for most international students, and some domestic students that come from distant places within the US. Despite the fact that their parents and families could not travel hundreds to thousands of miles to get to Bucknell for the family weekend, Bucknell still had something for them.

‘Home Away from Home’ is one of the greatest events I have attended yet at Bucknell. A collaboration between the Multicultural Students Services (MSS), International Students Services (ISS), the Craft Center and other campus partners, this event served to connect international students and other domestic students with host parents from around campus. The event was perfectly timed; it happened just at the beginning of Family weekend and so it felt like we had our parents and families too visit and we were able to share our experiences with them. The other students and I were treated to a festive event featuring delicious food, giveaways, and fun activities that connected us to our host families and provided a sense of home at Bucknell.

Our relationship with our host parents does not end after Family weekend; it is a relationship that will stretch through our stay at Bucknell and even beyond. After Family weekend, I got the opportunity to dine with my host family in an American setting home which gave me an opportunity to learn more about the American culture and what it is like to live in the US. I also got to share with them aspects of my culture and food which I really missed. I very much enjoyed my first visit to my host family in many regards.

I had a great experience and it was really nice to learn about what happens outside the Bucknell bubble.
Cycling Out Poverty in Zambia

By Chanda Singoyi ’17

The Cycling Out Poverty (COP) project, is principally targeted at small-scale retailers in the rural village of Singani in Zambia. The project aims to aid in the transportation of farm produce to the larger markets in distant urban areas to give the people of Singani an opportunity to have better access to healthcare, education and clean water.

Singani is a medium entrepreneurial society with subsistence farmers growing crops, collecting coal and gathering firewood to sell at a market located approximately 25 kilometers away. However, most people do not have access to proper modes of transportation and consequently resort to carrying large bags of merchandise on their heads and travelling the long journey to the market on foot. Being a strongly patriarchal society, the task of carrying the merchandise is traditionally isolated to women and children. This task is not only physically draining but also emotionally challenging, as it is perceived to rob women and children of happiness and joy. Moreover, the long distance that children have to travel affects schooling; children often miss many days of school and ultimately drop out or lose interest, due to the necessity to carry wares to the market for sale.

The bikes and carts we distributed will help reduce the physical and mental burden that women and children endure in transporting the produce to the market. Through this project, transportation mobility and market accessibility will be improved. As a result of the alleviation of initial transportation problems, the standard and quality of life in the community will improve; it is hoped that women and children will also be happier as a result. In the long run, the average income of each family will increase since they will now afford multiple trips with more merchandise to and from the market each day. Moreover, the fluidity of transportation and market accessibility will motivate the families to produce more to sell at the market and in the process become more self-sufficient socioeconomically.

Through this project we were able to learn that in this century of ever increasing gender equity and equality awareness; there are societies that still do not equally share the socioeconomic burden among genders. In the village in which we worked, the laborious task of carrying the products to the market was isolated to women. Women bore the pain more than men did. While this is a reality strongly rooted in culture, it is our hope that the bikes and carts distributed will lift off the burden women and children face and increase the economic productivity of the community as a whole.

Through this project we have come to the realization that bigger global problems can be solved through implementation of simple ideas that work on the “ground level”. A simple initiative of distributing bikes and carts can help improve the socioeconomic status of a society and help create a tranquil state of mind in villages that are still entrenched in a culture that strongly supports strict gender roles.
Meet some members of the Class of 2018!

Name: Anushikha Sharma
Hometown: Mumbai, India
Major(s): Computer Science and Engineering

Why Bucknell: I was interested in engineering for my undergraduate studies but I wanted a balance. I also wanted a small school where we could get to know people on a more personal level. Bucknell—with its renowned engineering school and liberal arts education—seemed like the perfect fit. With a fitting scholarship, a magnificent campus, unlimited opportunities and pumping school spirit—there’s no place I’d rather be!

Favorite Bucknell experience(s): This has to be a tie between the fall fest and the pep rally! The pep rally with all the orange and blue was the perfect way to bring in the school spirit to all the freshmen. I loved the pom-poms, the glow-in-the-dark rings and the pep bands! Also, the fall fest was a beautiful experience! There is no fall in my country so watching the leaves change color and cascade down is very refreshing. The food, the games and the wand-making was so much fun! The Andy Grammer concert was great too.

Name: Jotham Stephenson
Hometown: Boston, MA
Major(s): Biomedical Engineering or Psychology

Why Bucknell: After some research I came across Bucknell and found it to be a relatively small school with a beautiful campus and an outstanding undergraduate program. While this sparked my interest, the aspect of this school that sold me was the engineering program. The program’s ranking as one of the premier engineering programs in the country quickly placed Bucknell at the top of my list.

Favorite Bucknell experience(s): My favorite experience at Bucknell so far was by far “color games”. This was an activity during orientation where all the first year students had a huge paint fight by hall. The school spirit represented and the overall atmosphere was extraordinarily welcoming and the crazy fun that I shared with my fellow class and the upper classmen was unmatched.

Name: Rileigh Casebolt
Hometown: Aurora, CO
Major(s): Chemical Engineering

Why Bucknell: I applied to Bucknell because it has a great engineering school, and because my aunt and uncle both went here and rave about it all of the time. I never actually visited campus before move-in day, but I love it and am so thankful that I chose Bucknell.

Favorite Bucknell experience(s): So far, my favorite Bucknell experience was the color games during Orientation because everyone was just running around throwing paint, being crazy, and having a great time.
Cultural Organizations at Bucknell

SAAB

By Yash Bhutwala

Students for Asian Awareness at Bucknell (SAAB), the largest cultural club on campus, strives to establish an inclusive and enthusiastic community amongst our members and on the Bucknell campus by promoting Asian culture. SAAB seeks to promote social, racial, and cultural tolerance. It also offers an opportunity for its members to understand, appreciate, and respect the Asian cultures through social, educational, and cultural events. The club hosts several social events throughout the year such as Big/Little week, Made in Asia, and Karaoke Night but is best known for its signature event, Asian Gala, which is held every spring. With the primary goal being to increase awareness of the Asian heritage and be the voice of the Asian community at Bucknell, SAAB welcomes all current and incoming Asian students, as well as all non-Asian students, who appreciate the goals of the organization to join. You do not need to be Asian to join! The club is open to everyone who is fascinated by Asian cultures, and would love to contribute to spreading Asian awareness on campus. Our weekly meeting times are on Thursdays between 8 and 9pm in ELC Arches Lounge.

BASA

By Zoe Russell

BASA is a community where we come to understand and appreciate the immense diversity and culture of both the individual countries of Africa, as well as the continent as a whole, and we strive to spread this appreciation across Bucknell’s campus through our activities and events.

Best of all, BASA, for Africans and non-Africans alike, is a family on this campus, and we’d be so happy to have you with us! Weekly meeting are on Fridays from 5-6pm in ELC 064.

O.H.L.A.S

By Stephanie Morales-Lopez

The Organization for Hispanic and Latin American Students seeks to promote the identity and unity of Latino students at Bucknell University through intellectual, cultural, and social growth. Furthermore, we aim to bring awareness to campus about the diverse Latin American cultures with traditional cultural events.

Interested students should contact Stephanie Morales-Lopez for more information.
**MESA**

By Tamara Hijazi

During my first week at Bucknell, I began searching for a group of people that would become my family at Bucknell. Luckily, I happened to find that family at Activities Unlimited, standing at a table in representation of “MESA”. MESA, also known as the Middle Eastern Student Association, is a club dedicated to bringing together people who are passionate about understanding and enjoying Middle Eastern culture. Despite being a fairly new club, our dedication and passion has allowed the club to thrive in its three years of existence. We have held a number of movie nights with our members and are planning a campus-wide movie screening as well. Our most successful and important event is the “MESA Dinner”, which has allowed the club to showcase the beauty and uniqueness of Middle Eastern culture through various dances, skits, and incredible food! The MESA dinner was incredibly successful last year and will be returning this fall! On October 25th, we will be throwing a “MESA lunch”, which will consist of a great Arabian dinner, a hilarious skit, and a number of new performances which we are hoping will expand people's love and understanding of the Middle East. MESA has truly become a place for those who are passionate about the Middle East to form great friendships with many amazing people. We hope that more people join MESA and that we continue to spread our Middle Eastern love and friendship—and some great Middle Eastern food!

**SASA**

By Abishek Raghavan

The South Asian Student Association (SASA) is an organization aimed at bringing together students from all walks of life and forming a community which focuses on campus outreach and spreading awareness about the South Asian culture in general.

We are proud to be the host of the longest-standing student-run event - The Annual SASA Dinner - celebrating its 43rd anniversary this fall. This event aims at bringing together students, faculty, staff, and members of the community to celebrate South Asian culture and showcase our group's talents. Our program includes dancing, singing, and eye-opening skits.

Other activities include the members getting together and discussing pertinent events; occasionally we are involved in discussions related to diversity on campus. We also encourage creating strong bonds between members through cricket games, movie nights, cooking dinner and so much more!
Upcoming IEA Events

- **Film: To Educate a Girl**
  - Thursday, October 16
  - 9pm
  - ELC 045
  - Brought to you by the WRC and ISS

- **Lecture. Violence Against Women**
  - Monday, October 20
  - 7pm
  - ELC Forum

- **The Clothesline Project**
  - Friday, October 17 - 31
  - Create T-shirts in support of survivors or to reflect your own experience or that of someone close to you. Take a stand against sexual and dating violence
  - WRC event

- **Dancing Mind Challenge**
  - Saturday, October 18
  - 11 a.m.

- **Interfaith Worship Service**
  - Sunday, October 26
  - 11 a.m
  - Rooke Chapel

- **Film: To Educate a Girl**
  - Thursday, October 16
  - 9pm
  - ELC 045
  - Brought to you by the WRC and ISS

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