ISS’s International Student Advisory Board (ISAB)

By Chanda Singoyi ’17

The International Student Advisory Board (ISAB) exists to provide an outlet for Bucknell’s international students to address their needs, concerns, and interests regarding campus life. Comprised of a cross-section of the international student population, ISAB takes student feedback and work to improve the international student experience at Bucknell, advocating for and implementing change as necessary to support this endeavor. ISAB also serves as representation for Bucknell’s international community, interfacing with other university groups and the Bucknell Student Government (BSG) as they relate to campus diversity, student life, and other associated initiatives relevant to international students.

ISAB representatives are interested in improving the student experience on Bucknell’s campus. The board demonstrates a commitment to creating an inclusive environment within the Bucknell campus. Some concerns or ideas ISAB may address include: issues around campus life that impact international students, ideas about a type of program that international students would like to see brought to campus, or any elements of campus culture that the board believe needs to change for the sake of creating a more inclusive environment, etc.

The board seats are currently filled for this year. The goal is to have at least one representative from each class year and any country with over six students represented in the international student body. Look out for more updates from ISS as we will have an event in the coming weeks so we can hear about your experience about Bucknell thus far, and get feedback on ways we can help improve the international student experience on campus.
Study abroad in France

By Anna Oluyomi ’17

Going into France, I did not know what to expect. It was a new culture that would take some getting used to and I was afraid that I might not fit in from the start. I did not want to stand out like the average American tourist so, I tried to get acquainted with the language and some aspects of French culture before embarking on my journey to Tours. I was aware of the basic stereotypes about the French: their love of cheese and wine, hatred of Americans (especially tourists) and great fashion sense. However, I had taken several courses about French culture that invalidated my preconceived judgments about French people. Therefore, I tried to erase those thoughts from my mind and go in with a fresh pair of eyes. Luckily, I had a team of thirteen other Bucknellians coming with me; so I was not the only one.

While in France, I was hosted by a lovely French family that did not speak English, so I was as immersed as I could possibly be. I also attended a French university and mainly took French courses. I had to learn how to get by, order food, take the bus and ask basic questions. However, as hard as I tried, I could not shield my identity as an American. My accent and flow of speech was obviously foreign. So, wherever I went, people asked me where I was from. They obviously didn’t mean any harm when they automatically tried to speak to me in English, but it made me feel like an outsider. Therefore, I made it a goal for myself to work on my lingual and cultural fluency. I branched out of my Bucknell group and made my way into the French social circles at my university. It was hard at first, especially since I didn’t get the French jokes and slang. But, I eventually found a group that took me in and showed me the ropes. Since I was part of the Bucknell en France program, I had resources that supported me anytime I felt homesick or overwhelmed. It only took about a month for me to fully adjust to the French system. I had almost forgotten what it was like to live in the United States.

Leaving France, I had mixed emotions. I missed my family and friends in the U.S. but Tours had become home for me. I had fallen in love with the food, with the fashion, with the flair. I had acquainted and familiarized myself with French culture. I had made friends and found my niche. But most importantly, I learned a lot about myself and my ability to acclimate and adapt to new environments. I came into France curious and clueless but I left confident and ready to conquer the world.

Contact gloaled@bucknell.edu for more information about how you can apply for a study abroad program.
My Research experience in Alaska

By Eyuel Seyoum ’18

I joined Bucknell University in 2014, coming by way of the United World College Waterford Kamhlaba in South Africa. Here at Bucknell, I have spent my time in a variety of academic and extracurricular engagements, but the one that excites me the most is progressive research which has offered me the chance to expand my work on topics of my interests that are beyond the scope of my classes in Biochemistry.

My research explores the effects of stress during the developmental stages on determining physiology and trade-off decisions in black legged Kittiwakes. The research was developed based on the observation that black legged Kittiwakes in Pacific and Atlantic ocean basin show stark difference in many physiological trade off decisions such as sexual maturation age, metabolism rate, clutch size and reproductive success. Corticosterone (CORT), stress hormone, has been proposed as a key hormone in shaping life history strategy of black legged Kittiwakes. My research seeks to test this hypothesis and provide mechanistic explanation of how CORT exposure early in neonatal stages may influence life history strategy by performing differential gene expression of chicks exposed to CORT as compared to controls.

This summer of 2016, I was offered with the chance to grow as a scientist and conduct my experiment in a wild life reserve of Alaska. The research took place on Middleton Island, one of the biggest bird research facilities in the world. There, I spent the better part of the summer doing voluntary work for bird researchers from around the world. There, I gained numerous skills pertaining wild life care and handling while making important connections with researchers from around the globe. More importantly I was able to run my experiment which provided me with the chance to learn surgical, observational & biochemical skills that are very pertinent to my intended career. I am hoping to continue with computationally intensive analysis of the results my experiment produced to the end of giving a talk in an upcoming conference on the field.
Cultural Organizations at Bucknell

LACOS

The Latin@ Alliance for Community and Opportunity for Students (LACOS) is a new club at Bucknell. LACOS concentrates on the 4 caucuses, which include the Caribbean, Iberian Peninsula, North & Central America, and South America. Its mission is to create a community among students of the Latin@ diaspora through cultural programming and social activism. LACOS will host many events throughout the year like event for Hispanic Heritage Month, a Dia De Los Muertos event, a celebration for Feliz Navidad, celebration for El Dia De Los Reyes as well as our greatly anticipated Latin Gala. LACOS will also be hosting its annual Tamale Party, a fun and inclusive event where students from different backgrounds are able to enjoy a traditional dish from various Latin countries and at the same time meet new people. We welcome any student to join LACOS, it is not only limited to those of Latin background.

Conscience, Courage and Community

By Erin Clark ’18

Last September, Bucknell held an event titled “Conscience, Courage, and Community: Bucknell Responds to Injustice Today”. It was a discussion based event which focused on the need to recognize the issues that have occurred in recent months across the globe. It delved into topics including the Orlando nightclub shooting, the Stanford rape case and the recent police shootings, asking for everyone to voice their opinions on these acts of violence.

There were three speakers who talked during the event. Following the three speakers, there was a free writing session and an open microphone for comments and reflections, during which students and faculty called attention to specific problems that occur on the University’s campus.

In my opinion, the event left a lot to be desired. The way that the event was advertised made it seem like it was going to be a response from the Bucknell administration to the events of this past summer, however, there was a lot of silence on the part of the administration. Since only a few faculty/staff members commented throughout the event, I felt like the event was falsely portrayed. Asking students for their input on these current events is not a bad thing, however, outside of class, it is often the same students who are speaking and listening. The lack of attendance at the talk was upsetting. Arguably, the students who are not in the room are the ones who need to have these conversations the most, yet we are not given much time in class to engage in these types of conversations.
Meet the New Associate Dean of Students for Diversity and Inclusion

Greetings,

It is with great enthusiasm that I join the team of amazing students, faculty and staff at Bucknell. I am honored to work with individuals who are committed to making this institution more welcoming, inclusive and diverse. The past three years of my career have been spent at Alma College as the Associate Vice President for Student Life and Director of Diversity and Inclusion. Prior to my work at Alma, I spent almost 15 years at the University of Tennessee in a number of roles including the Director of Multicultural Student Life. I am a native of St. Thomas, Virgin Islands. As a first generation college student, I have earned a bachelor’s degree in Psychology and a master’s degree in Higher Education Administration from Southern Illinois University. I possess a strong commitment to student retention and success, with an intentional focus on preparing students for an increasing global society.

During my first few months at Bucknell, I have taken the opportunity to meet with many students, staff and faculty. These conversations have been particularly inspiring and provide the space to do great work. At Bucknell, it is clear that we take pride in the strong bonds of community. I am looking forward to learning more about our Bucknell community and identifying ways that we each can do our part to intentionally make Bucknell University the institution that we aspire it to be. Accomplishing this goal requires that we value the lived experiences of individuals, build collaborative partnerships, and hold ourselves accountable for contributing to the overall campus culture and climate. In my role as Associate Dean of Students, I hope to foster critical discourse and engage in meaningful interactions with our campus constituents. The team of staff in the Intercultural, Equity and Advocacy Office represents some of the most talented and committed professionals in the field, thus uniquely positioning us to intentionally promote student learning and development through high impact practices, programs, education and training.

We are at a critical time in the life of this institution. We are poised to strategically equip each member of our community with access to the skills, resources and support necessary to engage with the complex issues of our time. It is my desire that you will join us on this journey, that you will make time and space during your tenure at Bucknell to find ways to develop a stronger sense of self and deeper appreciation for others. I hope that each of us will accept our individual responsibility to develop a stimulating, nurturing and safe environment, where we are all valued and encouraged to develop competencies that complement the institutional mission.

I always welcome the opportunity to hear and learn from you. Thank you for welcoming me and my two amazing daughters to Bucknell.
Upcoming IEA Events

**Pumpkin carving**
Hosted by Leiser House and International Student Services
**Date:** Friday Oct 21
**Time:** 5pm-7pm
**Location:** The Craft Center.

**“Celebrate Difference” photo**
-LGBTQ Resources
**Date:** Thursday October 13
**Time:** Noon.
**Location:** Rooke Science building front steps.

**Take Back the Night**
March to honor the strength of survivors of sexual assault and dating violence.
**Date:** Smith Quad, Oct 27th 6pm-7pm

**“Becoming Spiritually Grounded in this Dislocated Age” - Diane Butler Bass**
**Date:** October 18, 2016
**Time:** 7:30 p.m.
**Location:** Forum, ELC

**Sign up for the Spring Break Civil Rights Trip to Social Justice sites across NY State!**
Apply on www.bucknell.edu/mss or email: mss@bucknell.edu

**Professional Staff:**
Denelle Brown (Assoc. Dean of Students for Diversity and Inclusion)
Myrna Perkins (Administrative Assistant)
Jennifer Figueroa (ISS)
Bill McCoy (LGBTQ Resources)
Rosalie Rodriguez (MSS)
John Colatch (Religious life)
Women Resource Center – Vacant
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