International Orientation 2009...Woot! Woot!

What do you get when you combine one enthusiastic International Orientation staff, over fifty new international students, a few lost suitcases, and a giant Bucknell squirrel? International Orientation 2009, of course!

On August 17, 2009, after months of preparation, Paula Myers, the director of International Student Services (ISS), Nadir Sharif, Graduate Assistant of ISS, two International Orientation Leaders (IOL), and twelve Assistants (IOA) welcomed the new international first-years, transfers, exchange students, graduate students and language teaching assistants to the Bucknell community. The week began with a small welcome ceremony that brought everyone together for the first time.

The orientation continued with more small-group activities, trips to various local attractions like Knoebels Amusement Park, fun and games with the students of the Building on Foundations Program, and even an off-the-wall impromptu dance party in Vedder lounge. The students were able to get to know each other and slowly settle into life at the University before meeting the rest of the Class of 2013. The Orientation concluded with a dinner on the banks of the Susquehanna River and a sunset cruise on the Hiawatha boat, where Bucknell’s newest international family gathered for one last time.

BY, MAIKA PINEDA ’11

International Orientation (IO) is a five-day program that gives new international students the chance to familiarize themselves with the ins and outs of Bucknell and learn more about American lifestyle. Adjusting to living on a college campus, especially in a foreign country, can be difficult and IO helps with this transition. The students here may live in a “bubble”, but Bucknellians come from all ends of the world. ISS and programs such as IO help the University to build bridges with other nations and create an environment of tolerance where language and culture can be exchanged.

Although International Orientation is officially over, the friendships that were formed during those five days continue throughout the school year. Being an IOA was an incredible experience that challenged me to step outside my comfort zone. Meeting such amazing people and really taking in their different perspectives has made my appreciation for diversity grow and develop in unexpected ways. As cliché as it sounds, I feel like we have formed one big family—we laughed and we cried, we overcame obstacles, and together, we made memories that will last beyond our years at Bucknell.
I had the privilege and honor of meeting Branko Blagojević and having him as a friend. Writing about Branko’s life is an honor for me. It will take more than a few paragraphs to describe who he was but I hope that I will be able to give the readers a short insight in the life of Branko Blagojević through my perspective.

The first time I came in contact with Branko was through Facebook and I was very happy to know that there was a fellow student at Bucknell who spoke the same language as I did—Serbian.

Branko was a Fremont scholar at Bucknell and a graduate from the United World College of the Adriatic in Italy. He was a member of the Class of 2012, studying Civil Engineering.

He had many friends all over the world. He had an amiable and outgoing character. He knew how to cherish a true friendship; he was one of those people who always looked after you. He did not judge, he did not discriminate, Branko understood people and accepted them for who they are.

He was a great student. Apart from the respect he received from his friends; he was a respected gentleman among his professors as well.

His favorite sport: basketball—he was a great player. I got a chance to witness his passion for basketball when we were in the NBA store in New York where he kept on browsing through the equipment, while Bojana, Rohan (our friends) and I tried to rush him out of the store and go sightseeing.

Branko inspired me to love and trust people, to be patient and to enjoy life.

For me, Branko has not left this earth, he remains in my heart and I will always remember who he was. He has definitely influenced my life for the better.

I hope that Branko’s legacy will be continued through the inter-continental friendships that have formed after his passing.

Also, I believe that through these friendships Branko’s memories and moments will be shared.

Branko, my brother, may God have mercy upon you, and may rest in eternal peace in the Heavens.

Бранко брате, друже, неостварена љубавна жељо, нека ти Бог подари Ражд.

Почива у миру.

Your friend and a brother,

Твој друг и брат,

Stefan

T.E.A.M Mentorship Program

The T.E.A.M Mentorship program was developed to focus on the difficult journey that underrepresented freshmen face with fitting into a college setting. It is a common issue that every incoming student in every college institution faces. However, it can be extra difficult when a student lets his/her race dominate that insecurity.

The Director and Co-Director, Jessica Hess and Shallary Duncan, dedicated an immense amount of time and hard work to bring this program to life.

This year is the pilot year starting with seven mentors and two cultural informants. The mentors are assigned one to two protégés to mentor throughout the entire year. The cultural informants are considered additional backup that can help and answer any questions the protégés may have that the mentors are unable to answer—kind of like an extra cushion!

I wanted to join the T.E.A.M Mentorship program for multiple reasons. I was fortunate enough to have a mentor my freshman year through the Posse program. It made such a huge difference in my quality of life at Bucknell.

I felt like I never left home because I had a great mentor that supported and guided me as my family would have.

I really believe that having a mentor to listen and give advice can have a positive influence on students’ overall experience at Bucknell.

The great thing about this program is that the mentors are students who have experienced what the freshmen are going through. It is great to be able to speak from a perspective where we have observed it, dealt with it, and survived it.

I strongly encourage students to give this program a try. It is a very fulfilling experience and results in lifelong friendships.
Many Faces One World

The Fremont scholarship program is designed to provide opportunities for individual interaction and foster corporative relationships between the United States and other countries. The event turned out to be a great success even though it was a first time such an event has been organized on campus. It was a challenge but there was a great atmosphere and energy brought by the attendants. The successive event is likely to take place next year with the help of Fremont Scholars of 2013.

“AIDS Walk 2009”

Saturday, October 3
Registration at 8:15am, Walk at 9:00am
Kenneth Langone Athletics & Recreation Center on the Bucknell University campus

- No pre-registration required for teams or individuals
- Suggested individual donation: $15
- Suggested team donation: $75
- First 200 walkers will receive an AIDS Walk T-shirt (must raise minimum suggested donation)
- Refreshments provided!

Donations can be made by cash or check (payable to AIDS Resource Alliance). Credit card donations may be made on the Bucknell AIDS Walk Online Donation page: www.firstgiving.com/bucknellaidswalk. Questions? Email infnlay@bucknell.edu

All proceeds benefit AIDS Resource Alliance, a local, non-profit organization which provides community support and education to prevent the spread of HIV/AIDS as well as assistance to those living with HIV/AIDS.

AIDS Walk 2009 is sponsored by the President’s Office and the Bucknell AIDS Walk Committee

From Cultural Center Staff....

Please keep the Vedder Cultural Lounge in mind for a unique place to hold your weekly office staff meetings, club meetings, or just a quiet place to study.

In order to reserve the space, you may contact the RICS office to schedule your meeting or luncheon. You can also reserve it by logging in to mybucknell, click on Schedule an Event and fill out the form. If the space is available, we’d love to have you join the many organizations that have already made use of our wonderful lounge.
Clockwise: International Orientation Assistants and Leaders with Paula Myers.
Students from China on the Hiwatha Cruise during International Orientation.
Carolina, Spain & Antonio, Italy, enjoying the Hiwatha Cruise.
Maika, Ioa, performing a skit for the new international students

Mark Your Calendar

Sept. 23. Women’s and Gender Studies film series. "Water," by Deepa Mehta, 8 p.m., Gallery Theatre, ELC.
Sept. 28. OHLAS Screening of "Voces Innocentes," ELC Forum
Sept. 23. Women’s and Gender Studies artist lecture and reception. "Widows of Vrindavan Photographic series,”
Erik Boker, artist/photographer, 5 p.m., Arches Lounge, Elaine Langone Center.
Oct. 1 & 2. International China Conference, ELC
http://www.bucknell.edu/x54532.xml
Oct. 7. Wacky Wednesday, 10pm, Vedder Lounge
Oct. 8. MSS Student Success Series “Graduate School”. Vedder Lounge