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PRESIDENT’S MESSAGE

MELISSA PLAISANCE ’82, P’13
PRESIDENT, BUCKNELL UNIVERSITY
ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

We gathered in snow-covered Lewisburg at the end of January, for the winter meeting of the BUAA. While the weather posed a threat, fortunately, we saw nothing more than a flurry or two. Current members of the board made the journey and several former board members joined us for the weekend, to help make our programs a success.

Our first event was First Night, and after quick training we met with first year student halls and shared stories of our time on the Bucknell campus. We also tried to give them a sense of the broader Bucknell community that includes dedicated alumni who are ready to open doors, volunteer, give back, engage and return.

On Saturday, we met in our committees to advance our goals, and the Emeritus members of the Board participated in a lively brain-storming session to generate new ideas to engage alumni. We also hosted a successful Sophomore brunch to provide students with early-stage career advice, and we later honored student leaders in our Pennant program.

Many of us stayed to see the Bison basketball team play against Colgate, including students dancing in aisles, singing on the alter, a fun student video, and of course our Alumni Boards’ own famous Bucknell “B” exercise, to connect our individual Bucknell histories with the first year students.

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Many of us stayed to see the Bison basketball team play against Colgate. Unfortunately, it was a nail-biter that ended badly for Bison fans, with a 69-68 loss. While we were disheartened by the outcome of the game, we gathered briefly downtown, then said our goodbyes until we meet again.

We travel from near and far, and we take time away from our work and our families because Bucknell means so much to us.

Who loves Bucknell. WE DO!

SUCCESSFUL ON-CAMPUS PROGRAMMING

At the 2015 Winter Alumni Board Meeting, a group of esteemed Emeritus alumni board members came back to campus to share their council with our office and the board on the topic of lifelong learning for alumni. This is by no means a new effort. In many ways we have dipped our toes into this genre with programs like Alumni University during Reunion Weekend, panels of distinguished alumni and friends with the Bucknell Professional Network, and Dean and faculty presentations in major regions across the country.

Much of the conversation with the Emeritus Board members concentrated on the question: Could a weekend focused on academics be appealing to alumni? We will use this helpful feedback to develop a summer 2016 program where alumni will be welcomed to spend several days back on campus to participate in a series of interactive learning experiences. This unique offering will give alumni the opportunity to spend an enjoyable time on campus while being academically stimulated at their alma mater.

This fall we will also be planning a series of webinars related to lifelong learning. We plan to launch a series of 30-45 minute lunch-time talks conducted by Bucknell Faculty or Alumni. These quick sessions will give Bucknellians a chance to hear about topics across academic disciplines and will engage alumni intellectually and reconnect them with Bucknell.

Why start with these two programs? The answer is simple. These programs address the spectrum. Our webinars will be short, easily accessible weekday sessions that might allow busy professionals to participate without losing family time in the evening. The other is a highly focused, high touch experience on campus. In the same ways our reunion reconnects you with your classmates, we hope that this weekend will reconnect alumni to the academic mission.

We are excited about advancing these two programs and, as always, we will continue to seek council from our stakeholders as the programs are developed.

Stay Connected

The Bucknell Externship Program continues to grow in 2015, 160 externships were offered and 180 of students participated. BUAA Communications Chair, Debra Rizzi, hosted Kelsey O’Donnell ’18 (left) and Lauren Gambardella ’18 (right) at Rizzo, this past January. To learn more visit bucknell.edu/externships. To get involved, contact Emily Dietrich at the Career Development Center, edietrich@bucknell.edu or call 570.577.1238.

Sophomore Career Options & Opportunities

The 4th Annual Sophomore Career Options & Opportunities Brunch was held on Saturday, January 31st in the Terrace Room. Hosted by the BUAA and the CDC, this unique learning opportunity allowed sophomores to engage in informal conversations, connect with alumni, and learn what fellow Bucknellians have accomplished with similar degrees in a wide variety of careers paths.

WINNERS

Alumni Awards
Bucknell.edu/AlumniAwards

BUAA UPDATES

ALUMNI OFFICE

BY JOSH GRILL,
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
OF ALUMNI RELATIONS

Bucknell Externship
For Sophomores

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WINNERS

Alumni Awards
Bucknell.edu/AlumniAwards
FIRST NIGHT
BY GRACE ELLIOT ’16

First night this year took place on Friday, January 30th and was a huge success! Despite the cold and winter storms, nearly 50 alumni made it back to campus to celebrate the welcoming of the class of 2018 into the Alumni Association.

To start off the evening, first year halls met up with Board Members in multiple locations all over campus. The alumni shared their experiences at Bucknell and talked about how they felt the Alumni Board motto fit into their everyday lives.

After a welcoming conversation, the students talked about the Board’s role on campus and the five pillars they stand by: open doors, volunteer, give back and engage. The halls then braved the cold and headed up to Rooke Chapel for the official ceremony.

This year’s ceremony was especially spirited given that the officers in the class of 2018 danced their way into the room before giving speeches. During the event the students got to interact intimately with the alumni and felt a real connection.

The Alumni Board was treated to a student panel discussion during the winter board meeting. However, unlike prior years, it was more than just a question and answer session. This year, the alumni board heard from five students who gave presentations on initiatives that help to bring the university community together.

First we heard from Catherine Bianco and Sara Shochat (a student manager for BuckWild), two members of the class of 2016. They talked about their involvement with Outdoor Education and Leadership. There are five main components: a challenge course, bike shop, climbing wall, rental center and BuckWild. All of these components provide a great benefit to the university. The challenge course can be used by groups to help facilitate teambuilding and trust amongst members; and there is an ability to rent equipment from the bike shop for free. BuckWild is involved in the pre-orientation program for incoming first year students. It helps ease the transition into first year life by building a support network before a student even steps foot onto campus.

Second, Travon Martin ’15 and Kortney Marshall ’16 discussed the TEAM Mentor Program. TEAM stands for Together Everyone Achieves More. TEAM joins upper-class and first-year students together. Recognizing a need to assist younger students, the program works to promote academic achievement, health and wellness, and student leadership. It is funded by the multi-cultural student services and is currently supported by eleven mentors and thirteen mentees.

Lastly, Alejandro Ramirez spoke on behalf of the growing interest in entrepreneurship on campus. He serves as a Fellow on behalf of Bucknell with the University Innovation Fellows Program. Fellows, who are nominated by their deans or faculty, help students on their home campuses foster an entrepreneurial mindset, innovation, creativity, design thinking and venture creation at their schools. Currently, there are 168 fellows nationwide from eighty-five schools with four being from Bucknell. Alejandro was excited to be involved in bringing TEDx to Bucknell on March 28, 2015.

As everyone can see, Bucknell students are consistently challenging themselves in and out of the classroom. Students like Catherine, Sara, Travon, Kortney and Alejandro are working hard to develop initiatives that will benefit not just current students but those in years to come.

STUDENT PANEL
BY RAJ THANGAVELU ’98

On Saturday, January 31st, 54 Bucknell University students and a number of Bucknell University Alumni Association members convened in the Terrace Room for the Pennant Program reception. At the reception, seniors who have served in roles consistent with the Alumni Board’s mission of representing alumni, engaging Bucknellians, and promoting and enhancing Bucknell University were honored for their service and presented with a Bucknell University pennant. The roles consistent with the Alumni Board’s mission include tour guides/admissions student workers, reunion ambassadors, student callers, homecoming hosts/hostesses, and alumni board student members, as well as students who have majored in education and/or will be working for Teach for America post-graduation. Connor McLaughlin, class of 2016 Bucknell Student Government President and Tour Guide in the Office of Admissions, spoke and in his speech told the seniors that the pennant is meant to serve as a reminder for them, and not just as a reminder of their service or the precious time they spent on campus, but also as a reminder to stay engaged and continue to give back to the University as Bucknell alumni. His speech was followed by the presentation of the pennants as well as a reception in which seniors had the opportunity to converse with their fellow pennant recipients and BUAA board members.
Senior Year Abroad
Santiago, Chile

One of my greatest experiences as a Bucknellian has undoubtedly been my chance to study abroad in Chile during the fall of my senior year. While I had always loved Bucknell, leaving for six months gave me a new appreciation for its awesomeness; and my first sense of what it would be like to be an alumnus!

Most importantly, I realized that no matter how many thousand miles away from Lewisburg you are, you will always be a Bucknellian, and you will always find other Bucknellians in your surroundings. The Bucknell Alumni App certainly helps in this process, which I found out when I had the opportunity to meet up with a recent graduate after finding him using the app. As we talked about our experiences at Bucknell, I realized that there were certain commonalities that transcended all class years: like the work hard, play hard mentality, the excitement and tribulations of your first year, and the strong desire of alumni to achieve their best and to continually give back.

As the class of 2015 disperses throughout the world we may lose some connection to Bucknell, but there is no doubt that we will always remain Bison at heart. We will take our memories and experiences with us and add new ones to the fold, knowing that we will be back soon. And when we reconvene in 7th Street Café or Bull Run or the Academic Quad, we knew that we will immediately feel at home again.
2014 – 2016
BUAA EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

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Melissa Campbell Plaisance ’82, P’13

FIRST VICE PRESIDENT
Robert Scott ’85, P’17

VICE PRESIDENT OF FINANCE
Matthew Garman ’96

VICE PRESIDENT OF MEMBERSHIP & NOMINATIONS
Tara Garrity Lebda ’94

VICE PRESIDENT OF STRATEGIC PLANNING
Christine Zapotocky Kelleher ’91

CHAIR, ADMISSIONS & TRANSITIONS
Shari Aser ’98

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debra@rizcodesign.com

CHAIR, DEVELOPMENT/CONSTITUENT ENGAGEMENT
Laurel Ziegler ’99

CHAIR, CLUBS & YOUNG ALUMNI
Joel Berelson ’85

MEMBER AT LARGE
Victor Arcelus ’96
Lisa Morrison Bogan ’78, P’13
Rich Karcher ’05
Brian Regan ’93

2015 EVENTS/KEY DATES

MAY 29
ALUMNI BOARD REUNION MEETING

MAY 28-31
REUNION WEEKEND

SEPTEMBER 19
WE DO TOUR / BALTIMORE

OCTOBER 23-24
HOMECOMING

CONTACT US

The Bucknell University Alumni Association Board of Directors
Bucknell University Alumni House
90 University Avenue
Lewisburg, PA 17837

Send your BUAA Magnet submissions or feedback to magnet@bucknell.edu.
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