In the midst of a lengthy college search more than 20 years ago, the turning point came on a visit to Lewisburg. Sitting beside my parents on the Rooke Chapel steps, I asked, “Do you think I can get in?” Thus began a lifelong connection with Bucknell University.

The winter Alumni Board meeting offers several opportunities to reach out to students – those just beginning their journey with Bucknell. During our campus visit on February 1-2, 2013, Alumni Board members shared why Bucknell is for a lifetime with students from every class year, nearly a thousand in total – covering many turning points in life, from beginning college and career choices to what it means to be Bucknell alumni.

Friday’s highlight was the 13th annual First Night, a tradition that celebrates the freshman class’ successful completion of a semester at Bucknell and formally welcomes them into the Bucknell family, a global community of nearly fifty-thousand graduates. Through meetings with all 42 first year halls and a special gathering in Rooke Chapel, the evening’s activities reflected on the students’ experiences so far – and looked ahead to a long association with Bucknell.

On Saturday, the Alumni Board hosted a sophomore brunch focused on career options and opportunities. Through a blend of speakers and table discussions, Alumni Board members shared their career paths – and an unlimited range of professional options, no matter what one’s major might be. Both the food and the conversations were delicious.

Also on a career theme, we conducted mock interviews for juniors, in partnership with the Parents Board. Through the annual Pennant Program, the Alumni Board celebrated members of the senior class who are education majors or involved with key campus programs consistent with the Alumni Board mission (such as the student calling program, admissions tour guides, and reunion ambassadors) by giving them Bucknell pennants to proudly display in their future workplaces. To cap off the weekend, we cheered on the Bison to a basketball victory in Sojka Pavilion.

Looking ahead, we launched three new cross-committee initiatives focused on alumni engagement, our online presence, and the Volunteer Leadership Summit. Stay tuned for more details on the horizon – and ways to get involved.

Turning points often define us. A career lead sends us down a new path. Advice provides insight that opens new doors. We realize that something seemingly brief will offer long term rewards. It’s not just a moment on the chapel steps or four years on campus – it’s for a lifetime.”
The spring is one of the busiest times of the year on a college campus and it is no different for our office. While spring break, finals and commencement are in the minds of our students, our office is focused on reunion and regional campaign events.

Having just returned from two amazing We Do tour events in Pittsburgh and San Francisco, I can tell you that there is a sense of momentum and excitement from the Bucknell family about the future of your alma mater. Unlike anything that the University has done, these events bring Bucknell to you. The feedback that we have received so far about the campaign and the guest experience at the events has been overwhelming positive. We cannot wait to share this unique experience with alumni, parents, and friends in Philadelphia, Boston and New York this year, and are already beginning to plan for the 2014 calendar that we know will include Washington DC. With over $274 million raised towards our goal of half-a-billion dollars, we are humbled and grateful for the response from the Bucknell Community.

Looking ahead, the month of April marks National Community Service Month. A partnership between our regional clubs, the Alumni Association, and the Parents Association has led to a unique program where more than 20 of our regional clubs collaborate with a non-profit in their community by bringing Bucknellians together around a community service project. This program is one that our office is most proud to support as it brings our community together in their hometowns, and allows them to give back in the areas where our alumni live and work.

Spring also means Reunion. If you graduated in a class that ends with a 3 or an 8, we hope that you will come back to celebrate with your classmates over the weekend of May 30 through June 2. We are planning some slight wrinkles to reunion this year that we hope will make the weekend even more enjoyable.

Best to you for a wonderful spring, and as always, thank you for your important work on behalf of Bucknell.
On Saturday, February 2nd, the day after Bucknell’s First Night ceremony, approximately 75 students from the class of 2015 filled the Terrace Room for the second annual Sophomore Career Options and Opportunities Brunch, co-hosted by the Career Development Center and the Bucknell University Alumni Association. The group was engaged and energetic, especially on a Saturday morning, ready to build relationships with alumni eager to help them think about their post-Bucknell goals.

The event matched students to tables with one or two alumni from similar majors, providing a supportive setting to practice networking, and to ask questions and learn about the many diverse professional options and opportunities a Bucknell degree can provide.

Kate Martuscello ’04 who works as a Vice President in Human Capital Management at Goldman Sachs opened the program. Kate was unable to attend in person, but in a great show of resourcefulness typical of a Bucknellian, she prepared a video introduction from her home. Kate shared networking tips, the importance of first impressions, and the importance of helping other alumni who come after you.

Annie Drapeau ’88 introduced the next portion of the program, with several alumni board members sharing the stories of their own journeys since leaving Bucknell. Annie, current EVP of HR at Iron Mountain, Debra Rizzi ’94, Founder and Partner of Rizco Design, and Bob Scott ’83, Managing Partner of Main Street Wealth Management, talked about the ways in which their career paths have taken unexpected twists and turns, about how their Bucknell educations have made a difference in their careers, and importantly, how their Bucknell relationships have opened doors and provided a support network that enabled them to take risks and thrive.

Students then had an opportunity to network with alumni at their tables over brunch. After remarks from Pam Keiser about the value of engaging with the Career Development Center, and a drawing for 2 iPad Minis, students had some unstructured time to mingle and network with members of the alumni board. Many students and alumni exchanged contact information and built connections that are continuing, and will likely continue for months and years to come.

This successful event was developed and coordinated by the Bucknell Career Development Center staff, led by Pam Keiser, along with the Career Advisory Committee of the Bucknell Alumni Board. We look forward to continuing this program in the future along with the First Night program to provide direct connection between alumni and current students.
BUAA: “GRANTING” OPPORTUNITIES FOR THE FUTURE

BY PETER MATHIESON ’83 AND DEBRA RIZZI ’94

Did you know that the Bucknell University Alumni Association awarded almost $20,000 in grants over the past year?

Below is a recap of the valuable causes that were supported:

**Bucknell Public Interest Program – $15,000**
The Bucknell Public Interest Program (BPIP) enjoys the collaboration of alumni, parents, faculty, and administrators working together to educate students about careers in the nonprofit and public service sectors. The program works closely with the Bucknell Public Service Network (BPSN) to support programming that gives students opportunities to learn about these sectors. Events are offered throughout the academic year and into the summer. Since 2005, the BUAA has funded 37 students, please see below for the BUAA BPIP Internship Fund Recepients for 2012-2013.

**Summer 2013**
Callan Bruzzone ‘14, Sara Franconacaro ‘14, Katherine Miller ‘16, Taryn Pontolillo ‘14, Scott Weismiller ‘16

**Summer 2012**
Anna Astakhishvili ‘15, Kaitlin Celmer ‘15, Alanna Fitzpatrick ‘15, Kate Mallory ‘13, Tyler McClenthan ‘13

Visit [http://www.bucknell.edu/BPIP](http://www.bucknell.edu/BPIP) to learn more.

**Spring Legacy Dance Concert – $3,500**
On April 26th and 27th, The Bucknell Dance Company commemorated the passion and dedication of alumni, students, faculty, and supporters of Bucknell’s Dance Program. The BUAA grant assisted in covering the costs for over 20 alumni who returned to campus including: alumni dancers Kim Cipolla ‘90, Jennifer Schmermund ‘00, Kristy Kuhn ‘00, Stephanie McWilliams ‘02, Ellen Braun ‘04, Michelle Wirkus ‘07, Yabei Chen ‘09, Katie Culver ‘09, Christina Mansuelio ‘09, Abigail Dearman ‘10, Angelica Scott ‘11, Kelsey Tangel ‘11, Sarah Thalhamer ‘11, Elizabeth Burdick ‘12, Kourtney Ginn ‘12, Melissa Leonard ‘12, Danny Maskas ‘12, Mikaela Soto ‘12, Katelyn Tsukada ‘12 and Adrienne Vischio ‘12.

In addition, two alumni returned as designers: Mary Kokie McNaugher ’02, and Emily Riggins ‘10.

**Amber Elizabeth Gray, ’83 – $900**
Amber Elizabeth Gray is the founder and director of Restorative Resources and travels widely, into war zones, refugee camps, scenes of natural disaster promoting strength, love and healing, abroad and at home. This grant helped to cover some of her recent residency expenses. Visit [restorativeresources.net](http://restorativeresources.net) to learn more.

**Alumni Vietnam Veterans – $250**
Recently five alumni veterans of the Vietnam war attended a program to hear Professor Logevall speak on his acclaimed book “The Embers of War”. The grant covered the meals for Bucknell’s veterans that attended.

To Inquire About BUAA Grants
[alumni@bucknell.edu](mailto:alumni@bucknell.edu)
First Night

In what is rapidly becoming a tradition at Bucknell, on February 1, 2013, the Bucknell Alumni Association sponsored the 13th Annual First Night for first year students. The purpose of First Night is to commemorate the completion of first year students’ first semester and to officially welcome first years into the nearly 50,000 strong family of Bucknell alumni. For many first years, First Night is the first opportunity to engage with alumni and to begin to understand what it means to be an alum of Bucknell.

The night began with first year hall meetings where students could have a more personal discussion with individual Alumni Board members. Following those meetings, the first year class assembled for one of the most spirited First Night celebrations in memory. Despite other events on and off campus that night, more than 700 first year students participated. In addition, the first year spirit was complemented by an equal amount of enthusiasm from over forty alumni from across the country.

Thanks to the efforts of Heather Dawson, Dean Amy Badel, and the rest of their teams from Bucknell, First Night was a resounding success!

Pennant Program

On Saturday, February 2nd, 2013, in furtherance of its mission to connect and engage Bucknellians and promote and enhance Bucknell University, the Alumni Association Board of Directors recognized for the second year in a row select members of the Senior Class for their service in the past, present, and continuing into the future as ambassadors for the University. Students honored included seniors earning degrees in Education and the Teach for America program, who plan to teach K-12 following graduation; and senior ambassadors for Bucknell who serve vitally important roles on campus as student callers, Homecoming hosts and hostesses, admissions tour guides and office staff, and student Alumni Board representatives.

The Pennant Program recognizes the influence these Bucknell leaders have both on and off campus in enhancing the University’s relationship with prospective students and its alumni. In 2013, nineteen Bucknellians will graduate with degrees in Education and there are currently six students who have accepted a job with Teach for America. They will move on to serve in the noblest of professions as educators, joining a large community of Bucknell alumni teachers impacting the lives of students across the country and around the world. In addition, approximately fifty seniors regularly promote and enhance the University through their roles with the Admissions Office and in support of the Office of Development and Alumni Relations. “One of our most significant assets in our efforts to recruit prospective high school students is the tremendous team of committed, engaged, and professional Bucknell students who work in Admissions. It was a privilege to work with the Alumni Board to develop the Pennant Program and to participate in the Program’s ceremony to honor these students and the great work they do for Bucknell,” Patricia Flannery, Assistant Director of Alumni Relations and Alumni Admissions Program. Josh Grill, Executive Director of Alumni Relations, also participated in the event, noting “the powerful and positive impact these seniors have on alumni relations is immense. These students provide a strong and meaningful connection between the University and its alumni and their hard work is greatly appreciated by my team and the University’s leadership.”

Shari Aser, chair of the Alumni Board’s Admissions and Transitions Committee addressed the senior honorees at the event thanked them for their leadership and encouraged them to continue to serve as stewards for the University after graduation by opening the doors of opportunity for Bucknell students, volunteering and engaging with Bucknell as alumni, giving back to the University with support of the annual fund, and returning to Bucknell to reunite with friends and mentors as frequently as possible and in celebration of events like Reunion and Homecoming.
Academic West, a new facility to house 70,000 square feet of classrooms, offices, laboratories and meeting areas, is close to completion. The building is on west side of a new quad extending south from Bertrand Library as seen in photos #1 & #2. Additionally, Lambda Chi Alpha (photo #3) and Kappa Delta Rho (photo #4) recently received their new houses that overlook Academic West.
2012 – 2014
EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

PRESIDENT
Katie Malague ‘94
E: katie_malague@hotmail.com

FIRST VICE PRESIDENT
Victor Arcelus ‘96 M’98

VICE PRESIDENT OF FINANCE
Melissa Campbell Plaisance ‘82

VICE PRESIDENT OF MEMBERSHIP & NOMINATIONS
Tara Garrity Lebda ‘94

VICE PRESIDENT OF STRATEGIC PLANNING
Frank Davis ‘82

CHAIR, ADMISSIONS & TRANSITIONS
Shari Aser ‘98

CHAIR, CAREER ADVISORY
Jim Hughes ‘74

CHAIR, COMMUNICATIONS
Meredith Elliott Rowley ‘00
E: meredith.rowley@gmail.com

CHAIR, DEVELOPMENT
Barrett Sides ‘87

CHAIR, CLUBS AND YOUNG ALUMNI
Joel Berelson ‘85

MEMBER AT LARGE
Michele Matz Biamonte ‘94
Matthew Garman ‘96
Robert Scott ‘85

2013 EVENTS/KEY DATES

May 30 - June 2, 2013 - BU Reunion weekend
May 31, 2013 - BUAA Spring Board Meeting
May 30 - June 2, 2013 - Reunion Weekend
September 27 - 28, 2013 Family Weekend
October 25, 2013 BUAA Fall Board Meeting
October 25 - 27, 2013 Homecoming Weekend

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.

© 2013, All rights reserved.