STATE OF THE ARTS

Take a glimpse into the magical world of the performing arts at Bucknell.
WHO REMEMBERS THE STARVING ARMENIANS?

GIGI MARINO

WHENEVER I START WORKING on a story, I talk about it. Talking is an important part of the writing process. It helps unravel ideas, articulate conundrums, make sense of a body of material, discover the heart of a story. Simply talking out loud often brings an order to chaotic thoughts. But an even more important aspect for me is that talking to people about a certain subject lets me know how much additional information the audience needs to know to understand a story.

My assignment for this issue was to write an article about Peter Balakian ’73 and his new book, The Burning Tigris: The Armenian Genocide and America’s Response. My gut sense was that the history of Armenia is probably a mystery to most people. So, I did an informal survey among people who are representative of our audience — educated, well read, and cultured. The question was, “What do you know about Armenia?” The answers included, “They have a good gymnastics team,” “Something to do with Mesopotamia,” “They have good food,” “It’s bordered by Azerbaijan and Georgia, but I can’t tell you much more,” and “Don’t the men have mustaches?” One woman said that her mother always admonished her to eat all the food on her plate because of the “starving Armenians,” but when pressed further, she said she had no idea who the starving Armenians were.

At one time in 20th-century American history, the starving Armenians were very much a part of the zeitgeist, and children all over the United States knew about the plight of other children halfway around the world who had been driven out of their homes and homeland and suffered torture, maiming, and murder. In 1915, a triad of Ottoman nationalists known as the Young Turks systematically eliminated between 1.2 and 1.3 million Armenians. (At the same time, the six-century old Ottoman Empire was collapsing, part of which eventually became modern-day Turkey as mandated by the Treaty of Sevres in 1920.) The Ottoman rage against the Armenians was front-page news, and there was a concentrated relief effort in the United States to help the survivors. In 1915, U.S. Ambassador to Armenia Henry Morgenthau helped found the Near East Relief (now the Near East Foundation) to provide aid to the innocent victims of what the organization calls “the first large-scale refugee crisis of the 20th century.”

Why is it that an event that figured so prominently in the American consciousness is now barely a blip on our cultural radar?

In short, Balakian asserts, politics. Turkey, which to this day has never admitted to its role in the Armenian genocide, has and continues to threaten the United States with denying access to its borders and canceling military contracts for even a brief mention of the genocide.

I’ve known about the Armenian genocide since I was 16 when I spent a summer studying poetry at Bucknell with an amazing poetry teacher — Peter Balakian. And now, I’ve had the chance to tell his story of a lost Armenian history, which has been an honor. I hope that this story will be told again and again and that it will find its way back into our history books where it belongs. —

On the cover: Lisa Brit ‘04 on the left and Mia Fioravanti ’05 on the right in the fall production of Tennessee Williams’ The Glass Menagerie (see the cover story on p. 10). The play was directed by faculty member Robert Gainer and designed by faculty members David Fillmore, Paula Davis-Larson, and Heath Hansum. Photo by David Fillmore.
After an extensive search, Brian C. Mitchell was named Bucknell’s 16th president.

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The Armenian genocide, Peter Balakian ’73 insists, is vital to understanding modern world history, and his new book, The Burning Tigris, is an attempt to put this tragic event in its rightful place. — Gigi Marino

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BUCKNELL

REMEMBERING ARMENIA
In 1915, Americans supported a massive relief effort to help victims of the Armenian genocide, which few remember today. Peter Balakian ’73 wants to change that.

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Evil in Modern Thought

I hadn’t thought about that flight in harm to the aircraft or the crew. You made a very careful turn and flew us out who was then somewhere in the Pacific area. I was in a submarine rather than a plane. We moved to the number three engine, then turbulence. Lightning lit the tiny cabin. As I pilot asked me to take over.

Atlantic when we flew into the edge of the experience in the Liberator bomber. We had another eclectic tribute to the late Dick Brill September 2003. I was very impressed with the “Editor’s Note” about the Holocaust trip [January 2004] and our attitude as we relate to each other. The article was well done, and I appreciate the understanding it provides.

In an effort to keep some continuity on campus, new buildings can still employ brick and stone but in new ways that bring excitement and creativity to the campus and to the students who are part of a new generation. Old buildings like Larison Hall and Old Main were of their time and add valuable history to the campus. But somehow Bucknell has become stick in a particular era. I’m sure teaching methods and study habits have changed over the years. Why is this not reflected in the architectural envi-

Bruce Endo ’65

HURRICANE PRAYERS

Y WIFE, the former Barbara Jones ’49, and I recently moved to the Nottingham Village Retirement Center in Northumberland, Pa. One of the first people we met was Anna Ruth Malick Kuttruff ’40, the cousin of Howard Malick ’40.

During WWII, the Army Air Corps sent me to the Pan American Airlines Long Range Flight School in Miami. My orders were to learn and later teach four-engine pilots to master long flights. One face in our training group looked familiar. Howard Malick had been a Bucknell classmate and was an instructor.

Howard and I were teammates for the course. The final part of the course was to perform an actual long-range flight in a four-engine Liberator. On the day of the test flight, a hurricane was predicted. The Pan Am staff decided we should still do the flight, but only as safety permitted.

As the Pan Am instructor, although an experienced airline pilot, had limited flight experience in the Liberator bomber. We had almost reached our turnaround point in the Atlantic when we flew into the edge of the hurricane. Saying he needed to rest, the pilot asked me to take over.

Penetrating the hurricane, we flew into a heavy rain. The bomber shuddered in the turbulence. Lightning lit the tiny cabin. As I fought the controls, I heard Howard gasp. A greenish-blue ball of flame hovered around the propeller on the number four engine. It moved to the number three engine, then zipped through the cockpit to the other two propellers, and shortly disappeared. Though dramatic, the light was St. Elmo’s fire, which is actually just static electricity, and posed no harm to the aircraft or the crew.

The rain was so heavy that it seemed we were in a submarine rather than a plane. Our big radial engines surged and missed a beat but continued to run. With no help from the Pan Am pilot, I made a quick decision to turn the plane.

I later received a letter from Howard, who was then somewhere in the Pacific area. He confessed to me he said a prayer when we entered the worst of the hurricane. He wrote: “The good Lord answered that prayer when you made a very careful turn and flew us out of that extreme weather.”

Howard passed away in 1996, and though I hadn’t thought about that flight in years, I will never forget it.

Joe Diblein ’40

Northumberland, Pa.

NIHIL SUB SOLVE NOVM

A NOETHER ECLECTIC building! This time for engineers. What the article asks on the new engineering building is “modern structure” is just another replica of old classicism, complete with Roman columns and Greek pediment ("Express," September 2003).

The only thing modern about this structure is the inside with the latest state-of-the-art technology. Although the article speaks about the innovative teaching methods for the engineering students inside, the architectural rendering denies any technical advances outside.

BUCKNELL BEATS HARVARD

THE DATE WAS September 1964, less than one year after the death of one of Harvard’s most famous alumni, John Kennedy. "Little" Bucknell was at the Harvard campus to play football. At the stadium before the game, the announcer said, “Bucknell has not beaten an Ivy League team in 76 years.” There was some laughter in the Harvard stadium. Who was this “little” Bucknell team that had lost to Gettysburg the week before?

Little did the Harvard fans and players know that the Bucknell line was as good as a Division I line. End Tim Mitchell ’66 would become a pro football star, guard Scott Ellis ’65 was a walk-on who was our best offensive blocker, center Jeff Truba ’66 was a Division I blocker, guard Andy Dzurinko ’65 had offers from Big Ten schools, tackle Ted Ratus ’65 was an outstanding strong blocker, end Ron Kinsey ’66 was a nearly pro receiver, I was a tackle who could have played for Duke or Navy, and Bobby Joe Haering ’65 turned down an offer from Notre Dame so he could play for “little” Bucknell.

With outstanding pass protection, Bill Lerro ’66 pitched 23 completed passes, 13 to Mitchell and 10 to Kinsey. These were new Bucknell school records. In the second half, Harvard came to life and ran us rugged with wide end sweeps. Exhausted, we hunkered down and pushed the wide sweeps out of bounds.

A very hard-fought game on a beautiful crisp autumn day, a good day to be in Massachusetts for a football game that Bucknell won 24-21. Late that night, as the Bucknell team arrived on campus, our stadium was lit up, and the stands were full of students. Never before had we received such a welcome home. And, after nearly 40 years, the memory is still strong.

Robert A. Brown ’65

Lakewood, Ohio
Brian C. Mitchell Named New President

Brian C. Mitchell, president of Washington & Jefferson College since 1998, was named the 16th president of Bucknell University on March 2. Mitchell, 51, will join Bucknell July 1, succeeding Steffen H. Rogers, who announced his June 30 retirement last May.

Mitchell is a leading expert in higher education who is regularly quoted in major media outlets on issues related to private education and its contributions to today’s society. From 1995–98, Mitchell was president of the Association of Independent Colleges and Universities of Pennsylvania (AICUP), in Harrisburg, Pa., an organization representing private colleges and universities in the state.

The announcement of Mitchell’s selection was made by Susan Crawford ’69, chair of Bucknell’s board of trustees. She says that Mitchell “is uniquely qualified to be president at this point in Bucknell’s history. He has a deep knowledge of the issues affecting private higher education, he has demonstrated leadership in working within and outside the university community, he understands and appreciates the academic culture at institutions like Bucknell, and he is an effective fundraiser.”

A specialist in 19th-century urban, ethnic, and labor history, Mitchell is author of The Paddy Camps: The Irish of Lowell, 1821-1861 (University of Illinois Press, 1988), a critically acclaimed work.

Washington & Jefferson is a nationally ranked liberal arts college in Washington, Pa., about 30 miles southwest of Pittsburgh. The Chronicle of Higher Education, a publication that covers national higher education issues, credited Mitchell last year with forging a close and collaborative relationship with the city of Washington. Guiding the town-gown relationship, reported the Chronicle, was a document called the “Blueprint for Collaboration,” which outlined ways the college could work with the city on several fronts.

Mitchell’s accomplishments at Washington & Jefferson also include instituting a new liberal arts curriculum that focuses on interdisciplinary study and faculty research in the classroom; the building of several new facilities; the undertaking of the most successful fundraising campaign in the college’s history, which has raised more than $83.7 million; and a decrease in the acceptance rate, as well as a 44-point increase in the SAT scores for the students applying.

Mitchell, who holds a doctoral degree from the University of Rochester, has received numerous grants and academic awards. Among his awards are grants from the American Council of Learned Societies, the National Endowment for the Humanities, and the U.S. Department of the Interior. He received the Haskell Award for Distinguished Teaching in the Humanities from the University of Massachusetts at Lowell and the Albert J. Beveridge Grant for Research in American History, awarded by the American Historical Association.

He has extensive teaching experience at colleges and universities in Massachusetts, New Hampshire, and Virginia and was a program officer in the Division of State Programs of the National Endowment for the Humanities before becoming president of the Council of Independent Colleges and Universities of Pennsylvania (CICU) in 1991.

Mitchell serves as chairman of the Pennsylvania Selection Committee for the Rhodes Scholarships. He also was appointed by former Gov. Tom Ridge to the Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission and recently was reappointed by Gov. Ed Rendell. Past chair of the National Association of Independent College and University State Executives, he has served on the boards of the National Association of Independent Colleges and Universities, the Pennsylvania Humanities Council, and the national board of History Day. Mitchell is married to Maryjane (Murphy) Mitchell. They have two sons, Jeffrey and Patrick. Says Mitchell, “I am extremely pleased that the board of trustees has offered me this exceptional opportunity. Bucknell is a place of substantial traditions and enormous potential. Maryjane and I are eager to become members of the Bucknell community. It is an outstanding institution, and I look forward to my role in setting a vision that will respect the good work already done and challenge all of us to think even more aggressively about a future that has no recognizable limits. What an adventure awaits us as we work together to define and refine the meaning of academic excellence at Bucknell.” — Alan Janesch

See the August issue of Bucknell World for a cover story on President-elect Mitchell.
Biology professor Warren Abrahamson is a naturalist who lives on 30 acres of wooded property, but the terrain he inhabits is often treacherous, filled with fierce competition, invading forces, the very struggle to survive. And all of this takes place in small balled worlds that most of us ignore—the life and times of the solitary gall.

Galls, the tumorlike growths you often see on plants or leaves, are actually the homes for insects like flies or wasps. Abrahamson studies both and says that although there are 1,700 species of gall insects known in North America, these parasites live mostly in three plant families: the oak/beech family, the rose family, and the sunflower/goldenrod family. His specialty is the latter. He recently celebrated his 30-year mark at Bucknell and says, “My tenure at the university is synonymous with goldenrod ball galls.”

Goldenrod galls are inhabited by the goldenrod gall fly, which mates in the spring. The female lands on the plant and, using her ovipositor, deposits an egg into the pliable young plant. Five days later, the egg hatches, and the larva burrows into the stem, eating its house. In response to larval secretions, the gall grows. In the fall, the single-minded larva tunnels a passage through the gall for escape in the spring, then falls into a deep-freeze sleep over the winter. The cold is essential, Abrahamson says. “It keeps their respiration low.” When spring arrives, the pupa forms, and a few weeks later, an adult fly breaks through the gall—that is, if the larva survives the winter. He says that birds, especially downy woodpeckers, love little larva. And he also studies wasps that attack the goldenrod gall fly, invade its home, and deposit their own egg, which hatches and eats the fly larva.

Most recently, Abrahamson’s work focuses on how species are formed. Goldenrod fields containing tall goldenrod and late goldenrod throughout most of the eastern United States have galls only on tall goldenrod. But walking through fields of tall goldenrod and late goldenrod in New England, Michigan, and Minnesota, he noticed something odd—galls appearing on both tall and late goldenrod. “This insect covers a range from Canada to Texas, and throughout the Eastern states it was only living on tall goldenrod. I was puzzled by this pattern,” he says. He wondered if the fly had multiple host plants (no) or if the fly had changed (yes). Studies showed genetic differences in the flies. “Not enough to be a different species,” he says, “but the late goldenrod fly is definitely another race derived from the tall goldenrod fly. We’re observing speculation in operation. We often see the end result but not the transition from one species to another.”

Once Abrahamson and his students realized that they were looking at two races, they noticed something else. The late goldenrod fly occurred only in northern climes. Kim Weihrer Long MS’01 had done a population study of late goldenrod gall flies and found thousands in the Syracuse area. When Abrahamson had returned to the same field two years later, he only found 13. “This was the trigger,” he says. “Syracuse had a record warm winter.” Currently, the nearest sizeable late goldenrod fly population occurs 150 miles north of Syracuse.

Abrahamson and Jason Irwin, Burpee post-doctoral fellow, are studying respiration rates to understand the new fly with its smaller mass, which make surviving warm winters more difficult. Their research is funded by a $312,000 National Science Foundation grant. He says, “My revelation was seeing that the range of the organism I worked on could be so impacted by warm weather.” — Gigi Marino

Next to Nature

Ray Bucknell

• The January 2004 issue of Kiplinger’s Personal Finance magazine ranked Bucknell in the top 50 “best private college values.” The article notes that the rankings place a greater value on quality than on cost. For a complete table of the schools that made the list, go to www.kiplinger.com/tools/privatecolleges.

• Music professor Jackson Hill was included in the list of this year’s Grammy nominations. His composition “Voices of Autumn” appears on the Teldec CD Our American Journey released by the singing group Chanticleer last November. The CD was one of the nominees in the Classical Crossover category.

• PricewaterhouseCoopers chose a team of Bucknell accounting students as national finalists in its “xtreme accounting” competition, XACT. The students were challenged with a high-level accounting problem, which they had to solve and present via videotape. The team traveled to New York City in January to compete.
Four university faculty members will retire after this semester’s conclusion. Three of the four are members of the biology department: Professors Sally Nyquist, David Pearson, and John Tonzetich. Charles Pinter, professor of mathematics, will also retire. They join Tom Travis, professor of political science and international relations, who retired at the end of the fall semester.

I Serve 2, and 3, and 4 ... The Dean of Students office has fostered volunteer programs for years, but it has recently stepped up its commitment to volunteerism by establishing a program called “I Serve 2,” which encourages students, faculty, and staff to volunteer a minimum of two hours per academic year. It’s also the first time that the number of volunteers and volunteer hours can be tracked. Tina McDowell, volunteer coordinator, is collecting data on the number of volunteers and the hours they contribute. Some of the projects she’s overseeing include a walk for the Leukemia and Lymphoma Foundation and a soup kitchen. This past holiday season, the Giving Tree program collected more than 1,200 gifts for 665 local residents. For more information, go to www.bucknell.edu/deanofstudents/CS/CommService.html.

Faculty Fulbrights Coralynn Davis, assistant professor of women’s and gender studies, and James Pusey, associate professor of East Asian studies, are serving as Fulbright Scholars this year. Davis is conducting research in Nepal, focusing on Maithi Women’s narratives. Pusey is studying in Beijing, China. His research topic is “Tang Poets Against the Chairman: Deng Tu’s ‘Literary Criticism’ in and of the Great Leap Forward.”

Land Purchase Expands Campus The university has purchased almost 50 acres of land adjacent to campus. The land is located behind Fraternity Road and fits with both the current master plan, adopted in 1999, and the plan crafted by Jens Larsen in 1930. The $2.9 million used to purchase the land came from the capital reserves budget and will not affect operational and academic budgets. The land could eventually be used to construct new academic or residential buildings. For the near future, the land is expected to remain a green space.

Spring Retirees Four university faculty members will retire after this semester’s conclusion. Three of the four are members of the biology department: Professors Sally Nyquist, David Pearson, and John Tonzetich. Charles Pinter, professor of mathematics, will also retire. They join Tom Travis, professor of political science and international relations, who retired at the end of the fall semester.

E-newsletter Name Change For those who have enjoyed receiving Bucknell World Update each month, rest assured that a newsletter by any other name reads just as sweet. The electronic newsletter, which is sent out to all alumni whose email addresses we know, will now be called Bisonline. For those alumni whose email addresses we do not know, will be put on the list.
**Faculty Profile: JOHN MARTIN GILLROY**

**Arguing for the Environment** John Martin Gillroy, program director and associate professor of environmental studies, is a holistic thinker. He believes the quality of the air over Bombay is just as important as the air over Lewisburg and that environmental law should protect both, especially on an international level. He says, “It’s only at the international level that anything is going to change.”

With a background in political science and environmental law, Gillroy would be just as comfortable in a policy think tank as he is in the classroom. He did, in fact, work in Congress as a legislative assistant during the ‘80s and as analyst for the Environmental Protection Agency in Vermont. He has written or edited five books with titles like *The Moral Austerity of Environmental Decision Making and Justice & Nature: Kantian Philosophy, Environmental Policy, & the Law.* “I would like my work to establish communications — a bridge — between philosophers and policy makers,” he says. “Change begins with discussions among academics and practitioners.”

One of the questions that underlies all of Gillroy’s work is, “Does nature have an intrinsic value and, if so, can it be represented in the law?” He points to the market model as being a bad one for the environment. “We need to see nature not just as a warehouse full of commodities but also as a biological, physical, and chemical entity in itself, and its long-term health should be taken into consideration. We’re not doing that with our policy now. We need to expand our thinking.”

Take, for instance, an old-growth tree and a third-growth tree. Is there a difference? “The market will say that you get more wood from an old-growth tree and spend less money getting it,” says Gillroy. “But especially with the environment, the market often does more harm than good.” Our laws, instead, need to appreciate the intrinsic value of an old-growth tree as a vital part of a greater and more unique ecosystem.

Environmental policy is relatively new — 90 percent of environmental legislation has appeared since 1970. And international environmental law is an even newer field. Gillroy says, “The most important problems are global problems.” He notes that some of the most innovative legislation has happened on state and local levels, but environmentalists need to think outside of their own ken. “Environmentalism is not a matter of personal virtue, but of policy,” he says. “And environmental studies is about our relationship with nature and the planning, policy, and law that define that relationship.” — Gigi Marino

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**The Field That Forged a Friendship**

**Before Games** Field hockey teams sprinkle their artificial turf fields with water to ensure that the ball rolls true. So, it seemed fitting that on the first day of practice at Graham Field, nature took care of the watering. But when the rain clouds parted and practice began, coach Heather Lewis noticed changes in her team.

“My kids started showing up for practice earlier and staying later after the field was finished,” says Lewis, who coached the 2003 Bison to the Patriot League semifinals.

The Astroturf field, named for lead donor William Graham ’62, holds the promise of a new era for Bucknell’s varsity field hockey and women’s lacrosse teams. It will be used by intramural and recreational programs, as well.

Graham, the C.E.O. of the Graham Company in Philadelphia, wrestled as an undergraduate. A loyal supporter of the wrestling program, he was understandably disconcerted when Bucknell dropped it from the varsity lineup in 2001. Vice President for Development Bob Kallin ’78 decided to pay him a visit.

In a 2002 meeting, Kallin and Graham discussed Bucknell, gender equity, and Title IX for hours, forging a mutual respect and understanding. Graham decided to help the university achieve equity. “Bill felt that one of the best ways he could help support the wrestling program was to help women’s athletics,” Kallin says.

They outlined a three-faceted gift that would fund the artificial turf field, create an endowment for women’s athletics, and provide operating support for club-varsity wrestling. Before announcing his donation, Graham met with Lewis, who had been seeking a turf field for more than a decade. Lewis and Graham shared their thoughts on building successful teams, in sports and business, and discovered similarities in their ideas on academics and athletics.

“Both, of course, are crucial to growth and development,” Graham says. “But I think developing competitive instincts, learning to face challenges, and learning to win when times are difficult is very valuable.”

In September 2003, Graham and his wife, Frances, a former high school field hockey player, gave Bison players an opportunity to hone those competitive skills when they cut the ribbon at the new state-of-the-art field. Graham says he was “bowled over” by the unsolicited words of appreciation from parents, alumni, and student-athletes.

Lewis, who shared her gratitude with an emotional speech at the dedication ceremony, was not completely surprised to hear the same sentiments from others. “That’s one of the pleasures of working at Bucknell — the people you meet,” she says. “I would never have met Bill Graham if I didn’t work here.” — Brett Tomlinson ’99
First-Year Student Called to Iraq

FIRST-YEAR STUDENT STEVE CHRONOWSKI ’07 spent his summer vacation training on M-16s and anti-tank weapons at Fort Sill in Oklahoma. Affected by the September 11 terror attacks, he joined the National Guard while he was still in high school. “I wanted to serve my country,” he says.

So, he wasn’t surprised when he received a call last December, telling him that he would be deployed to Iraq — the first and only Bucknell student to do so.

Chronowski, who’s majoring in chemical engineering, is part of the 1st Battalion, 109th Field Artillery, out of his hometown, Wilkes-Barre, Pa. A total of 900 troops from the Pennsylvania National Guard are being deployed; 124 are from the Wilkes-Barre unit.

“My dad was in the Marines for 15 years, and he was very supportive of me joining,” he says. “My mother has been worried about me. It’s a crazy world these days.”

Lt. Col. Chris Cleaver, public affairs officer for the National Guard, says that Pennsylvania has long had a strong military tradition. “We have 20,000 members, the largest Army Guard in the nation,” Cleaver says that students make up the largest composition of soldiers, 15 percent. He says, “The educational incentive has attracted a lot of students. The average age has dropped dramatically. The numbers are absolutely stratospheric.”

Chronowski’s roommate, Stuart Cubbon ’07, says that he’s impressed by Chronowski. “You come to college expecting to become an adult,” Cubbon says. “But Steve is already an adult. He’s actually going off to Iraq, and he’s only 18. I am proud to know him.”

Cubbon was one of 60 students and staff who attended a going-away party held for Chronowski at the end of the fall semester. Chronowski was surprised by his hallmates and friends, who made banners and wrote cards and letters for him to open later.

During his first semester, Chronowski was part of the Emerging Leaders program coordinated by Amy Badal, assistant dean of students, who also helped organize his party. She says, “Steve’s made an impact on the Bucknell campus in the short amount of time that he’s been here. He is compassionate, honest, funny, and well respected by his peers. His surprise party was a testament to how much his friends support and care for him. He will be greatly missed by the Bucknell community.”

After spending Christmas with his family, Chronowski traveled to Ft. Hood in Texas for further training. He will be gone for 18 months. He says, “My brothers and sisters are going to miss me, but I’m excited. I fully expect to be back at Bucknell.” — Gigi Marino

Student Profile: TRICIA ELSEROAD ’04

Bragging About Bucknell “When someone tells me I can’t do everything, I tell them to prove it,” says Tricia Elseroad ’04. Like many Bucknell students, she is involved with numerous campus activities. But Elseroad is more than involved with university life — she’s immersed in it.

“How do I do it all? I have to manage my time, and manage it very carefully. But it’s worth it — I just like being busy and running around,” says Elseroad, who was adopted from Seoul, South Korea, and raised in Baltimore. This chemistry major often runs from class to her student-calling job, to varsity cheerleading practice, or to a rehearsal with Bucknell’s coed a capella group, Two Past Midnight.

Elseroad is grateful that Bucknell gives its students the chance to be so involved. Although she originally planned to attend another college, a visit to Bucknell’s open house changed her mind. “It was something about the school, something beyond the student-to-faculty ratio, and something not in the guidebooks or statistics. It was the feeling that Bucknell was home.”

Calling Bucknell her ideal college experience, Elseroad shares her passion for the university with others. Voted a Homecoming hostess in 2003, Elseroad acts as an ambassador to alumni. And for the past two semesters, Elseroad was an intern in the admissions office, where she represented the university at college fairs and interviewed prospective students.

“I love meeting new people, I love talking to new people, and I love bragging about Bucknell.”

As the coordinator for new student orientation last fall, Elseroad also supervised the orientation experience of more than 900 new Bucknell students, some of whom she had interviewed. Helping students settle into their college experience is something she enjoys — she was the “pledge mom” for her sorority, Alpha Chi Omega.

With such a busy schedule, she sometimes has to compromise. “It’s difficult because I can’t give 150 percent to everything. There are some time conflicts, but I’m able to work things out and prioritize,” she says.

Elseroad’s academic priorities shifted as well. Entering Bucknell with dreams of becoming a trauma surgeon, a job that seems to complement her hectic lifestyle, Elseroad realized that with such a career she wouldn’t be able to focus entirely on raising a family or devote herself to personal relationships. Now, she wants to teach after she graduates.

“Okay, so maybe I can’t do everything,” she says, “but I’m going to have what’s important to me.” — Michelle Dombeck ’05
The performing arts have always had a vital presence at Bucknell, but never have they been more vibrant or more varied.

A CULTURAL JEWEL

TH clever GA WLAS MEDOFF ’85

WITING ABOUT THE PERFORMING ARTS AT Bucknell presents a delightful dilemma: How can a journalist simultaneously experience all of the happenings on one Thursday in early December? Between the hours of 7 and 9 p.m., there is the Candlelight Service of

Carols by the Rooke Chapel Choir and Bell Ringers, a rehearsal of the student gospel choir Voices of Praise, a dress rehearsal for the fall performance of the Bucknell Dance Company, and an open rehearsal/discussion by visiting artists Piffaro, the Renaissance Band.

The department of music presents 60 concerts and recitals annually and hosts an impressive array of visiting performers, composers, and scholars. The department of theatre and dance mounts three major theatrical productions and two major dance shows each year in addition to various smaller-scale performances, master classes, and workshops. Each year, the Sigmund and Claire Weis Center for the Performing Arts hosts more than a dozen music, dance, and theatre productions by world-class artists. The many offerings are supplemented by the performances of numerous student-led groups, from the coed a cappella group Two Past Midnight to the Bucknell Jazz Machine to the Musical Theatre Club.

Making Music, Dance, and Theatre
Since theatre arts became a department of its own in 1986, it has grown from three to six full-time faculty and one professional staff member. The department offers a well-rounded theatre major that allows for a concentration in performance, design, or theory as well as three different minors. Bucknell students also can minor in dance.

The caliber of students drawn to the program is impressive. “Bucknell’s dance minor attracts high-level students from prestigious dance programs, such as the School of American Ballet, who are interested in a liberal arts education. It’s the best school in the nation for a dance minor,” says Er-dong Hu, director of dance.

Both the music and the theatre/dance departments are seeing increased course enrollments and, based on the level of interest among first-year students, they expect the number of majors and minors to grow over the next few years. The number of students majoring in the subject,
The performing arts may be a vocation for some Bucknell students, but they are an avocation for many.

both by the high quality of the faculty at Bucknell and by their accessibility. He performs as a member of Concert Chorale and Chapel Choir, and he also has composed choral music to be performed by his peers.

The interests of music students vary considerably, from conservative to avant-garde, notes music professor Bill Duckworth, and the music department is flexible enough to accommodate them all. Duckworth’s composition students, for example, ended last semester with a program of original compositions that varied from a solo piano piece to a 16-voice chorus to computer-generated sounds.

Bucknell offers both a bachelor of arts degree in music and a bachelor of music degree. The B.A. degree requires that 9 of 32 courses be music or music-related. These graduates may go on to careers in arts management or to graduate and professional programs in fields such as medicine or law. About half of the courses taken by students earning a B.Mus. degree are music or music-related. These graduates may decide to teach or to continue their education at a conservatory or large music school before embarking on a career as a composer, performer, or college professor.

Music department alumni sing opera, play in orchestras, direct music programs and arts councils, edit music periodicals, manage arts programs, and hold music-related professional positions in schools, arts organizations, and corporations.

Crossover Creativity From introductory courses in theatre and acting to advanced courses in costume history, directing, and theatrical realism, theatre department offerings attract many nonmajors. Bucknell’s “dance conditioning” course attracts many beginners, including a large number of athletes. “They come in here thinking they are just going to take an exercise class, but they end up developing an appreciation for dance,” says Kelly Knox, visiting assistant professor of dance.

The study of theatre can improve communications skills, engender a deeper understanding of literature and culture, inspire creativity, and spur a lifelong interest in the arts. “We savor and cherish the fact that these are liberal arts students,” says department chairman Robert Gainor. “This is not a narrow professional program. Our students’ art is informed by a complex appreciation of what theatre is all about.”

Faculty members encourage theatre students to study in London for a semester or a year. While in London last year, Liisa Britt ‘04 took courses in acting,
stage acrobatics, voice, movement, and Shakespeare. She took master classes with working actors and directors and studied with faculty from the London Dramatic Academy, the Royal Academy of the Dramatic Arts, and the British Academy of Dramatic Arts. As part of her senior honors thesis in theatre, Britt wrote and performed a one-woman play that she describes as “a chronological journey through my maternal lineage,” beginning with her grandmother in Finland and continuing through her mother’s emigration to the United States and Britt’s own sense of alienation from her Finnish roots.

The theatre department can boast of alumni who have succeeded in an impressive array of theatre- and dance-related professions. They are actors on stage and screen, theatre production managers, set and costume designers, screenwriters, filmmakers, directors, producers, dancers, arts administrators, and teachers.

**Great Spaces** Students of the performing arts have benefited in recent years from numerous capital projects, most notably the building of the Weis Music Building. The new music building, which is adjacent to the Weis Center for the Performing Arts, opened in fall 2000. “This facility has opened up opportunities we never had [in the old building],” says Bill Kenny, chairman of the music department. Perhaps the greatest boon to the department has been the addition of a recital hall that allows students to practice and perform in professional surroundings. The building also has a percussion studio, a computerized keyboard lab, individual cubicles for practice, and rehearsal rooms large enough for a chamber music rehearsal. Students finally have lockers and storage areas spacious enough to accommodate all their instruments. Faculty offices/studios are larger and more centrally located, which enhances interaction.

“The new building has made a big difference in recruitment,” Duckworth says. “It’s a better atmosphere, a better place to rehearse.” It also makes a statement about the value the university places on music and the performing arts. “People who come here are just wowed by the facilities,” Hill adds.

When the theatre in Coleman Hall was rededicated as the Harvey M. Powers Theatre in 1997, it was in the midst of a comprehensive renovation on stage, behind stage, in the auditorium, and in the control booths. The theatre has a new curtain and valance, enhanced stage safety features, an advanced lighting control console, a multi-channel digital sound system, improved acoustics, and new seating.

Tustin Gym has been renovated for the theatre and dance department and is now home to a dance studio, acting studio, and a black box theatre used to present plays in arena, thrust, and environmental settings.

The Weis Center for the Performing Arts continues to be a major asset to the university. “The Weis Center is not the kind of facility you expect to find on a college campus. It’s what you’d expect in the middle of Atlanta,” Hill notes. The acoustics of the performance hall, combined with Bucknell’s location on the touring route to Carnegie Hall, attract foreign orchestras and major artists like Wynton Marsalis, back again this spring for another performance. “Orchestras and musicians rave about the sound in the Weis Center. It’s not at all difficult to get groups to come here,” says Bill Boswell, director of cultural events for the Weis Center.

**Orchestras and musicians rave about the sound in the Weis Center.**

Among the Weis Center performances in 2003–04 have been the Czech orchestra Pro Musica Prague, the Chicago Shakespeare Theater’s *Romeo and Juliet*, the New York Chamber Soloists and Orchestra, and the Seán Curran contemporary dance company. Bucknell students pay only $10 each performance, half or more off of the already low prices for tickets. Many of the Weis Center performers participate in Bucknell classes and other outreach activities. In December, for example,
Piffaro spent two days at Bucknell, during which time they visited classes in Renaissance literature and music history. They also offered a free open rehearsal with discussion two days before their performance.

**Faculty Talent** Of course, even the most advanced facilities would be of little value without talented faculty. Bucknell students in music and theatre learn from the best. The *Village Voice* has called Duckworth “the best composer of the post-minimal generation.” Duckworth has made news throughout the music world with *Cathedral*, the first interactive, continuous work of music and art designed specifically for the Web. The CD *Our American Journey*, which features a choral piece composed by Hill, was recently nominated for a Grammy Award in the “crossover” category. This popular approbation echoes the acclaim Hill’s compositions have received in the music world, particularly for his recent works that draw on traditional Japanese music and chant. Concert pianist Barry Hannigan, professor of music, regularly tours the United States and has performed in Europe. His recordings are on SCI, SEAMUS, and Opus One labels.Christopher Para has conducted professional orchestras throughout Europe. Music professor Lois Svard is acclaimed internationally for her performances and recordings of contemporary piano music.

Theatre chairman Gainer has directed at the Yale Repertory Theatre in New Haven, The American Place Theatre, and Theatre at St. Clem ents in New York City, among others. Paula Davis-Larson, assistant professor of theatre and dance, designs costumes for professional theatre and dance companies. Elaine Williams, associate professor of theatre and director of design, designs for several regional professional theatre companies and has collaborated recently with the Center for Puppetry Arts in Atlanta. Hu is a former principal dancer with the Dayton Ballet. His choreography has been staged both nationally and internationally. These are but a few of the accomplishments of the faculty who teach performing arts.

Equally important, students interact closely with faculty in the studio, in the rehearsal hall, and on stage. “Because of our small size, we can give nurturing attention to our students,” Gainer says. The cast and musicians in the fall production of *The Glass Menagerie* were all Bucknell students. Sara Bradley ’04 served as stage manager. The show featured original music composed and directed by Ashi Day ’04 and film by Juliana Brafa ’05 and Todd Bieber. Students worked alongside professional lighting designer and technical director Heath Hansum. Dance performances give students the opportunity not only to perform but also to choreograph and design costumes, scenery, and lighting.

“It’s the best feeling when we work together on productions. You feel like you have everyone cheering behind you,” says Day, who is majoring in music composition and minoring in theatre. Day wrote several songs for last year’s production of *The Good Woman of Setzuan*, and her original compositions have been performed by the Concert Chorale. William Payn, professor of music and director of the Concert Chorale and Chapel Choir, encourages student composers and regularly includes student-written pieces in the groups’ performances.

Frequent artist residencies give students the opportunity to talk to working professionals and take master classes from them, Kenny notes. During a weeklong residency this fall, members of the Houston Grand Opera involved students and the university community in its workshop for a new opera, *The End of the Affair*, which will premiere in Houston. Students of theatre and dance likewise benefit when artists-in-residence lead classes and workshops. Among the guests this year have been dancer Zhongmei Li from the Chinese Peking Opera, choreographer/dancer Simone Ferro, voice coach Barry Kur, who worked with student actors on southern dialect for the production of *The Glass Menagerie*, and drummer/composer Stacy Fox, who is working with the spring production of *The Tempest*.

Support from the Bucknell Association for the Arts, the Bucknell Student Government, and the Kushell Music Endowment makes such residencies possible.

The depth and breadth of the performing arts at Bucknell provide a cultural milieu that enriches all students, whether they are participants or audience members. “A lot of people don’t recognize how great the arts are at Bucknell,” says Knox. “It’s a little cultural jewel right here in the center of Pennsylvania.”

*Theresa Gawlas Medoff ’85 is a Delaware-based freelance writer and a regular contributor to Bucknell World.*
Dr. Language and Mr. WordMan are dismantling the Tower of Babel. Their website, yourDictionary.com, is a linguist’s dream with some 4,500 links.

DR. LANGUAGE & MR. WORDMAN

KATHIE DIBELL BRILEY

Dr. Language is Robert Beard, retired professor of Russian, who held the Ruth Everett Sierzega Chair in Linguistics. Mr. WordMan is Paul JJ Payack, a former student of Beard, and a poet, novelist, and president of Alacitrus Software. Beard is chief executive officer of yourDictionary.com;

Payack is president and chairman. Their website (YDC) attracts some 1.5 million visitors a month and has been widely praised by national and international media. A columnist for Editor & Publisher most recently named YDC one of the “Top Ten Websites for Working Journalists,” saying it is “probably the web’s most comprehensive and authoritative portal for language.”

The site’s language dictionaries range from Abenaki to Zulu. Readers can get translations for a single word or phrase for free and for major documents at a negotiated price. There are links to language courses, “anything you need to learn a language, in any format. If you want to see Hindu videos, we can provide them,” Beard says.

YDC is not just for linguists, although love of language will make the browser linger longer. The site has 25 different kinds of crossword puzzles, some in 8 different languages.

Payack and Beard assemble lists such as top-10 word lists and glossaries like the “California Recall Initiative.” These efforts garner scads of publicity from the national and international media. The top word and phrase for 2003 were “embedded” and “shock-and-awe,” respectively. (See the website for all of the 2003 lists.) WNYC, CNN, and BBC interviewed Beard and Payack about the 2003 lists. Reuters picked up YDC’s news release and distributed the story worldwide.

An Auspicious Beginning YourDictionary.com got its start when Beard was researching the morphology of Indo-European languages. “I compiled a long list of bookmarks of dictionaries. I just put the list up on Bucknell’s website and periodically would go out and look for more dictionaries. At academic conferences, I would tell friends who made suggestions.”

However, when a Dutch banker sent Beard an email saying he clicked on the website daily to translate invoices from his international banking business, “it dawned on me the site might be useful beyond academia. I enriched the site, adding grammars, articles for undergraduates, a linguistic fun page, and links to linguistic departments.” In 1996, Beard posted what he called the “Web of Online Dictionaries.” The site caught the attention not only of linguists, but also USA Today, the New York Times, the Wall Street Journal, and Forbes Magazine. In the next four years, “I answered over 16,000 emails,” Beard says.

Meanwhile, Payack left Bucknell in 1971, having dedicated himself to complete 25 writing projects a year after a graduate assistant told him he had a flair. Eventually graduating from Harvard in 1974 with a degree in comparative literature, he began working in the high-tech field, starting with Wang Laboratories and the Digital Equipment Corp. He has produced 1,000 creative works, including a science-fiction novel, *Children of the Mind.* “I basically always have had two lives — the high-tech life and the life of a writer. It’s Robert Frost’s idea of ‘the road not taken,’ but I’ve ended up having taken both,” Payack says.
By 1998, he was senior vice president for strategic marketing for Intelliguard Software. Payack needed a name for Intelliguard’s new architecture for serverless backup and data movement applications. At his office, he scrolled through Beard’s website’s Latin dictionary and came up with his own word, “Celestra.” The new name and the software product turned out to be major winners.

While Payack was scrolling, his boss, Intelliguard president and CEO George Wilson, glanced at Beard’s website and suggested the site could be turned into a commercial product. The three met and agreed to join forces. Entrepreneur Wilson provided the money, Beard was the idea man and would be the chief of linguistics and technology, and Payack would oversee the marketing and business aspects. The three have roughly equal shares in the company.

One of Beard’s major projects was to put together an advisory council, whose members are experts in the 24 language families. After 35-some years as a scholar and author, Beard has extensive contacts. He himself has written three books on linguistics and has recruited linguists from Australia to Thailand and from top American institutions such as Harvard and Yale. The council experts can either answer queries themselves or refer Beard to others who can. Members are paid in company stock.

YDC was launched in 1999 and has expanded to 800 pages on the website. Beard retired from Bucknell three years before planned to work full-time on the project. Just maintaining and managing the site is a major challenge.

Brad Ross-MacLeod, who is completing a Ph.D. in rhetoric, is director of website operations. In addition, he does the voice for the site’s voice pronunciations in their dictionaries. Headquartered in Lewisburg, YDC’s four-person staff also includes Wendy Middleton ’97, the database manager.

The early years were lean. “We always hired people we needed on an ad hoc basis, not as permanent employees,” Payack says. Academics were invited to critique or submit articles. Unlike other dotcoms, YDC avoided growing too fast. “We knew that when the Internet shook out, our competitors would bite the dust, and we would be in a good position,” Payack said. “Surviving a downturn is a victory in terms of market share.”

Words Around the World “We have a highly desirable advertising demographic,” Payack says. Their audience is educated, sophisticated, and has an average income of $50,000. Some 56 percent of the readers are English-speaking; 44 percent are from non–English-speaking countries.

The strategies for turning a profit are diverse. Customized word lists and translations are a main focus. Tyndale House, a religious book publisher, hired YDC to create a dictionary for every word in the Bible. “We look at four or five dictionaries, just to make sure we get all the different meanings, then write our own,” Beard says. He’s tracing the etymology of all the proper names in the Bible. “It’s fascinating.”

For eBay, YDC developed a spellchecker in six languages. A children’s entertainment company has asked for a dirty word filter. The company is translating an in-house magazine and newsletter for the construction equipment division of Volvo.

Brand naming is another possibility. Beard sold General Motors seven proposed names for an experimental fuel-cell car. GM ended up using an in-house entry, but “we got our money even though they didn’t use our name.”

More than 135,000 people from 204 countries subscribe free of charge to the “Word of the Day” — 10,000 from India alone. “The Hindustani Times loves us,” Beard says. The company may create a similar premium service for a fee.

“It’s beginning to work. The site is pretty much what I wanted, and I’m willing to do it as long as it works,” Beard says.

“Everyone knows the dictionary. YDC is a common reference tool. We built the Encyclopedia Britannica for the Internet.” Payack says. “It’s the work of a genius. Before the dictionary, Bob was just a fine professor. Now he is a legend. It’s been quite a ride.”

Kathie Dibell Briley is based in Hilton Head, S.C., and writes frequently for Bucknell World.
Peter Balakian has explored his Armenian heritage in poetry and memoir. His latest book is a history of the Armenian genocide.

THE LOST HISTORY OF ARMENIA

GIGI MARINO

Peter Balakian '73 collects antique carpets. His 1828 home, once a stop on the underground railroad in Hamilton, N.Y., is filled with them. He can instantly spot the differences between a Sevan Kazak and a dragon rug from Karabagh, which to the untrained eye look pretty, but similar. Patterns woven into Armenian village rugs reveal ancient histories about a culture — but until you know what the patterns mean, you can’t fully appreciate the artistry of these rugs, which often take years to complete. These rugs can be considered a metaphor for Balakian’s Armenian past and for the way he has approached difficult and contentious material, first as a poet, then memoirist, and now historian with his new book, The Burning Tigris: The Armenian Genocide and America’s Response, moving from the personal to the political. For Armenians who’ve had their collective history subsumed by Turks — both ancient and contemporary — the personal and the political often overlap.

A Way to Modern Genocide “You can’t understand the 20th century without understanding the Armenian genocide,” says Balakian. A bold statement perhaps, especially to those who may have never have even heard of Armenia, which is, in fact, one of the oldest civilizations in the world and was the first official Christian nation. Its original borders encompassed Mount Ararat, where the Bible says Noah landed after the great flood. For roughly the next 1,600 years, Armenia was conquered by the Byzantines, Persians, Arabs, Mongols, and Russians. But the Ottoman Turks hold the distinction of being the most brutal.

Public response was the beginning of America’s first international human rights movement.

One of the major premises of The Burning Tigris is that the torture and murder that the Ottoman Turks inflicted upon the Armenians provided a blueprint for genocides to come. “The genocide perpetrated in the Ottoman Empire was repeated in Germany, Cambodia, and Rwanda,” says Balakian. He also points out that Raphael Lemkin, the Polish scholar who coined the word genocide at the Nuremburg Trials, did so in large part on the basis of what had happened to the Armenians.

In a 1946 issue of the American Scholar, Lemkin wrote, “Genocide can be carried out through acts against individuals, when the ultimate intent is to annihilate the entire group composed of these individuals …” And that, says Balakian, is what happened to the Armenians. He writes, “There is something apocalyptic and ‘modern’ about the 1915 genocide of the Armenians.” It was the beginning of mass and systematic slaughter of innocent, unarmed civilians.

The Armenian Problem In his memoir, Black Dog of Fate, Balakian writes about picking up Ambassador Morgenthau’s Story, a book he had glimpsed for years on his parents’ bookshelf. He was 21 at the time, and the book, the American ambassador’s firsthand account of the atrocities forced on the Armenians in 1915, cracked open his consciousness.

During the 1890s, the “Armenian question” was a part of international parlance. For the Ottoman Empire, the question was what to do with the large minority of
Christians who kept asking for reform and change in Muslim Turkey. As Christians, they were legally relegated to infidel status. The Armenians kept asking, “Can a Christian be the equal of a Muslim in the Ottoman Empire?” Sultan Abdul Hamid II’s response was to punish the Armenians: During his reign, he massacred 200,000.

The sultan was overthrown by a group of army officers who called themselves the Young Turks. And they were far more efficient, killing or starving 1.5 million Armenians in 1915. Ambassador Morgenthau recorded Talaat Pasha’s boast: “I have accomplished more toward solving the Armenian problem in three months than Abdul Hamid accomplished in 30 years!”

The Burning Tigris tells of the abominations the Young Turks wrought — the rape and killing of Armenian women and children, girls being crucified and their corpses eaten by vultures, public executions, children’s tendons being cut with cotton-chopping tools, Turkish soldiers playing a game of impaling girls on swords. Says Balakian, “In one year, the Young Turks wiped out most of the Armenian population.”

Morgenthau’s position in the embassy required neutrality, but he was not quiet. The book that inspired Balakian was published in 1918, the same year Near East Relief was incorporated by Congress, raising what would amount to a billion dollars in today’s standards of aid.

Between 1917–23, war and complicated political shifts realigned Armenia’s borders. Today, the Republic of Armenia (Soviet Armenia from 1920–91) is a fifth of its original size and does not include Mount Ararat. Balakian points out that in 1915, the New York Times published 145 articles about the Armenian genocide, but by 2020, the once-friendly United States had turned its back on Armenia, failing to support a mandate to help guide Armenia into its new nationhood and granting Armenia autonomy from both Turkey and Russia. To this day, Turkey denies there ever was such a thing as the Armenian genocide.

Balakian says that Presidents Carter, Reagan, and Bush have all avoided talking about the Armenian genocide. On the 75th anniversary in 1990, Senator Bob Dole lobbied for a bill to commemorate the Armenians and lost. Turkey flexes its NATO muscles, Balakian asserts, and the United States caves, ensuring the continuation of Turkey’s military contracts with American companies. He says, “Turkey is a very repressive society. It denies its own people access to their history.” Any protests he’s received about his book come from Turkish people who simply don’t believe him. He says, “Turkey remains a prisoner of its own guilt and denial.”

However, Balakian says, “In the last decade, there’s been a huge interest in this seminal event, and the catch-up will be fast.” Dozens of other books about Armenia have been published, and Atom Egoyan’s historic film Ararat is gaining a wide audience. Balakian says, “I am not the only voice out there.” He also serves on a committee to build an Armenian genocide memorial museum in Washington, D.C. The Burning Tigris debuted as number 4 on the New York Times best-seller list, made four other best-seller lists, and is in its eighth printing. He says, “My greatest hope for the book is that it will move this major piece of history to its rightful place.”

Peter Balakian is the Donald M. and Constance H. Rebar Professor of Humanities at Colgate University. He is married to Helen Kebabian ’75. For more information about his work, go to www.peterbalakianbooks.com.
On a spring day in 1929, a small aircraft circled Old Main and Tustin Gym before descending upon the Bucknell baseball field. Practice disrupted, Coach John Plant’s ball club watched in amazement as the Waco 10 made a perfect landing at the edge of the diamond. Exiting the plane, a tall and athletic-looking pilot waved to the players, who knew the air ace immediately.

Christy Mathewson Jr., Class of 1927, was born to be a hero. “Everybody liked Christy,” says classmate Anna Outwater Day ’27, from Harrisonburg, Va. “All of the memories I have of him are that he was a wonderful person. He was handsome, friendly, and mixed in with everybody. He never seemed to think of himself as important just because of his father.”

His father, of course, was Christy Mathewson Sr., one of the greatest baseball pitchers of all time, an American legend idolized by millions. Forever compared to “Big Six,” the son had many of his father’s traits. Both were dynamic and confident and had a competitive spirit that modestly embraced glory and courageously defied defeat. The story of their lives, always front-page news, was doused with tragedy. Both would die far too young.

Christopher Mathewson Jr. was born Oct. 19, 1906, in New York City during the height of his father’s pitching career. An only child and extremely close to his parents, he was raised in luxury and was always welcome in the New York Giants’ clubhouse. His mother, Jane Stoughton Mathewson, was born in Lewisburg, had three sisters still living in the family home on Market Street, and had met Christy Sr. when he was an undergraduate and she was at the Female Institute with the Class of 1902.

In 1923, their son entered Bucknell, majoring in electrical engineering. Christy Jr. was involved with student government and Phi Gamma Delta fraternity. An exceptional musician and varsity tennis player, he was described in the Bucknellian as “one of the most popular students on campus.”

“He was drop-dead handsome,” says Betty Cook of Lewisburg, a close family friend. “Women were thrilled when he’d ask them to dance.”

Just over 6 feet tall, with blue eyes and brown hair, he also was quite athletic, although he shied away from baseball. “They’d always point to me as my great dad’s son,” he would say. “You don’t know how awful a baseball player I am.”

He did play in one baseball game for Bucknell in 1926, centerfield, six months after his father died of tuberculosis. But his main concern was academics. He graduated cum laude and turned his attention to the skies. His mother and aunts were vehemently opposed to this career path, but he eventually won their understanding.

“He worshiped him,” says Cook. “After his father died, all her love and interest went to her son. I think he was probably pretty spoiled.”

In July 1930, Christy Jr. graduated with honors to become a U.S. Army attack pilot. In a letter to Bucknell’s alumni secretary, he wrote: “Here is for many tail spins and safe landings.”

“These were still the early years of aviation,” says Cook, “so he was viewed by everyone as a real adventurer.”

One of his first tours was to help build the Chinese air force. Assigned to Shanghai and later Hangchow with 15 other American pilots, the group taught young Chinese nationalists how to fly. The Japanese invasion of Manchuria fueled the growing concern of war.
These were the best days of his life, particularly when his fiancée of four years agreed to travel to China for their marriage.

Margaret Phillips, accompanied by Christy’s mother, left Philadelphia on Thanksgiving Day for a 9,000-mile journey by train and ship, arriving in Hangchow the day before an elegant Christmas Eve wedding. The story headlined society pages throughout the nation. After a two-week honeymoon in Shanghai, the couple prepared to return to Hangchow, Christy piloting a large Sikorsky amphibian plane.

Friends assembled on the shore of the Whangpoo River. Margaret, who was 23 years old, was “thrilled with pride and excitement” as she sat next to Christy for her first plane ride.

But 30 seconds into the flight, the huge plane suddenly dived nose downward into the water and crashed on a mudflat. Rescuers rushed to the river-bank, trying to pull the Mathewsons from the wreckage. He was in critical condition — his body crushed.

“Never mind me,” he pleaded. “Look after my wife.” It was too late. She was pronounced dead within a few hours, and newspapers across the world reported that he was near death — broken arms, shattered legs, internal injuries, head badly cut and bruised.

Confined for six months in a Shanghai hospital, his left leg was amputated two inches above the knee, and doctors predicted he would never regain full use of his arms. Certainly, he would never again fly.

With his mother still at his side, he returned with her to Saranac Lake, N.Y., where he learned to walk with an artificial leg. He hunted, fished, and climbed hills until he regained his strength.

His requests to fly with the Air Corps were rejected. Organizing a flying taxi service in the Adirondacks, he continued his quest for re-enlistment, impressing the top military brass with a flawless solo flight. Said one of the officers: “That’s determination. Just like his father.”

Although his father’s fame certainly opened many doors, young Mathewson always entered on his own terms. He simply loved to fly.

Repeatedly, he was rejected. Again, he persisted. Finally, as America entered WWII, the Air Corps relented. It was a desk job, but Captain Mathewson was ecstatic. Soon transferred to the Chinese Training Program in Arizona and promoted to major, he helped prepare more than 1,000 Chinese combat pilots and crews during the course of the war.

Bob Gaines is manager of development communications. For more photos, see the online version of this issue at www.bucknell.edu/BucknellWorld.
CHIPS OF 2007

If déjà vu is the feeling of already having experienced something when you are actually experiencing it for the first time, what is the word for the feeling of experiencing something for yourself that you’ve spent your whole life hearing about from your parents? This and other pertinent questions faced the Chips of 2007, members of the first-year class who are children of Bucknell alumni. Fortunately for these men and women, they came prepared with more answers than most incoming students. Important secrets, like the reward of a walk through town to the Freez on a warm September afternoon, don’t have to be learned or discovered, but are already known.

“We visited Bucknell when I was a kid, and we always went to the Freez,” says Annie Berger ’07, daughter of Howard Berger ’71.

The campus has not been static since the parents, most graduates from the ’70s and early ’80s, spent their time here. There are new academic, athletic, and residential buildings, but the Georgian architecture, the picturesque setting, and even the tasty dairy treats remain very much the same.

“There are a lot of new buildings and improvements, but other than that [the campus] is what he described it as,” says Sam Diamond ’07, son of Steven Diamond ’77.

Once here, the Chips of 2007 — 60 in all — have benefited from the experience of their parents. “I was able to know what Bucknell was all about before I got here; he really helped me find out what I wanted do,” says Diamond.

“It is nice to think this where my dad lived and went to class,” says Berger.

In a close-knit community such as ours, these Chips tend to run into each other often. Berger has to look no further than across her room, where Leigh Allen ’07, daughter of Deborah Oberst ’73, lives. “Our parents laughed about it,” Berger says. — Peter Hackeman ’04
We arose at dawn and walked for several miles before we were picked up by an Arab driving a two-wheeled donkey cart. His destination was a small clump of clay dwellings and a café. On the edge of the road was a group of men in burnooses, squatting around a cloth on the ground with dominoes. As we hopped out of the cart, the men interrupted their robust game to chat. From the café came a man bearing a tray with pastries laced with honey and two cups of thick coffee with the strong fragrance of cardamom.

On our way again, the driver of a wobbling bus stopped for us. We gladly boarded, no fare asked. Inside were several chickens, two goats, and several male passengers wearing burnooses or turbans. Eventually the ribbon of road crossed only sand with nothing but desert appearing beyond Bou Saada, looking exactly as oases looked in the foreign legion movies of my childhood.

In Bou Saada, we first ventured into the bustling camel market. Among those examining the teeth and haunches of camels were several of the legendary blue-turbaned Touaregs, reputed to be fierce desert warriors. Without a word, one of them used a gourd dipper to fill two glasses with fermented camel’s milk and handed them to us.

The next day, as we made our way through narrow alleys, another man beckoned for us to enter his tiny restaurant. He then set glasses of warm sweet mint tea in front of us and disappeared through beaded curtains, soon reappearing with a large clay bowl of cumin-scented couscous. We all ate from the same bowl. After a drawn-out feast, our host filled our pockets with dates, touched our hands, his heart, his lips, and gently tendered his wishes that peace be with us. “Salaam Aleikhoum,” he nodded.

Yussuf and I each nodded “Salaam Aleikhoum,” in turn.

After many Arabs had taken such pains to make our journey comfortable, I asked my friend why. He said that it is the Islamic tradition that no wanderer go hungry — we were wanderers, so hospitality was to be expected.

The following week, back in the city of Algiers, as I prepared for the trek to Tizi N’bouali, my friend and I took leave of each other, wishing each other peace.

“Salaam Aleikhoum.”

“Shalom Aleichem.”

Joe Rubinstein ’50 is professor emeritus of psychological sciences at Purdue University. He can be reached at jbrubinstein@insightbb.com.