IS THIS THE NEW SPRING BREAK?
Earlier this fall, the nation and the world witnessed one of the worst natural disasters in the United States. Hurricane Katrina devastated the Gulf Coast region and focused our attention on emergency response, planning, and leadership. While feeling helpless, sad, and perhaps a bit guilty as we lived in safety hundreds of miles away, the Bucknell community also felt a duty to assist those who were affected by nature’s fury. Bucknell’s response began swiftly with a decision to open our doors to students who were unable to begin their fall semester at New Orleans–area schools. We welcomed these students, all from Tulane, to the Bucknell community nearly two weeks into the semester. Bucknellians reached out and helped in the one way we could in the short term.

Prior to Hurricane Katrina, one of my primary concerns was the completion of the draft of the strategic plan. As I’ve communicated in this column before, The Plan for Bucknell is based on the five strategies that were outlined in the inaugural address: the academic core, the residential learning experience, diversity, financial strength, and building bridges. When Hurricane Katrina seized our attention, our response provided reinforcement for and examples of nearly every strategy. There was never a question of whether we would respond; the question was how. Just as assured was that our contribution would not end when the affected region was stabilized. Bucknell is committed to sustained involvement in the rebuilding of the region. The Bucknell Brigade was founded following Katrina to provide assistance to the Gulf Coast region and focused our efforts on one of the worst natural disasters in the United States. Hurricane Katrina.

Following the immediate response to Hurricane Katrina, the draft of The Plan for Bucknell was released as planned. The Board of Trustees, the group responsible for the approval of The Plan, received a copy of the draft in late August. The University Council, Bucknell’s planning committee, also received an advanced copy. The draft was distributed broadly to faculty, staff, alumni, and parents in late September with an appendix that included a summation of comments from the University Council and Board of Trustees. In the ensuing weeks and months, various groups engaged in detailed, focused conversations about The Plan. The Board of Trustees devoted their September retreat to discussions of planning and The Plan.

Provost DeCredico and I will visit each academic department to discuss The Plan in small-to-medium-sized groups. Our vice presidents have and will engage in conversations with administrative departments in their divisions. Open forums have been and will continue to be held, a dedicated email address has been established to collect feedback, and Maryjane and I have welcomed groups to the president’s house for discussion dinners. This brief review of some of the options for providing feedback is intended to convey the breadth and depth of the discussion that is integral to this phase of the planning process. This is Bucknell’s plan, and it is essential for the entire community, both on- and off-campus, to be involved in the refinement of the draft and in the determination of the specific tactics that will be implemented to accomplish the initiatives.

As I conclude this issue’s President’s Message, I remain confident and hopeful. The Bucknell community’s strength, compassion, and kindness were displayed in response to Hurricane Katrina. Ours is a community of good people whose actions speak loudly and collectively. We are an educational community that is working in unity with those who suffered and are now rebuilding. As we plan for Bucknell’s future, this compassion will not diminish, our learning will not cease.
Features

10 AT YOUR SERVICE
Eschewing popular spring-break destinations, more and more Bucknell students are giving up their vacation time and committing to service work — from building houses to bridging cultural differences. — Rick Dandes

14 BACK WHERE HE BELONGS
In December 2003, National Guardsman Steve Chronowski ’08 was called up for duty. He spent 14 months in Iraq and says he appreciates Bucknell now more than ever.
— Brett Tomlinson ’99

16 BASKETBALL ABROAD
Meet former Bison standouts who’ve taken their game across the ocean, and even though they’re dealing with different cultures, they’ve learnt that the language of basketball is universal.
— David Driver

Departments

2 President’s Message
4 Letters
5 Bucknell Express
18 Backward Glance
In 1957, Bob Keegan ’44 was the only baseball player to pitch a no-hitter season.

20 Alumni Association
The Alumni Association offers first-class tours around the world.

21 Class Notes
Alumni Profiles: Stanley Brush ’48, p. 24 • Judy Jackson MA’90, p. 32 • Mary Graham ’01, p. 36

22 Flashback — 1942
Blow Your Horn!

40 World’s End
An alumnus weighs the benefits of American and European educations.

Not Your Typical Spring Break
This past spring, a group of students traveled to Peru to learn about Inca Jews, while others worked on mission and service projects.

Page 10

White Sox Pitcher
Bob Keegan earned his place in the Baseball Hall of Fame.
Page 18

Hoops in Europe
J.R. Holden ’98, one of several alumni playing hoops abroad, is a member of the Russian national basketball team.
Page 16
Letters

Editor's Note: We encourage letters to the editor related to topics discussed in the most recent issue of Bucknell World, matters that relate to university news or policies, or that are of interest to a segment of our readership. Letters should be no longer than 300 words and may be edited for length, clarity, and civility. Letters can be mailed, faxed, or sent via email to bworld@bucknell.edu. Letters received between now and Nov. 15 will be considered for the January issue. Additional letters will be posted on the Bucknell World website. The complete letters policy can be read at www.bucknell.edu/BucknellWorld.

WITNESS

During the late forties and the summers of '51 and '52, I served newspapers in the enlisted men's and officers' wards of Walter Reed Hospital. I delivered General Pershing's last newspaper. I watched as an enlisted man with his new "hooked" hand pulled the toes of the sleeping men so that they would wake up and buy the paper. I witnessed the arrival of a new G.I., who was so weak that he could only awaken and buy the paper. I also was cursed as "that capitalist paper boy" by a patient in the isolation ward, where I was privileged to witness the lows, the highs, the pranks, and the laughter of the soldiers' recovery.

True, I could not share in their personal lives, but I could witness their experiences. I am 60 years ago, the same spirit and hope the military wounded and their families are now experiencing as seen by Al Grande '58 ["An Afternoon at Walter Reed," September 2005].

Bob Wallace '54
Potomac, Md.

FIRSTHAND KNOWLEDGE

I read with great interest the essay by Al Grande '58. Having spent two years in Vietnam, I know firsthand of the horrible injuries inflicted on our fighting forces. But here, I must take literary license to correct a possible misprint. The weapon of choice by our adversaries, both in Vietnam and Iraq, was and is the RPG 7, an antitank weapon; however, it is not a "rifle" propelled grenade, rather a "rocket" propelled grenade.

William H. Schreiber '59
Lt. Col., Infantry, retired
Spring Hill, Fla.

THE GIFTS OF SOLDIERS

Lt. Col. Al Grande '58 describes his visit to Walter Reed Hospital in the kind of emotionless prose you might expect from a military man. Of the three young people he visited, two had right arms amputated, and a third man's left leg was so eviscerated that despite efforts to repair it, he will face years of painful surgeries. One of the amputees also had his voice box shattered and apparently remains significantly mentally impaired with his shaken wife determined to restore his vitality.

I commend him for the visit and sharing it with us, but to view such sacrifice and suffering should make us weep and wonder.

In March, I ventured down to Tuscon to visit the American Friends Service Committee’s Eyes Wide Open Exhibit. Soldiers are remembered with nametags attached to a pair of boots, and civilians recognized by unmarked pairs of shoes. But footwear hardly does justice to the lives lost.

There I saw two fathers who lost sons embrace. One father, like Lt. Col. Grande, was a military man who was in charge of the local National Guard. The other was a Native American who had driven 300 miles to pay honor to his son. One father's son had joined the army to pay for college and hoped to build his parents a nice house. The other's son was married, and his wife gave birth to their first child just two days after he died in Iraq.

We should see their sacrifice and contemplate war. Soldiers offer us a gift with their lives. It pains me when our country's leaders don’t appreciate how precious a gift that is. Thirty months since ordering war on Iraq, it’s clear our leadership failed these proud service people and their families.

Dave Wells '86
Tempe, Ariz.

CARLOS NEGRON

It's quite ironic that when I saw the letter by Joe LoGrippo '61 ["Letters," September 2005], I was just fascinated to see his name, since he was a friend back then. But when I proceeded to read what he wrote, I was brought to tears. So profound that he would have kept a letter never sent from 38 years ago to a man who also was my friend.

The man Joe wrote about, Charley Negron, was my big brother ("Pop") when I pledged Delta Upsilon fraternity in 1958, and remained a dear friend until his premature passing from leukemia. We had dreams of practicing law together in the future, along with fellow fraternity brother, Jim Kaufman '60.

There were few minorities on campus in those days, as I have often mentioned before. But this was even more interesting, since Charley — Carlos Negron — was probably the only Puerto Rican on campus back then. Totally unique too, at 6'2" and weighing well over 230 pounds.

I, too, think about my Pop often, even to this day almost four decades later. That’s how much he affected me, Joe LoGrippo, and so many other people whose lives he touched in his few years.

Richard Boddie '61
Huntington Beach, Calif.

RELIEF APPRECIATED

My son, Rourke Day, is a junior this year, and I was very moved to read that you took in students who had been affected by Hurricane Katrina. I just got back from working with the Red Cross for 16 days in the Gulfport/Bay St. Louis area, and I can tell you that those affected will need our assistance for a long time to come. Thank you, Bucknell, for what you have done to help.

Catherine Day P'07
Newton, N.J.

"I knew I wanted to renew our wedding vows when she asked for a hedge in the shape of the new Bison logo for our anniversary."
Taking Orientation to a New Level

WHEN RYAN GOODMAN ’05 participated in orientation at Bucknell in the summer of 2001, little life existed in the program. “People just went through the motions,” says Goodman, who became an orientation assistant (OA), then an orientation leader (OL) to help change the face of the first-year student welcome program.

The university’s orientation program is now one of the strongest in the country, with myriad academic and social activities filling the five days before classes begin.

Goodman credits most of orientation’s success to assistant dean of students Amy Badal, who says that planning and hosting orientation are the best elements of her job.

“Dean Badal has turned orientation around and made it a benchmark that other schools could model,” Goodman says. “The new programs that are offered and the orientation staff that she chooses help to bring orientation to a new level. The student members of the staff help to bring energy and good ideas to life, and the different themes of orientation help to keep the staff focused, while having a good time in the process.”

Orientation involves activities that first-year students will never forget, including Color Games, during which students cover each other with rainbow paints; Playfair, a national program that encourages fun student interaction; and Matriculation, a luminaria ceremony during which students walk through the Christy Mathewson Gates for the first time (they walk through the gates again when they graduate).

“At Matriculation, it was really good to meet professors and other students,” says Caroline Clark ’09. “Overall, I had a really good time. I thought it was going to be boring and long, but it was way better than I anticipated.”

A new program, “Ray for the Orange and the Blue,” was introduced this year to help first-year students mingle with alumni. About 10 local alumni attended the event to speak about what the university has meant to them. Students were taught the Alma Mater by OLS and “Ray Bucknell” by football players.

Following in the tradition of decades past when alumni wore “bibs” with their names on them during orientation, first-year students also wore bibs at “Ray for the Orange and the Blue.

While orientation is only five days long, planning for the first-year welcome begins almost one year in advance. In fact, Badal has already selected next year’s orientation coordinator.

About 100 OAs are chosen from a pool of more than 200 students. They go through extensive training and devote an entire weekend in April to learn about orientation, returning to the university weeks early to plan for the first-year students’ arrivals.

Goodman says, “Everyone involved in the program has a ton of energy and is focused on getting the new students energized about starting a new stage in their lives. Orientation is the first impression new students get of the school, so it’s important to get everything started off well, and that is exactly what it does.”

Orientation’s end is marked by Convocation and Candle-lighting, which officially open the academic year at Bucknell.

“Convocation really got me into the Bucknell experience,” says William McCloy ’09. “I liked orientation, and the OAs really gave us a good platform to start off on.”

— Elisabeth Salemme ’06
Following the Path to Bucknell

During almost every family event since their children were young, sisters Beverly Matz-Tadeu ’79 and Wendy Matz-Moragne ’77 would tell their daughters, Allie Tadeu ’09 and Brynn Moragne ’78, respectively, about their incredible four years at Bucknell. Matz-Tadeu said she has carried the “magical” memories of her countless hours working in the Art Barn with her, whether her family moved to Mexico, Panama, or Brazil.

Because of her father’s job as a diplomat, Allie Tadeu has had more cultural experiences than most high-school students, but in their most recent home of Santiago, Chile, Tadeu decided she would follow her mother’s collegiate journey at Bucknell. Like the children of so many Bucknell graduates, she felt a sense of comfort and pride as soon as she arrived on campus.

“When I walked on the Bucknell campus for the first time, I knew I had to go to this school,” says Tadeu, who applied early decision. “Bucknell is such a great part of my time, I knew I had to go to this school,” says Tadeu, who arrived on campus.

Allie Tadeu ’09 and Beverley Matz-Tadeu, right. This daughter followed in her mother’s steps all the way from Chile.

The Bucknell chapter of Tau Kappa Epsilon (TKE) was named a Top TKE Chapter at the fraternity’s conclave this past summer. To achieve the Top TKE Chapter award, a chapter must qualify for an award of excellence in at least five of seven categories: average chapter size, academic achievement, extracurricular involvement and achievement, recruitment results, initiation rates, community service and outreach, and alumni involvement and relations. Bucknell was one of five chapters to win this award, out of more than 270 chapters nationwide.

The staff of the Bucknell yearbook L’Agenda received an Award of Excellence for its yearbook design and cover by Taylor Publishing Company. Each year, Taylor Publishing recognizes the top five percent of yearbook staffs for outstanding achievement. L’Agenda was evaluated in one or more areas, including cover and page design and theme development. L’Agenda is featured in the 2005 Yearbook Yearbook, which showcases yearbook designs and trends. This year’s edition contains more than 700 spreads and covers from 350 schools.
**BRIEFS**

**Rookie Chapel Rededicated**  Rookie Chapel was rededicated on Sept. 17. Natalie Rookie, the daughter-in-law of Robert L. Rookie ’13, the man who first donated money for the chapel, attended the ceremony and is on the far right. University chaplain Ian Oliver is at the lectern. Behind him are Bucknell’s Board of Trustees chair Judge Susan Crawford ’09 and Catholic chaplain Fr. Martin Moran. Over the summer, the chapel received a much-needed facelift. Pews were refinished, new floors and carpets were installed. The Meditation Chapel was renovated, and permanent risers were installed for the choir. This was the first major overhaul for the chapel since it was dedicated 40 years ago. Funds for the renovations came from a maintenance endowment established by the Rookie family.

**Bison Hall of Famers**  Six former athletes and one former coach were inducted into the Bucknell Athletics Hall of Fame during Homecoming Weekend. Elected to the Class of 2005 — the 27th Hall of Fame class — were legendary lacrosse coach Sid Jamieson, former basketball stars Mike Bright ’93 and Harvey Carter ’73, record-setting football quarterback Scott Auchenbach ’90, track and field sensation Tameka Hinton ’95, wrestling standout Ed Curran ’88, and lacrosse scoring machine Justin Zackey ’94.

**Soccer Field Will Light the Night**  The second phase of the West Field project was completed over the summer, and the new soccer field was dedicated Sept. 16. From left to right are women’s soccer coach Ben Landis ’96, men’s soccer coach Brendan Nash, lead donors Richard Emmitt ’67 and his wife, Judy P’08, P’09, chair of Bucknell’s Board of Trustees Judge Susan Crawford ’69, and director of athletics and recreation John Hardt. The new field has natural grass, meets NCAA standards, and includes lighting, which will allow the teams to host night games.

**Bucknell Posse**  Beginning with the fall 2005 semester, Bucknell enrolled its first Posse Scholar group. The Posse Foundation, begun in 1989, recruits talented public high-school students from urban areas who may be overlooked by traditional college selection processes. The competition is stiff, and the students chosen spend the eight months prior to their first year of college meeting weekly and participating in team-building exercises, leadership training, and academic tutoring preparation. The scholars enroll as a “posse,” or a tight-knit group of friends, who are committed not only to their own academic successes but to acting as a group of change agents on a campus. Bucknell is one of 22 partner institutions, including Middlebury, Colby, and Trinity Colleges.

**Representing Zimbabwe**  Bucknell field hockey forward Jacque Kataneksza ’09 represented Zimbabwe at the recent Junior World Cup Championships held in Santiago, Chile, in late September. The forward has represented Zimbabwe in both U-18 and U-21 matches and was a member of the U-21 squad that competed in the 2004 Junior African Cup of Nations. Zimbabwe was in Pool A, which included England, The Netherlands, and the United States. South Africa, the only other African country at the Cup, was in Group B with Germany, India, and Canada. Kataneksza is the first Bison field hockey player to compete internationally in 27 years.

**Wolfe Has the Right Stuff**  Internationally acclaimed author Tom Wolfe has been named this year’s Janet Weis Fellow in Contemporary Letters and will speak on Nov. 15 at the Weis Center. The annual award was established to honor and recognize an individual who represents the very highest level of achievement in fiction writing. Wolfe is the author of 12 books, including the best seller *The Right Stuff*, winner of the American Book Award for general nonfiction in 1979. His recent novel, *A Man in Full*, was nominated for the National Book Award. Previous winners of the fellowship award have been Toni Morrison, John Updike, and Salman Rushdie.

**Weblinks to Watch**  Photos, we have photos! Check out “Today’s Bucknell” and see the Picture of the Week, then click on the Bucknell Photo Gallery to see scenes from 1846 to today: www.bucknell.edu/Alumni/Todays_Bucknell.html.
Faculty Profile: JOHN RICKARD ’75

Yeats Scholar  Henry Ford once said, “Anyone who stops learning is old, whether at 20 or 80. Anyone who keeps learning stays young.” In line with Fordian thought, John Rickard ’75, professor of English, is quite the youngster. A specialist in Irish literature, Rickard spent two weeks this summer in Sligo, Ireland, at the 46th annual W. B. Yeats International Summer School. While his days were filled with teaching — he presented a lecture on “The Wild Swans at Coole” and led a seminar on “Yeats and the Art of Memory” — his lunchtime and evenings were filled with learning. The faculty consisted of an impressive mix of scholars from Ireland, England, Russia, Norway, and the U.S., including world-renowned Yeats scholar Helen Vendler from Harvard (a previous winner of Bucknell’s Award of Merit).

Rickard says teaching at the Yeats School is unique: “I felt like a teacher and a student at the same time. Some of the people I was teaching with are the top scholars in the world on Yeats. So, at lunch, I could learn a lot over a couple of Guinesses.”

Rickard taught a seminar at Bucknell last year on Yeats, which helped prepare him for the summer school seminar and lecture. “Yeats is someone I have written about and taught, but I have spent more time on James Joyce. This was a really nice way to shift my attention to Yeats in a more fundamental way, and I think my attention will stay there awhile,” he says.

Rickard continues to challenge himself in the classroom in other ways. As a senior fellow in the Society and Technology Residential College, he is teaching Machine Dreams, a foundation seminar that explores the ways in which modern literature has responded to developments in science. His residential college has four senior fellows: Rickard; an engineer, Tom Rich; and two economists, Janet Knoedler and Amy Wolaver. Rickard describes it as “a really interesting mix for teaching — and not just for the students; it’s also interesting for the faculty, because I’ll teach a segment that will be very different from what Tom might teach.”

The one piece of advice that Rickard gives every prospective student is to consider joining a residential college. “It’s one of the most exciting things about Bucknell. It’s an opportunity to live and work together with a group of people who are often interested in the same ideas from very different perspectives.” — Ilene Ladd

Reaching Autistic Children

Gunter is a happy monkey — or Gunter can be sad, angry, confused, surprised. Overall, he has seven different emotions that he can show on his little monkey face. Gunter is an animatronic stuffed monkey created by Bucknell seniors Liz Grasing ’05, Dan Lounsberry ’05, Dave Wight ’05, and Tom Stroka ’06 for their senior design project in mechanical engineering, advised by Steve Shooter, associate professor of mechanical engineering.

Gunter was created to help the psychology department at Bucknell work with children with autism or Asperger syndrome, a variant of autism. Children with autism or Asperger syndrome experience deficits in social interaction, according to David Evans, associate professor of psychology. These children cannot recognize facial expressions. That is where Gunter comes in. According to Evans, Gunter will provide a way for the psychology department to work with autistic children to “allow an interaction of learning about facial expressions and practice recognizing and imitating facial expressions.”

The senior design students began with a robotic-looking face with eyes and eyebrows that moved. The face was the work of a former graduate student of Shooter. Shooter’s six-year-old son called it “the scary face.” Research has shown that there is a phenomenon called the “uncanny valley.” People respond well to puppets and robots the more human they look, to a point. After that point, there is a drop off in response. People don’t want something non-human to look too human. The first problem that the design students tackled was how to create a face that wouldn’t scare children. Gunter the monkey fit the bill.

The design team received some additional assistance from Elaine Williams, associate professor of theatre. Williams, who designs puppets, served as a consultant and gave students insight into how to make Gunter look “soft.” The team next had to tackle the issue of getting Gunter’s face to express emotions. The students broke down exactly which facial muscles are used to create surprise. Do the corners of the mouth curve up or down, is the brow wrinkled, do the eyebrows slant upward or downward? Gunter produces his range of expressions through 15 different motors that move individual facial components “The tight constraints for fitting all of this actuation within the head created quite a challenge,” says Shooter. According to Shooter, before Gunter is ready to work with autistic children, his emotional expressions need to be refined and his user interface improved. Still, Shooter says, “The students did an outstanding job on a challenging project. The greatest benefit to their education came from their interaction with other disciplines, which will serve them well in the future.” — Ilene Ladd
Bucknell Provides Hurricane Relief

Shawna Post watched as Hurricane Katrina destroyed the once-bustling, cultural city of New Orleans. The would-be first-year student at Tulane University said the city’s beauty was one of the most influential reasons in her choosing to attend that school.

Leaving behind almost all of her college gear on move-in day, Post and her family fled New Orleans for Dallas, Texas, where they “thought they could wait out the storm.” A few days later, however, Tulane president Scott Cowen was forced to close the university for the semester.

Confused about what to do next, Post and her Tulane roommate, Amy Schenkel, decided to study at Bucknell for the fall, where they could also be roommates. The university is one of hundreds across the country to host displaced students this semester; Post and Schenkel are two of 20 living here.

“So many places didn’t have housing like Bucknell did,” says Post, who arrived on campus Sept. 5. “We knew if we came here together, we could be roommates here, too. We thought then at least we would know someone.”

Daniel Remley, assistant dean of students and director of housing and residential life, and Robert Midkiff, associate dean of arts and sciences, helped ensure that all students from New Orleans received adequate housing on campus.

“[Living on campus] is especially important so that the students can maintain some semblance of normalcy in their collegiate experience,” says Bucknell president Brian C. Mitchell. “Their college experience has been forever changed because of Hurricane Katrina.”

To welcome the new students, Jenna Camann ’07 gave them an extensive campus tour, and Assistant Dean of Students Amy Badal took them to dinner. The Interfraternity Council gave each displaced student $200 gift certificates for Wal-Mart and the Susquehanna Valley Mall.

Accepting students from affected areas is only part of the university’s reaction to the devastation that New Orleans and other parts of Louisiana and Mississippi suffered. For the long-term phase of the relief effort, university administrators, faculty, staff, and students have combined efforts so that the American Red Cross will receive one check from the university. Several students signed up to collect money at university athletic events, and $1,000 was raised at the first football game of the season.

The university also has acquired a tractor-trailer truck, which will be filled with cases of water, non-perishable food that is already prepared and easy to open, and shoe-sized boxes filled with hygiene products. The trailer will be sent to New Orleans after Homecoming weekend. Check out Bucknell’s homepage for updates and information on how to help: www.bucknell.edu. — Elisabeth Salemme ’06

Student Profile: ROBERTOA REED ’06

Non-traditional Student Robertoa Reed ’06 took an unorthodox route to Bucknell. A mother of three with five grandchildren, she first started college at the Community College of Philadelphia in 2001 after her son graduated from high school. They thought they would both start college together. She began her collegiate studies as a communications major with a focus on speech. After competing in a speech contest, Reed felt herself drawn toward pursuing theatre as her field of study. She earned excellent academic marks in her night classes and learned about the Student Transfer Enrichment Program, which allows non-traditional students to spend six weeks at Bucknell and take two summer classes.

“As soon as I came here for the summer, I fell in love with the place,” Reed says. “I thought, ‘This is where I want to go.’”

Reed did not make this decision lightly. She chose to retire from her job with the state government and bring her high-school-age son, John, with her to Lewisburg. She cites Joel Wade, professor of psychology, and Carol White, associate professor of religion, as sources of support for her decision to transfer to Bucknell, as well as Robert Gainer, professor of theatre. She says, “I’ve learned a lot from him. He has a lot of faith in me, probably more than I have in myself.”

Inspired by her experiences in speech contests and her desire to work as a motivational speaker, Reed chose to major in theatre, her “first love.” In addition to on-stage pursuits, she has performed in clown acts and performed Christian stand-up comedy. She says she enjoys the idea “of being someone else for a time.” She has also received a small part in the upcoming Flexible Frame Productions movie All Is Normal.

In the short time Reed has been in Lewisburg, she has already run for a seat on the borough council and has become one of the most recognizable faces and personalities on campus. She has pursued opportunities that she feels she could have only found here. She spent six weeks in the Virgin Islands this summer through Professor Mitch Chernin’s marine biology class and will spend this fall semester studying abroad through the Bucknell in London program. She counts herself very lucky to have discovered the university and to have adapted to the college experience so late in her life: “Bucknell has so many opportunities, whether you’re white or black, old or young. They’re just there for you to grab them.” — David Allen ’06
McKee, Ky., is one of the poorest towns in one of the most impoverished counties in the state. This is not the Kentucky of white fences, manicured horse farms, and mint julep parties. This is where you drive along stretches of narrow two-lane roads that wind by lowland streams running through what Kentucky locals fondly dub “hollers.” This is a place where strangers are not easily accepted.

“For about seven years, we’ve been in partnership with St. Paul’s in McKee: it’s a parish with about 75 Catholic families, but we serve everyone who lives in the county,” says Bucknell’s Catholic chaplain Father Martin Moran. “We’ve sort of adopted St. Paul’s and raise money for them every month. Then, during spring break, we go down there to work. Our mission is to go to local schools and encourage people to go on to higher education. The school district there loves us, and they are very impressed by our Bucknell students.”

The small group that Moran brings to McKee for Catholic Campus Ministry’s annual spring break works with Sister Mary, the pastoral administrator of the parish, during the Appalachian mission trip. “At the end of each day there is always a theological reflection of why we are here. And the meaning of the work we did on that day,” Moran explains.

Amanda Forsburg ’07 has been active in Bucknell’s Catholic Campus Ministry almost since the day she stepped on campus. She went on last March’s trip to McKee and says, “I had never been on a mission trip before. What most surprised me was the depth of the poverty in the area. I had no idea that people lived that way.”

“Over the years, the rewards have been many,” Moran concludes, talking about the missions. “Sometimes, it is in the smiling face of a student given hope because of something she heard in a talk given by one of our Bucknell students. Other times, it is the relief in the eyes of a family member who understands that we’re just there to help them. That’s very gratifying.”

Not a Vacation but An Education
Alternative break programs — like working with the underprivileged in Appalachia, building houses for

Outreach: Each year, the Catholic Campus Ministry travels to one of the poorest towns in Kentucky to encourage and help students to further their educations.
Habitat for Humanity, or helping to staff a medical clinic in Nicaragua — immerse students in vastly diverse cultures, while heightening social awareness. At the same time, they provide students with an opportunity to travel and to help others during their breaks from class. Most alternative breaks are planned and led by students, with the help of faculty advisers. Student-led fundraisers help defray the cost of travel and expenses, which vary from trip to trip.

At Bucknell, alternative spring break trips are a part of a wider experiential program, explains Janice Butler, director of Service Learning. “The role I play,” says Butler, “is to help students and faculty apply what they learn in the classroom in the community and to meet public needs. Service learning at Bucknell encompasses a much wider scope than just alternative spring breaks. For example, during the academic year geology students might be testing local waterways. Education students tutor kids in an after-school program we’ve set up with the Lewisburg School District.”

What we’re trying to do is expand on the notion of service learning to include civic engagement so that our students are prepared not only for their professional lives, but also for their lives as active citizens in whatever community they find themselves.”

Butler was director of Bucknell’s Women’s Resource Center when the Bucknell Brigade was started as an alternative spring break program by a student, Jaime Cistoldi Lee ’99. Lee spent her junior year abroad, including one semester in Nicaragua, and, after Hurricane Mitch pounded the country in 1998 causing widespread devastation, she was worried about the families she had made connections with. So Lee started raising money on campus to help the hurricane victims and decided to go back and help. Thus, the Brigade began.

Butler was on that first trip in 1999 as a participant, not a leader, and says it was an unforgettable time for her. “Having lived through some floods myself, I was shocked by the destruction in Nicaragua after the hurricane. I felt that I had to help. We never envisioned this turning into a long-term commitment, but it has. We’ve really established a community service presence in Nueva Vida.” Butler has been there four times.

Sarah Dickinson ’05, a medical student in Philadelphia, has also been a member of the Brigade. She says that being a student leader changed her life. “I heard about the Brigade before I came to Bucknell,” Dickinson says. “Then, as a student, I decided to join the Brigade on one of their trips. I’ve never been one to have a spring break where I wasn’t doing something of an altruistic nature, so this was an easy decision. My parents, however, were against my going; they thought it would be dangerous in Nicaragua. But the Bucknell Brigade is a big group, and I always felt safe.

“The poverty there is eye opening. You can’t really understand how they live until you actually see it in person. I learned a lot about myself and what I might want to do with my life as a result of those trips. I also know there are many under-served areas in this country. I now think I am going to go into some kind of primary care medicine in a rural community where I am needed, or possibly go back to Nicaragua.”

You live alongside faculty, doctors, and leaders. There is a definite bond that forms. We learned to depend on each other.

The trips weren’t all work, though, says Dickinson. “You live alongside faculty, doctors, and leaders. There is a definite bond that forms. We learned to depend on each other. Our time in Nicaragua became all about trust, friendship, and understanding.”

How has the Brigade spring break option been accepted on campus? Butler has a quick answer: “Last year, partly as a result of seeing how transformative the experience can be and partly because it’s grown in popularity, we had to turn 50 students away.”

Trouble in Paradise Other groups, like the Habitat for Humanity chapter on the Bucknell campus, take students to various sites around the country to build homes for the needy. Last year, as part of the Habitat for Humanity Collegiate Challenge, 15 students and staff went to Kuai, Hawaii, to aid an area devastated by Hurricane Iniki in 1992. The group spent its days
prefabricating walls and trusses for five houses as part of a 100-home project being built by the local Habitat affiliate. At another build site, 15 students and staff built houses in High Point, N.C.

Chapter president Elizabeth Lorson ’07 was involved with Habitat even before coming to Bucknell. “My mother, who works at Lycoming College, was involved in a faculty build, so I made that my senior high school project. I’ve been brought up doing community service, so this was a natural for me. I was hooked,” she says, “although my only carpenter skill is an ability to use a hammer.

“My first year at Bucknell, I did not go on the build in Indiana, but last year I went to Hawaii, and being able to help these people was a great experience.”

This year’s trip was not planned at the time of this writing, although Lorson says, “We want to go far, and there is the possibility we’ll go international.”

One thing Lorson wants students to know: “To join our chapter, no experience is required or necessary. The only prerequisite is the desire to help people. One of the things we learn are skills which when we do purchase our own homes we might find useful. When we go on a build, there are always experts around to teach us. It’s a terrific learning experience.”

**Jewish Heritage**

Understanding the differences between groups of people is a key to many of the alternative spring break programs.

In her upstairs office at the Berelson Center for Jewish Life, Rabbi Serena Fujita is discoursing on a theme dear to her heart: “We live in an interfaith world,” she says, “and we have to learn how to talk to each other, respect each other.”

When Rabbi Fujita first came into her job at Bucknell, she inherited a fund called Human Tolerance and Understanding. “I was told that I could use the money, but whatever I did had to fall under the category of tolerance and understanding. I decided the way to really understand people was to visit them.”

And so the Jewish Heritage trips were born. The first trip was to Eastern Europe. “It was open to the entire campus, and 18 of us left right after the school year ended in 2003,” says Fujita. (Jewish Heritage trips now take place during spring break.) The initial travel group represented a cross section of the student population: Jewish and non-Jewish students, African Americans, Asians. Ian Oliver, the Protestant chaplain on campus, also went on the trip.

“We toured Prague, Krakow, and Warsaw; had fun; and saw all the regular sights — but we also went to the concentration camps and to the Warsaw ghetto,” Rabbi Fujita says. “This part of the trip was a very powerful and moving experience for everyone involved.”

After every major visit, especially to the camps, the group had discussions about what they had seen. “After we visited Auschwitz, the students’ reactions were of shock and horror. How could human beings do this to each other? How can you kill someone just because of their ethnicity? After this phase of the trip, we had the kind of conversations that just don’t happen on a campus.”

This all made for a tight little group. “We did grow very close, and I don’t believe that some of the students would ever have met each other had they not been on the trip. What was very gratifying to me was to see them grow in understanding. They started off as individuals.

**It’s one thing to learn about Rosa Parks and her refusal to move to the back of the bus; it’s quite another to actually talk to the people who were there at that time.**
They literally became a community on the trip ... and were very supportive of each other. This was exactly the purpose of these Jewish Heritage trips.

Building on the success of that first experience, Fujita organized Jewish Heritage trips to Russia in 2004 and Peru in 2005.

The Russian trip took the group to Moscow and St. Petersburg, two cities with re-emerging Jewish communities. In Peru, the group visited Lima and two smaller cities, Cajamarca and Trujillo. There they met with a small (but growing) community of Inca Jews.

Alejandro Sanchez ’07 went on both the Russia and the Peru trips. “Originally, I took the trip because Russia was someplace I’ve always wanted to visit,” he says. “But I also went because I am not Jewish and I have many Jewish friends at home in California, so I wanted to be able to understand them better.”

The Peru trip was “a real bonding experience,” he says. “We had to endure sweltering heat, high altitude, pickpockets, illness, and some terrible bus rides, but we came together as a group. Our shared pain and agony made us stronger people, particularly after interacting with these Jewish people, who were very poor, had nothing, but were very open and welcoming to us.”

In Search of Civil Rights

Another spring break option for students last March was called “Civil Rights: The Unfinished Journey,” a trip to Nashville and Memphis, Tenn., and Oxford, Miss., in which 18 students and staff members from Bucknell learned how both ordinary citizens and national figures worked to combat racism and integrate schools and public accommodations in the 1960s.

“One on our trip,” says Kelly Finley, residential college program coordinator, “students interacted with people who were directly involved in the civil rights movement. They told us what they did and how they helped bring about positive social change. I think that’s a very empowering message.”

Finley recalls how she got the idea for the trip. “In 1995, I went on vacation to Memphis and toured the Civil Rights Museum. It was for me a most profound experience, and I remember thinking that it would be an interesting way to spend spring break, and a good learning experience for students.”

Some years later at Bucknell, Finley tossed the idea around and was “thrilled” when her colleagues all agreed with her. That was in 2004. One year later, the trip actually took place, but only after the group first went out and raised money to sponsor it.

For the students on the trip, it was an invaluable life experience. Jitu Patel ’07, who is originally from India, says, “I had wanted to learn about the civil rights movement in America ever since coming to the States, so to actually talk with some of the participants in that movement was awesome. It’s one thing to learn about Rosa Parks and her refusal to move to the back of the bus; it’s quite another to actually talk to the people who were there at that time.”

Alex Madsen ’08 agrees with fellow traveler Patel. Her most memorable moment was interviewing Rev. Billy Kyle, one of Martin Luther King’s closest friends. “This trip motivated me to get out there and speak about injustices. I learned I could make a difference.”

Isn’t that what it’s all about? These alternative spring breaks — making a difference?

“For many students,” says Butler, “these programs give their education some relevance in terms of career decisions. And when students talk about their experiences to other students, you can hear the pride in their voices as they tell these stories again and again.” It’s still surprising to recognize the distances these students have traveled — not necessarily physical distances so much as psychological, emotional, and philosophical distances that elude measurement.

In the end, Butler says, “I think these kinds of ‘alternative’ programs promote the idea that, as educated citizens, we have skills that we can lend to the community and ways that we can contribute to make the world a better place.”

Lewisburg-based freelance writer Rick Dandes is a former reporter for the New York Times. He has also been editor in chief of Palm Beach Illustrated.
A Guardsman serves his time in Iraq and returns to Bucknell for the fall semester.

BACK WHERE HE BELONGS

BRETT TOMLINSON ’99

Above the roof hatch of a U.S. Army Humvee leading troop convoys through the dusty desert roads of Kuwait, Steve Chronowski ’08 was a bold and faceless force, alertly manning his mounted machine gun in a helmet and goggles, with a Kevlar flak vest saddling his torso.

The idea, in Army lingo, is to make yourself a “hard target,” to show any lurking threats that the convoy is well protected. But Chronowski’s intimidating posture stood in sharp contrast to the carefree Kuwaitis who greeted the Americans from passing cars.

“I’m pretty sure they were beeping and waving at the driver, not me,” Chronowski says with an easy smile.

In civilian clothes, it seems hard to imagine the affable Chronowski as that man behind the gun. But for 14 months, starting in December 2003, he and his National Guard unit from Wilkes-Barre, Pa., served in Operation Iraqi Freedom, first providing base security in Qatar and later guiding convoys in the busy hub of Kuwait. Chronowski was the only Bucknell undergraduate deployed in the Middle East, a distinction he downplays as just part of the job of a National Guardsman.

And while his outlook has changed somewhat — paying attention in an hour-and-a-half lecture pales in comparison to 12 hours of uninterrupted guard duty — his enthusiasm for studying at Bucknell has only grown.

An Ideological Call  Chronowski grew up as the middle child in a family of five siblings, with two older brothers and two younger sisters. His father, Walter, a certified nursing assistant, spent a decade in the military, enlisting in the Marines after high school and later serving in the Navy and the Army Reserve. He instilled in his children a devotion to service.

“Somebody needs to do the job to keep this country safe,” Steve Chronowski says. “It’s kind of how we were brought up. We were taught to appreciate what we have as Americans.”

Chronowski’s mother, Ann, worked for more than 25 years at the local Veterans Affairs hospital before leaving to pursue home healthcare. She says that she doesn’t fully understand the military lifestyle, but she knew enough to worry when Steve wanted to sign up for the National Guard in 2002 during his junior year of high school. Fearing that he would be deployed on the front lines, she hesitated when she saw his enlistment form. “He told me that I had to sign the paper or else he would sign it for me,” she says. “He had very strong convictions about it.”

In the summer of 2002, Chronowski completed basic training. When he returned home, he started two-a-day football practices for his senior year at Coughlin High School, where he went on to be a valedictorian. His classmates were confused by his decision to join the National Guard. You’re smart, they told him. You don’t have to go in the military. “Sometimes people just don’t understand the reasoning,” he says, “especially when it comes down to an ideological call, as opposed to just doing it to keep yourself out of trouble.”

Chronowski also realized that the National Guard would lift some of the burden of paying for college. He was admitted to Bucknell, his top choice, and entered
the College of Engineering in the fall of 2003. Once he arrived on campus, he never wanted to leave. But in October, rumors began to spread in his unit, the 109th Field Artillery, about an impending deployment. By November, the order was official. “I knew that it could happen, but I didn’t accept that it would happen,” he says. “I guess I was in a state of denial.”

**Eager and Apprehensive** Chronowski experienced a swell of emotions as he prepared for his first-semester exams. He would miss his family and his friends, of course, and in the back of his mind, he wondered if he would ever make it back to Bucknell. On Dec. 15, 2003, he finished his final exam and formally withdrew from the university. Three days later, he was activated for duty.

By early February, Chronowski was on a transport plane to Kuwait, eager and apprehensive. His first assignment was a relatively simple one — providing base security in Qatar. He and his colleagues kept the perimeter of the base secure, checked delivery vehicles, and watched for suspicious activity. Qatar is considered something of a resort in the military, providing a place for soldiers in Iraq to go for a few days of rest. Soldiers who had fought against the Iraqi insurgents would tell him how lucky he was to be in Qatar, and for the most part, he agreed. But there were times when he wished he had been in Iraq instead of on the sidelines, he says, “as crazy as that sounds.”

After seven months, Chronowski moved on to Kuwait, where his platoon protected convoys of troops on the 20-mile drive between two bases. Kuwait, like Qatar, was relatively safe, though there were threats in the area. Late in his deployment, terrorists engaged in a shootout with Kuwaiti police not far from Chronowski’s convoy route, but the transport vehicles remained secure.

When Chronowski was not on guard or convoy duty, he passed the time in the “MWR” facilities — morale, welfare, and recreation — which usually meant working out in the weight room. He also sent emails and made calls home, reassuring his parents that he was all right. Back in Wilkes-Barre, friends and neighbors helped Ann cope with her anxieties. At parent-teacher conferences, people asked about Steve. Teachers from his elementary school sent care packages to Kuwait. Ann went to the National Guard’s support group meetings when they were putting together care packages, but she learned to stay away when they met just to talk. That was when the rumors would circulate.

By Thanksgiving 2004, Chronowski had started counting down the days to the end of his deployment, never knowing exactly when it would be. “There would be about six different countdowns because you’d hear six different dates of when we would be going home,” he says. “A few times, the countdown would run out, and we would still be there.”

He finally returned in February 2005, too late to enroll in the spring semester at Bucknell, but that didn’t matter. He spent time with his family, drove to Lewisburg to see his first-year hall mates, played with the family dogs, and picked up his six-year-old nephew, Taylor, each day after school. Ann says she knew Steve had changed and matured during his time overseas, but in the yard with Taylor, his playful side returned. “It was good to see him just being a kid,” she says.

This summer at the Chronowskis’ home in Wilkes-Barre, American flags and yellow ribbons remained on the front porch as a show of support for the other families waiting for loved ones to return. Steve follows the news from Iraq each day, and he says a career in the military is a possibility, an idea that worries his mother. But Ann takes some comfort in knowing that in the near future, at least, the National Guard will be bringing her son closer to home, for one weekend each month, rather than taking him farther away.

“T’m glad he’s going back to Bucknell,” she says, “where he belongs.”

**In civilian clothes, it seems hard to imagine the affable Chronowski as that man behind the gun.**
Skornik ’04, who is from Slovenia, is slated to play this season in Switzerland.

-European vacation? No way, these guys are making a living in countries where soccer is king, and McDonald’s is not always the first option for dining out.

While Bucknell may not be a minor league system for the NBA, these former Bison standouts have been able to continue their hoop dreams beyond the Patriot League. And they have done so in Europe, where a new culture, language — and pro league — is as close as the nearest border crossing. For good measure, Chris McNaughton ’07 from Germany and Abe Badmus ’07 from Nigeria played for their national teams this past summer in the World University Games in Turkey and FIBA Africa, respectively.

“Right now, where I am playing is a pretty small town of about 12,000 people. The town is basketball crazy. All of the games are sold out. I enjoy it,” says Bailey, a business management graduate who played during the 2004–05 season in the top division in Germany.

Bailey, on a Friday afternoon in late August, is speaking on his cell phone from JFK Airport in New York City. In less than two hours, he will board a plane for Germany, where he will begin practice for the 2005–06 season.

A combination guard from Long Island, N.Y., Bailey averaged 18.1 points, 5.3 rebounds, and 2.4 assists in his fourth and last season for Bucknell in 2001–02. He played for Wurzburg in Germany in his first pro season in 2002–03, then was an All-Star with Landstede Zwolle in the Netherlands the next season, when he averaged 17.5 points, 4 rebounds, 3.1 assists, and 2.4 steals per game.

Bailey went back to Germany and played last season for the Artland Dragons in Quakenbruck, where the head coach is American Chris Fleming. “Bryan had no difficulty adjusting to the German league,” Fleming wrote in an email in late August. “He is extremely quiet off the court and probably the player who is most respected by his teammates. He really works.”

Nearly every country in Europe has a pro league,
and most allow at least two Americans per team. Germany, this season, has no limit on the number of imports, Bailey says.

Did Bailey, 25, a first-team all-Patriot League player in 2001 and 2002, ever imagine playing overseas?

“Not when I started playing basketball. I really didn’t make a decision until my senior year at Bucknell,” says Bailey, who went on an NCAA-approved tour of Croatia and Italy with the Bison team one summer while he was in college.

**All-Russian Superleague**

Breakout is a good term for Holden, who averaged 18.2 points per game in his last season for the Bison in 1997–98. Since then, he has won league titles in Latvia, Belgium, and Greece, been named the All-Russian Superleague Player of the Year, and won championships in Russia in 2003, 2004, and 2005. Holden played his first year for CSKA Moscow in 2002–03, and he has been with the team ever since. Last season, in 2004–05, he averaged 11.2 points and 2.7 assists in 24 Euroleague games, and 10.5 points, 2.1 rebounds, 3.4 assists, and 1.1 steals in 61 Russian A Superleague games.

Holden, according to eurobasket.com, received Russian nationality in 2003 and signed a two-year contract with CSKA prior to the 2004–05 season. He traveled to Moscow for this season in late August. The 6’1” guard is a native of Pittsburgh and began his pro career in Latvia in 1998–99. Since then, he has worked his way up the ladder in Europe, where some countries pay more and have more perks for import stars than local players.

Holden credits Pat Flannery ’80 for helping him be the player he is today. “Being at Bucknell and playing for Coach Flan prepared me for life outside of ball. He stayed on me about my schoolwork and about being the best man I could be, not just the best player,” says Holden. “At the time I didn’t understand because I just wanted to be a basketball player. I remember vividly not starting my sophomore year, and I was so mad. I felt it was my time. He kept telling me, ‘Patience, J.R. Why be good when you can be great?’”

**Basketball Finnish Style**

Lalugba majored in business administration at Bucknell and graduated in 2003. Since then, he has played in Sweden and Finland. He averaged 15.1 points and 9.5 rebounds in his last season in Lewisburg in 2002–03.

“When I am there during the winter months, it is extremely cold and snows often,” he wrote about Finland, where he played in 2004–05. “Besides the weather, it is a beautiful country with some of the nicest people you could possibly meet. Finnish people are really conservative, laid back, and move a lot slower than what I am accustomed to, living in the New Jersey/New York area.

“My apartment did not have much of a view, but the surrounding area had some small forests,” he adds. “If comparing Finland to other countries in Europe, you would find Finland is somewhere in the middle in terms of basketball. Hockey is the country’s biggest sport, but I have heard that every year the Finnish people are becoming more interested in basketball. I believe also the addition of two Americans per team improves the quality of the league.”

Most Americans are provided a free car and place to live when they play in Europe, and that is the case for Bailey and Lalugba. And most salaries are tax-free for import players in Europe, though a yearly wage can range from $30,000 a season for first-year players in Germany and Austria to nearly $1 million per season for NBA-caliber players in countries such as Spain, France, and Italy.

So how did Bucknell prepare Lalugba for a career overseas?

“Being at Bucknell taught me the importance of hard work,” he adds. “The coaching staff played a huge role in my development as a player and also as a person. Playing at an academically tough school like Bucknell helped me understand the importance of time management and made me realize that every hour was valuable and that making good use of free time was essential.”

Most European teams practice twice a day — around 10 a.m. and again around 6 p.m. — and play once a week. Bailey says he relaxes in the afternoon between practice sessions and also watches movies on his DVD player. He is learning a little German, but English is the language of choice for his coaches during practices and games. So how long does he plan to play?

“I just want to keep playing as long as I can. I just want to get better and better,” he says.

David Driver, a freelance writer from Maryland, has covered two Patriot League basketball tournaments. He is in his third year covering pro basketball in Europe from his home in Szeged, Hungary, and has watched games in eight different countries in Europe.
A DIAMOND IN THE ROUGH

BY BRIAN P. WATSON ‘01

At the Baseball Hall of Fame in Cooperstown, N.Y., vertical panels are adorned with balls from each no-hitter thrown since 1940. The leather spheres once tossed by legends of America’s pastime are there, but, in the 1957 panel, a lonely ball sits in honor of a lesser-known hurler.

Rochester native Bob Keegan ’44 threw the sole no-hitter on the season, the remarkable culmination of a quest to reach professional baseball glory through years peppered with adversity, hope, and determination. In the annals of Bucknell’s baseball history, the legend of Christy Mathewson first comes to mind. But Bison die-hards also recall Aug. 20, 1957, when an aging but powerfully built Chicago White Sox right-hander took the mound against the Washington Senators. Hours later, Keegan joined the record books, accomplishing one of professional sports’ greatest feats.

Keegan’s road to greatness was paved with obstacles few athletes are able to overcome. Nicknamed “Smiley” — his White Sox teammate Billy Pierce once said Keegan always looked like he was smiling — he starred as a pitcher for Rochester’s Marshall High School, but coaches converted him to the infield at Bucknell, where he also starred on the university’s basketball team. Given his promising talent — and a promising arm — the New York Yankees signed him to their minor-league system. But before he had a chance to take the field, he shipped off to another arena: World War II, where Air Force Lt. Keegan served as a navigator on B-24 bombers.

In 1946, the decorated officer returned to the Yankees’ Binghamton, N.Y., team, debuting at age 26. Moving through the Yankees’ minor-league system for the next seven seasons, Keegan had some ups and downs but ultimately won 20 games for Syracuse in 1952. Shortly after, he was traded to the Chicago White Sox, where he would make his big-league debut the following year.

For Keegan, it was the chance he had been waiting for. For his friends, it was no surprise. “He stuck it out because of his ambition,” says Sy Berger ’44, the original designer of Topps baseball cards. Fitz Walling ’46, a Lewisburg resident who served as Bucknell’s director of admissions, says, “He was very determined to make it.”

Far before the days of managers counting pitches and worrying over worn arms, Keegan pitched four complete games and two shutouts on his way to a 2.73 earned-run average in 1953. The following year, he won 16 games in 27 starts, earning a spot on the American League All-Star team. But a knee injury would sideline him for the next two seasons, and his unorthodox delivery continued to hamper his shoulder. In his mid-30s, Keegan’s career seemed to be on the decline.

Little did he know, however, that he was a short time away from reaching one of the pinnacles of professional athletics. To compensate for his injuries, Keegan altered his pitching style by using a slower release. It paid off on Aug. 20, 1957, when the 35-year-old no-hit the Senators, winning 6-0.

Driving home from a high school reunion in the Bronx, Berger listened to the final pitches of the fateful game. Pulling into the driveway of his Long Island, N.Y., home, Berger erupted as he heard the final outs. “I was screaming,” he says. “My wife thought I was crazy.”

Keegan’s monumental accomplishment would be his last, as his professional career ended in 1958. He pitched for two more seasons in the minors, until age 36, when he retired. In six major-league seasons, he pitched 645 innings, winning 40 games with a 3.66 ERA.
Years later, while working in Los Angeles, Keegan’s son, Bob Jr., met Gene Mauch, a former major-league player and manager, who told him a story about his father. Mauch, who played third base for the Boston Red Sox, said his teammate, the legendary Ted Williams, complained that he could never hit against Keegan. “The guy’s not that good,” Williams told Mauch. After going hitless against the White Sox pitcher one game, he got his revenge, belting three home runs in their next meeting, May 8, 1957. “I told you Keegan isn’t that good,” Williams said. Despite the crushing performance, Bob Jr. said his father was proud to have the chance to face off against — and frustrate — arguably the greatest hitter to ever play the game.

After retiring from the game, Keegan found success as an assistant plant manager for manufacturer Warner Lambert. The former Bison star was inducted into the Bucknell Athletic Hall of Fame in 1982.

Bob Jr. says his father remained loyal to baseball, analyzing pitchers and managers while watching games on television. “He could never just watch a game,” Bob Jr. says. “He was interested in how they played the game.”

Keegan belonged to the “Greatest Generation,” playing baseball in an era devoid of the multi-million dollar paychecks and the massive egos they fund. Bob Jr. says his father instilled in him a “healthy sense” of competing, both in sports and life, that has served him well. “You would never see him as an athlete,” his son says. “But if you got engaged in a game, he was playing to win.” Bob Jr. serves as chairman and chief executive of Goodyear Tire & Rubber Co. His daughter, Lindsey, graduated from Bucknell in 2002.

Martin Cummings ’41 remembers Keegan from their days in the East College dorm. Years later, when the White Sox would play in Washington, Cummings said the “charming” Keegan would leave tickets for him and his sons. When he could, Keegan would visit the family at their Falls Church, Va., home and became an “inspiration” to one of Cummings’ sons, who pursued a baseball career.

In 1994, Keegan reflected on his quest to get to the big leagues in a letter to his 1954 classmates. “I had to get into the business of baseball if I was ever to be happy,” he wrote in their 50th Reunion album.

Following a long illness, Keegan passed away on June 19, 2001, at age 80. Always appreciative of his fans, his son said Keegan continued signing cards and pictures he received in the mail right up until the day he died. Some fans sent checks or $20 bills, but Keegan always sent them back.

“It was never for the money,” Bob Jr. says. “He was in it because he respected the game.”

His friends remember him fondly, recalling his professional accomplishments but reflecting more pointedly on his character and spirit. “He was the kind of guy you’d love to have on a team,” Berger says. “He was a great athlete, and he really knew how to be a team player.” Walling agrees: “He was a great guy, number one, and a great friend. You wouldn’t want anyone better.”

Brian Watson ’01 is a staff writer for the Fort Myers (Fla.) News-Press and a frequent contributor to Bucknell World.
TRAVELERS, NOT TOURISTS

Sandy ’64 and John Nesbitt III ’64 were standing in line at the airport when they saw Bob ’62 and Barbie Smith ’63. “My gosh, we haven’t seen you in years,” John said, greeting his former fraternity brother. Turns out, both couples were embarking on the first leg of a “Waterways of Russia” tour and had just discovered one of the most delightful benefits of touring with the Alumni Travel Program — reconnecting with old friends.

When Jill Abrahamson, associate director of the Office of Alumni, Parents, and Volunteers, joined a tour to the Italian Riviera, she enjoyed observing the camaraderie of the group. She says, “People talked about faculty that they knew and places that they lived,” all while sharing the experience of a whole new culture.

“We do these trips to offer a service to our alumni,” says David Flinchbaugh ’82, director of the Office of Alumni, Parents, and Volunteers, “to allow them to continue their education, along with a chance to reconnect with fellow alumni.”

Partnering with well-established agencies like Alumni Holidays and Gohagan, the program gives alumni, students, family, and friends a chance to participate in trips that go beyond checking off monuments on a list of tourist attractions to really learning about a new culture and people. Not just sightseeing in Sicily, but taking lessons in antique art restoration, ceramics, or cooking. Not just cruising the waterways of Holland and Belgium, but discussing politics and social issues with a panel of local residents. Not just docking at ports on the Baltic Sea, but having an exclusive meeting in Gdansk with Nobel Peace Prize winner Lech Walesa.

“It’s an educational tour,” says Priscilla Teleky Davis ’61, who with her husband, Paul, traveled with the alumni program to Provence. “You’re not just a tourist. You’re learning about the culture of the place.”

In their travels abroad, they have spoken with a police officer, an air traffic controller, a teacher, a student, and a mayor, all in Meet the People panels with local residents.

“You leave with a respect and an understanding of the country and its heritage, its history, and its culture,” says Davis. “There’s so much local color. The timing is exquisite, the bus drivers are superb, you’re safe and comfortable and happy.”

Safety in a foreign land is appreciated, as the Nesbits learned when they decided to do some independent exploring.

“What we had planned to do was have dinner in Moscow and take the subway back,” Sandy says. But after traveling through a few stops on the subway, they realized they would have difficulty reading the signs because the Cyrillic alphabet can be written differently, leading to confusion. They considered taking a taxi, but decided to turn back and rejoin their group. “We just didn’t know if we would run into a situation,” she says, adding that someone later mentioned that taking a Moscow taxi at night would not have been a good idea. They ended up running into their ship’s purser, who guided them through a park, pointing out markets and shops as she talked about her life. “That part was really educational,” she says.

Ten trips are planned for next year, including a winter break getaway to Rome and tours of Antarctica, Ireland, and the Seine River. Varied offerings, but one thing is certain. On each tour, old friends will reconnect, new friendships will be made, and new insights will be gained on the culture and history of a fascinating foreign land. — Cindy Herman
YOU WOULD HAVE THOUGHT THAT backpacking around Europe during my junior year abroad would have cured me of any European illusions. Yes, I once ate dinner at an Oxford long table and another time cross-country skied in Norway. But I also spent nights in a few dingy Parisian hotels, tried to digest fish-and-chips, and endured a central European spring, which in memory feels a lot like a Lewisburg winter.

Not having had enough of either the Gare du Nord or the lines outside the Sistine Chapel, I moved back to Europe in 1991 and have been here ever since, living with my family in a village outside Geneva, Switzerland. On the good days, Swiss living feels like a chapter from Heidi: the kids walk to school, we drink the local wines (the longer we stay, the better they taste), and a man with a top hat cleans the chimney.

Of course, there are downsides to living in Europe. The roadside food in France is some of the worst I have eaten. Many European companies are organized around the baronial perquisites of one of Bram Stoker’s castles. When I am in the mood to be cheated, I spend the weekend in Rome. Nor can we decide if we are Americans living abroad or Europeans with U.S. passports. When the children were younger, we could avoid the dilemma. They went to local schools, spoke French with their friends, and lived American lives at home. Their friends thought they were Swiss, we thought they were American, and everyone was happy.

Now that my oldest daughter is nearing university age, however, we are forced to make a choice: does she go to an American college or a European university? Does not the college you attend tell the world who you are?

My daughter was born in New York and reads Harry Potter in English. But when I sing the praises of an American liberal arts education, she looks at me as if I were proposing one of those colleges at sea. It is the equivalent of telling an American high school senior of Romanian origin, who has done well at school, that now she should think about attending the University of Bucharest.

Nevertheless, I have persisted and spent much of last summer taking her on college tours. Mostly, I showed her schools that were on our family-vacation track. We saw a collection of big schools and small private colleges, from Georgetown to the University of Maine.

Having been off campus for 15 years, I loved seeing American colleges. As I did as an undergraduate in Lewisburg, I hung around the bookstores, read the campus dailies, and even checked out the ride boards. I lounged in the quads and delighted in the buildings, noting that except for Oxford and Cambridge most European universities look like, as the British say, council flats.

In the interviews and on the tours, we heard about celebrity graduates, golf championships, Wi-Fi connections, and gourmet cooking. That American universities now feature midnight buffets does not, however, make European education glow in comparison.

In the past year, we also have inspected universities in Barcelona, Paris, and England. Missing here are the liberal arts — the chance to study music, history, biology, and, to name my science gut, physics for poets. In Europe, the liberal arts, or, college in French, are offered between ages 15 and 18. The university is where students study one subject — for example, law or medicine, not the literature of baseball or Tolstoy’s theory of social reform.

During the course of this year, my daughter will have to choose whether she wants her education passport stamped in Europe or the U.S. I would love her to read widely in a variety of subjects and to write as fluently in English as she does in French. But do I want her doing so on another continent? From her side, I know she is leaning toward Europe, which is familiar, and where her friends will be studying. I do not envy her decision, which may explain why in her room is both This Side of Paradise and Le Rouge et Le Noir, both of which get lost in translation.

For my part, I know I would be happy back at an American campus, dividing my time between touch football on the quad and reading All the King’s Men — things I did freshman week at Bucknell. But times change, and as Dorothy reminded us over many nights spent reading bedtime stories, we are a long way from Kansas, not to mention the Susquehanna Valley.

Matthew Stevenson ’76 lives in Laccox, Switzerland, with his wife and four children, who range in ages from 9 to 17. He is the author of Letters of Transit and the recently published Mentioned in Dispatches: The Travel Essays of an Expatriate American.