How We Choose Our Leaders and Why We Follow Them
2008
Reunion Weekend

Reunion Weekend May 29 — June 1, 2008

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Last October, Nobel laureate Derek Walcott was named the 2007 Janet Weis Fellow in Contemporary Letters. One of Bucknell’s alumni poets spent the day with Walcott and found striking similarities to Yeats. By Philip Brady ’77

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Can you remember the princess phone, endlessly tangled phone cords, and the telephone repairperson who actually came to your home? New technologies guarantee that the next generation won’t. By Andrew Larson ’08

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Leaders on Leadership
As primary season heats up, and the United States prepares to elect its 44th commander in chief, hear what nine Bucknell experts have to say about what it takes to become — and remain — a great leader. By Theresa Gawlas Medoff ’85
In 1932, Bucknell's campus architect, Jens Larson, established a master plan for the campus’ buildings and green spaces that, 75 years later, remains the model for how this magnificent space that Bucknell calls home has evolved. The beauty of this campus on a hill, the classic consistency of Bucknell’s architecture, and the centrality of academic spaces — these dimensions of this exemplary living and learning space remain true to Mr. Larson’s vision.

After more than a year’s worth of discussion and planning that will continue through this spring, the University is on the verge of presenting to the Board of Trustees at its April meeting a master plan guided by the Larson model that will shape how Bucknell evolves for the next half-century and more.

Throughout its history, Bucknell has changed with the demands of its time while carrying forward its heritage. This is the nature of a first-class institution of higher learning. Our ambitions as a University are among these legacies. In 1846, our founders set out to establish “a great enterprise,” as they described it, determined as they were, despite the many obstacles standing in their way, to build an institution that they believed could play a special role in the lives of those it served.

This vision brought Bucknell forth from “the wilds of Pennsylvania” and propelled the institution to its rapid expansion from denominational origins into a non-sectarian, co-educational institution that enrolled its first international student only 15 years later.

This sense of purpose found renewed expression 60 years later, just before Larson’s time, when President Emory A. Hunt declared that Bucknell would “be out-ranked by not a single similar institution in America.” Today, this passion for excellence is expressed anew in the vision at the core of The Plan for Bucknell: “To provide students with the premier undergraduate experience in American higher education.”

It’s worth noting that this institution has always been a university, from its founding as the University at Lewisburg through the momentous gift from William Bucknell that led to its name change. It seems only right that the word mark, that singular sign of the institution’s identity, should convey to the world our pride in being a university. You will see this new word mark on the back of this magazine, and soon you will begin seeing it on institutional materials everywhere. We remain “Bucknell,” with the sense of community and personal learning this place means to everyone who experiences it firsthand. But we are also, as we have always been, a university, with all the comprehensiveness, reach, and impact the term conveys today. Our founders meant us to be a university, and we are proud to be one that can confidently state our belief in the value of striving to be the best. Some things never change.

Brian C. Mitchell
PRESIDENT
Returning to Our Magazine Roots

Bucknell’s first alumni publication, Bucknell Alumni Monthly, appeared as a newspaper in 1914. In 1920, it reappeared as a magazine. Then editor Leo Rockwell 1907 wrote, “The form we believe, will recommend itself to readers. More compact and easily handled, it lends itself more to variety and make-up and to binding. It is at the same time, more economical of paper, an item of importance just now.”

Although the publication’s name changed to The Bucknell Alumnus in 1944, it remained a magazine for more than 50 years, until 1972 when the name again changed to Bucknell World, and it was published as a tabloid for the next 35 years.

It’s time for another change and return as a magazine appropriately named Bucknell Magazine. And interestingly enough, the editorial choices echo those of Leo Rockwell from the first part of the last century — although he certainly couldn’t have foreseen that modern readers would want a magazine that slips neatly into a briefcase or fits nicely on a StairMaster.

The goal was to return to the original spirit and intent of the University’s first magazine by providing our audience with more variety and content with distinct Bucknell connections. For instance, the news section has been renamed “Moore Avenue” (see pg. 4) for the long boulevard that winds through campus. Most of all, we wanted to present our readers with a new publication that would best represent what Bucknell is — a first-class institution for learning and leading, one that embraces its vibrant community both on and off campus.

The magazine that you hold in your hands is the culmination of a year’s worth of planning, designing, and more than a little bit of dreaming. Our fine student and faculty innovators and researchers are highlighted (see “IQ” on pg. 12), as are students (see “Ray Bucknell” on pg. 14). Alumni and faculty who live the creative life will be featured each issue (see “The Mind and the Muse” on pg. 16). We sought to provide our readers with a magazine that will make you proud of Bucknell and hope that we have succeeded. Let us know what you think.

Gigi Marino, Editor-in-Chief

ERRATA

In the 2007 Report of Gifts, Douglas E. and Inta Esmanis Walker ’66 should have been listed as Katherine Larison Council donors.

Additionally, Jeffrey Lewis ’82 contributed a $10,000 gift and should have been listed at the James Moore Associates level.

A corrected copy of the Report of Gifts is available in PDF format on myBucknell, a password-protected site. If you need help logging in, call 570-577-2586.

“...and we’ll give you a hat!”

GIVE US YOUR OPINION, AND WE’LL GIVE YOU A HAT!

Be one of the first 100 people to let us know what you think of the redesigned Bucknell Magazine, and we’ll send you a blue Bucknell fleece hat, free of charge. For details, go to www.bucknell.edu/bmagazine.

“I appreciate the suggestion, but at present we have no plans for the new magazine format to include a special swimsuit edition.”
The Legacy of Larson
The campus master plan builds on historical integrity.

By Gigi Marino

The campus master plan, supported by renowned, Boston-based architectural firm Shepley Bulfinch, is now moving toward the stage at which the Board of Trustees, during their upcoming April meeting, will review final recommendations and decide on immediate priorities.

“The Board has spent many good hours discussing the possibilities of this campus master plan,” says Trustee John Mathias ’69, chair of the building and grounds committee. “We all feel a deep responsibility to Bucknell and its storied history to create a framework that works now and long into the future.”

To this, Jamey Bennett ’90, chair of the campus master planning subcommittee, adds, “Getting The Plan for Bucknell right depends on getting the learning and living agenda right. It’s crucial that the campus master plan and The Plan for Bucknell work in harmony with one another.”

The philosophical framework for the campus master plan springs directly from the University’s strategic plan. The Plan makes the academic mission the University’s first priority; the campus master plan builds literally and figuratively from that focus to suggest that a new academic quadrangle could branch southward from Bertrand Library. The Plan seeks to enhance the residential living experience; the campus master plan has sketched out new student housing that could add flexible living and learning opportunities. The Plan embraces building bridges locally, nationally, and globally; the campus master plan not only proposes neighborhood development with downtown Lewisburg, but also partnerships with private developers as well as state and federal governments.

Additional ideas under consideration include the following:

• Moving the Route 15 campus entrance 100 yards northward to create a more attractive and safer entry.
• Creating a scenic greenway around the campus with several points of entrance, including Route 15, Seventh Street, and River Road.
• Connecting to the river for teaching, research, and recreational programs.
on a wholly expanded level, including a river walk, landing areas for kayaks, and jogging trails.

Other suggestions: a wellness center, a University inn and conference center, a welcome center, a shared University Village for campus and local communities, and a regional arts center. These and other ideas will be discussed across the campus and beyond as 18 months of planning and deliberation become final recommendations to the Board.

David Surgala, vice president for finance and administration, defines the goal: “We intend to establish an overarching, flexible land use framework that will serve the University for many decades just as the Larson Plan has.”

In 1932, acclaimed architect Jens Larson developed Bucknell’s first campus master plan, which emphasized the library and academic quadrangle and open spaces, and which remains the guiding force for the campus of today, and tomorrow. The new master plan takes its lead from Larson’s plan, which also embraced the campus’ natural topography, while creating enough flexibility to allow developments that would fit future needs. And those needs are changing. In the last 20 years, the campus maintained its enrollment, while adding one million square feet. It is likely the campus will add another million square feet in the next 20 years. Such initiatives would improve and expand existing facilities and grounds as the University raises its national profile and the quality of its teaching and research programs.

President Brian C. Mitchell says that once the Board approves the emerging priorities, building will begin within the next three years, depending on funding. “We’ve gotten tremendous feedback from the campus and local communities,” he says. “We plan to maintain the beauty of the campus, be a good neighbor to Lewisburg, and support living and learning at the highest level.”

Bricks and Mortar
How Bucknell creates a distinctive look.

Three related elements — brick, mortar, and bond — create the largely uniform appearance of many buildings on campus. Taken together, says Jim Hostetler, director of construction and design, those three components add up to “a holistic wall system that gives you the distinctive Bucknell appearance.”

The reddish, molded bricks used at Bucknell have long been produced by Glen-Gery Brick in Shoemakersville, Pa. Their official color is 53DD, but brick makers at Glen-Gery casually refer to them as “Bucknell bricks.” A distinguishing feature is that a small percentage of them are “flashed” by regulating oxidizing conditions in the kiln, creating a slightly darker surface than the majority.

According to Hostetler, “Getting the right mortar color is as important as getting the right brick color.” When a new building goes up on campus, workers use a “secret recipe” to create the beige binding for all those Bucknell bricks.

Most buildings of recent vintage at Bucknell use traditional bricklaying technique known as “Flemish bond.” With this pattern, “headers” (the short ends of bricks) and “stretchers” (the longer sides) are laid alternately across every “course” (a single, horizontal row of bricks). Both the Breakiron Engineering Building and the O’Leary Science Building were constructed using this style of bonding.

— David Pulizzi ’94

RESTORING THE MIGHTY ELM

Like many colleges and universities east of the Mississippi, Bucknell was once a campus shaded by the large, leathery foliage of American elm trees. All but a few of those trees were removed in the late ’70s, after being ravaged by Dutch elm disease.

In an eloquent nod to Bucknell’s arboreal past, a group of eight students from the Environmental Residential College oversaw the planting of two young Princeton American elms in the science quad in November. A small ceremony, replete with free leaf-shaped sugar cookies for all who attended, celebrated the elms’ return. According to group leader Matt Tilford ’11, the hearty Princeton elms can tolerate Dutch elm disease and most any other blight. With luck, the two slender six-foot-tall trees that Tilford’s group planted will someday rise 80 feet or more above the science quad, which should provide future Bucknellians with plenty of shade.

— David Pulizzi ’94
Bad Apples, Everyday Heroes
The frontiers of social science.

Absolute power. Evil deeds. Violence. Social psychologist Philip Zimbardo studies topics that would disturb the most dedicated horror movie fan.

Beginning with his landmark 1971 study on prisoner abuse, the provocative social scientist has examined the dark side of human behavior through an approach that turns traditional psychology inside out. Whereas clinical psychology typically considers evil-doers to be “bad apples,” Zimbardo looks at the ways in which social institutions and situations, or the “barrels” that hold the apples, affect the choices we make about how to act. His current work both examines the instances of prisoner abuse at Abu Ghrab and proposes an alternative to bad “barrels”: humans acting as “everyday heroes.”

Zimbardo, speaking in Bucknell’s Spielman Memorial Lecture Series, addressed a crowd that filled Trout Auditorium, as well as two overflow sites in October.

— Molly O’Brien ’98

The Bucknell Forum: The Citizen & Politics in America

“I’ve spent my entire professional life looking at markets and how they affect society – how money and capital shape our identities as people, how free markets and democracy impact each other – subjects I can’t help but think about a great deal. I’m well aware of my media persona, but it belies the seriousness of my concern about these issues. I’m excited about the prospect of discussing them at Bucknell with an audience that cares as much as I do about citizenship and democracy.” — Jim Cramer

SPRING SEMESTER SPEAKERS SCHEDULE

Jim Cramer: “The Capitalist Citizen and Democracy”
Tuesday, Jan. 29, 7:30 p.m., Weis Center for the Performing Arts (tickets required)

Panel discussion with national religious experts: “Religion and Politics in America”
Wednesday, Feb. 6, 7:30 p.m., Trout Auditorium

Barbara Ehrenreich: “Working for Change: Citizenship and Class in America”
Monday, March 17, 7:30 p.m., Weis Center for the Performing Arts (tickets required)

Syndicated columnist Leonard Pitts
Monday, March 24, 7:30 p.m., Trout Auditorium
Q: Investment banking has become an increasingly global industry, with European and Asian countries accounting for more and more of global investment banking income. How has the American investment banker adjusted to this change?

A: Investment banking is very much a client-centric industry, in which the dynamics of the industry and the behavior of industry participants are driven by the needs of the industry’s clients. As global trade has become a dramatically higher portion of the global GDP, clients of investment banks have increasingly found themselves operating in truly global markets in terms of competitors and customers and in the location of their sourcing and their other business partners. This development requires investment bankers to understand global industry dynamics and strategic trends in order to be able to provide strategic and mergers-and-acquisitions advice.

— W. Blake Sturcke ’93, Deutsche Bank Securities, Equity Capital Markets, Emerging Growth Equity Group

Q: What are some of the most important social skills necessary for thriving in the high intensity investment banking environment?

A: Since most corporations don’t accept the culture of text messaging and Facebook, take extra steps by communicating with emails and phone calls. Follow-up is crucial when answering the hundreds of emails or phone calls you receive daily regarding important projects and deals. Also, attention to detail is not an acquired trait that suddenly appears post-graduation, so you should make a “schedule of your life” — all of your activities daily, weekly, monthly, or for the entire semester. Get to know the ins and outs of Microsoft Excel and practice by managing and modeling your personal budget.

— Richard Karcher ’05, Merrill Lynch, Global Bank Group
Loftus Named Director of Strategy Implementation
The Plan for Bucknell moves forward.

As the new director of Bucknell’s Office of Strategy Implementation, Ed Loftus is responsible for facilitating the implementation of plan tactics and communicating about the progress. He will serve as the main contact point regarding The Plan and will work with the Bucknell community to identify and nurture opportunities for collaboration.

“Ed has demonstrated that he knows how to translate complex issues and ideas into action,” says University President Brian C. Mitchell. “We look forward to the impact he will make on the achievement of the University’s strategic goals.”

Last fall and winter, University administrators sought input from the Bucknell community in the form of specific tactics designed to advance the strategic goals of The Plan.

Of the 400 suggestions — a number Loftus calls “remarkable” — received from faculty, staff, and students, nearly 80 are in place or are in the process of being implemented. Among these are the launching of two multidisciplinary centers (the Teaching and Learning Center and the Environmental Center); a new B.S. in computer engineering; an executive internship program for undergraduates; a four-year, $890,000 Jack Kent Cooke Foundation grant; and the launch of the Bucknell Forum National Speaker Series.

Loftus graduated with a bachelor’s degree in management from the University of Scranton and received an MBA in finance from the University of Notre Dame. He is a certified Project Management Professional and has taught as an adjunct professor of management at the University of Scranton.

“My experience has been that if you engage the campus community — the faculty, staff, and students — and ask them what they would do to advance the vision of the University, you’ll find that they already have good ideas. My goal is to translate their passion for the University into action,” Loftus says.

— Andrew Beierle
A Gift of Art
Alumnus presents Islamic calligraphy.

An early Bucknell alumnus, whose efforts for racial equality presaged the modern civil rights movement, was cited in the Louisville Courier-Journal as one of 10 African Americans “who changed America.”

James Robert Lincoln Diggs 1898, 1899 was the first African American to earn a Ph.D. in sociology in the United States. He also was among those who in 1905 joined the legendary W. E. B. DuBois to draft a manifesto calling for full civil liberties, abolition of racial discrimination, and recognition of human brotherhood. The resulting organization, the Niagara Movement (named for the site of a clandestine meeting in Niagara Falls, Ontario), was short-lived but ultimately laid the groundwork for the far-more-robust National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP).

“This group of men was highly educated, highly influential, and they chose to use their gifts in pursuit of racial equality rather than for personal gain,” says journalist Olivia M. Cloud, author of the Courier-Journal article. “That was a bold move, particularly for the time.”

— Andrew Beierle

Abolishing Discrimination, Changing America
Diggs named one “who changed America.”

A Gift of Art
Alumnus presents Islamic calligraphy.

Last fall, John Reed ’66 presented the University with Islamic calligraphy by artist Mohamed Zakariya. Reed met Zakariya through the Washington, D.C.-area medical practice at which he works. The gift developed out of a conversation with Father “Marty” O. Moran III at a celebration last year marking the 30th anniversary of the purchase of the Newman House — a home once owned by Reed’s grandfather. Says Reed, “I wanted to contribute to the spiritual diversity of campus.”

— Andrew Beierle

Welcome to the Village
Finding a home at Homecoming.

Homecoming contained a new element this year: the Bucknell Village, consisting of 27 academic tents where students, faculty, staff, and alumni could connect. More than 700 alumni visited the tents.

“It was exciting to spotlight the importance of academics and to see how many alums and students visited the Quad to be part of that connection,” says Laura Denbow, executive director of Alumni Relations and Career Services. “It was even more exciting to see how many people naturally gravitated toward that celebration.”

Alumni had the opportunity to visit with former professors, meet current students, and learn the latest news and research endeavors in their departments.

— Jerri Brouse
Fancy Meeting You Here
... in the Dolomites.

Last September, Pamela Richardson ’99 (left) and Jack Schempp ’57 (right) scrambled their way to the summit of Piz Boe in the Dolomites of northeastern Italy. Participants in a Sierra Club outing, they hiked together for several days before realizing that they both had graduated from Bucknell.

— Gigi Marino

She Had “Evil Forebodings”
Emma Bucknell is a part of the Titanic exhibit.

When the Titanic grazed an iceberg 400 miles southeast of Newfoundland shortly before midnight on April 14, 1912, Emma Bucknell, the third wife of Bucknell benefactor William Bucknell, was on board. By the time the 46-ton ship sank to the floor of the northern Atlantic a few hours later, Bucknell and her maid, Albina Bazzani, sat safely aboard lifeboat 8, surviving the accident that claimed 1,500 lives.

Today, Emma Bucknell’s legacy as a Titanic survivor endures in a traveling exhibition that has been seen by 16 million people. Specifically, her name — along with her age (60), destination (Philadelphia), and a few other random facts, including that she had “evil forebodings” about the voyage — is affixed to one of the many replicas of boarding passes of actual passengers that are given to visitors as they enter “Titanic: The Artifact Exhibition.”

Perhaps Bucknell, who died in 1927, wouldn’t have cared to be remembered foremost as one of the Titanic’s 705 survivors. Given the alternative, however, one imagines she lived peaceably with the distinction.

— David Pulizzi ’94

SHORT STACK

Some age-conscious Baby Boomers may dread their 30th class reunion, so how might they feel about approaching their 90th? They can ask Ellen Peterson Williams ’19, who recently celebrated a birthday, and at 108 is Bucknell’s oldest living alumni member. Williams graduated from the School of Music on the cusp of the Jazz Age and embarked on a 42-year career as a music teacher.

Three Bucknell professors will use most of a $500,000 grant from the National Science Foundation to correct fundamental misconceptions among engineering students. Principal investigator and Professor of Chemical Engineering Michael Prince is joined by co-principal investigators Margot Vigeant, associate professor of chemical engineering, and Kathryn Nottis, associate professor of education.

The Bucknell University Conservatives Club magazine, The Counterweight, has received the “Paper of the Year Award” from the Collegiate Network for its reporting on diversity and free speech issues. Editor-in-chief Will Moyer ’08 said the magazine has worked to promote intellectual diversity. The Collegiate Network is a subsidiary of a consortium of conservative student papers.
The Personal Side of Politics
Zimbabwe crisis motivates students.

Jacquelin Kataneksza ’09 will readily tell you that she has a vested interest in Zimbabwe — its history, politics, and economy. Kataneksza, the daughter of a black South African mother and a white Polish father, has her own complicated history with her home country. When her parents first married, her mother was castigated under the white leadership. When Robert Mugabe came to power in 1980, the tables turned, and as he actively engaged in a land redistribution program in the 1990s — seizing land from whites and redistributing it to blacks — Kataneksza’s parents were caught in a double bind. Their property now is frozen, and in order to make a living, they travel to neighboring Mozambique to fish.

For the last few years, Mugabe has been declared one of the world’s top 10 worst dictators in several news sources. He has been accused of not only mishandling land reform but also causing widespread economic collapse in Zimbabwe, as well as violating human rights. Still, Kataneksza says, many people are unaware of the situation.

Last fall, she engaged the help of Brian Thiede ’08, who has worked tirelessly to raise awareness on campus about the Darfur crisis, and Margot Grant ’08, president of Pi Beta Phi, to educate their peers about Zimbabwe. Joined by Michael Moohr and Geoff Schneider, associate professors of economics, the group presented a panel discussion on Nov. 13. Speaking to an audience of 300, Moohr and Schneider gave an overview of the economic situation in Zimbabwe, which has led to an unraveling of the social fabric. “We were heartened to see so many people come out to learn about Zimbabwe,” says Kataneksza.

“The first step always is to raise awareness, while motivating people to get involved for change and justice.”

— Gigi Marino

Bucknell’s student-athlete graduation rate ranks the University 10th among all Division I institutions for students entering school in 2000–01. Its four-class average for student-athletes entering between 1997–98 and 2000–01 ranks the University fourth nationally, at 90 percent. Bucknell was one of only five Division I institutions to hit the 90-percent mark. The student-body average is 89 percent.

The University will celebrate the 150th anniversary of the 1858 arrival of its first international student, Maung Shaw Loo, the first Burmese native to study in the U.S. In March and April, Bucknell will offer events focusing on the Bucknell-Burma connection and drawing attention to the continuing struggles in today’s Myanmar and celebrate Bucknell’s international community.

Russell Reynolds Associates will lead the provost search. Members of the search committee: Chair Maria Antonaccio, religion; Nina Banks, economics; Sally Koutsoliotas, physics and astronomy; Tony Massoud, political science; Michael Prince, chemical engineering; Tom Cassidy, associate dean of the College of Arts and Sciences; Susan Hopp, dean of students; and Bill McLean ’08.
Walk this way
Professor builds a better ’bot.
By Sandy Field

You could call Keith Buffinton a “leg man.” But rest assured, his interest is purely scientific.

A professor and co-chair of mechanical engineering, Buffinton and his collaborators at Bucknell and Stanford are developing legged robots whose locomotion is more like that of humans. He says current robots, which are designed for stability, would be more useful and energy efficient if they could walk like people — negotiating difficult terrain by maneuvering over obstacles and starting and stopping quickly in response to external stimuli.

“The goal of our project,” he says, “is to model, analyze, and develop a robot that can execute truly dynamic movements such as running, jumping, and turning.”

Last June, the National Science Foundation awarded Buffinton and his collaborators — Stanford University Professor Ken Waldron and Alex Perkins ’05, a doctoral student at Stanford — funding for a project that would improve on existing bipedal robots. In November, Buffinton and Bucknell collaborator Steve Shooter, professor of mechanical engineering, received a federal research grant from the Defense Department to work with researchers from the Institute for Human and Machine Cognition (IHMC) to develop robots with potential military and law enforcement capabilities. Congressman Chris Carney worked with Bucknell to secure the funding.

“We are very excited about the prospect of working with the researchers at IHMC,” Buffinton says. “We hope this project provides a basis for ongoing collaborative work.”

Buffinton is on sabbatical in Switzerland working on a project to develop quadrupedal robots. For more information, see www.bucknell.edu/BucknellMagazine.

FACULTY PROFILE
DeeAnn Reeder

To the bat cave! DeeAnn Reeder, assistant professor of biology, has found the perfect place to study the relationship of mammalian behavior to physiology and changing environmental conditions.

Bats make excellent subjects for this type of research because they are highly adapted to respond to seasonal changes. In Pennsylvania, bats must hibernate through the winter, as the insects they eat are available only half of the year. Reeder analyzes data from transponders that measure body temperature changes of bats as they hibernate.

“We knew bats lower their body temperature while they are hibernating,” she says. “What was surprising to us is that they also warm up fairly frequently during the winter. This uses up precious energy reserves, so it must be important.”

What’s her hypothesis? “We are testing the possibility that they periodically warm up to ‘reboot’ their immune system to keep pathogens in check,” she says.

In addition to her research and teaching responsibilities at Bucknell, Reeder is an internationally recognized taxonomist and editor of the reference standard Mammal Species of the World. This summer, she will travel to Sudan to survey local bat populations, assess local attitudes towards wildlife, and bring money and resources to local orphanages.

— Sandy Field
Keith Buffinton studies human locomotion to build robots that are as agile as runners.
From Nonexistence to National Significance
The rebirth of Bucknell wrestling.

By Jillian Jakuba

Thanks to a generous gift from Bill Graham ’62, the Bucknell wrestling program has been reborn, though there have been a few growing pains for this young team. The Bison have gone from being nonexistent to being well on their way on making a stand in the national wrestling scene — proving that walking before crawling is entirely possible.

After seeing his all-first-year squad break the program record for dual-meet victories and sending three individuals to the NCAA Championships in 2006–07, head coach Dan Wirnsberger is determined to continue to challenge his talented young team, which consists of only first-years and sophomores. The 2007–08 schedule features Missouri, Michigan, and Hofstra — three teams that finished in the top 10 at the NCAA Championships last season — as well as 2007 EIWA Champion Cornell.

Despite the tough tests ahead of them, the Bison are more than up to the task considering both classes that comprise the current squad earned national rankings from Wrestling International News magazine and InterMat.

NCAA qualifiers Andy Rendos ’10 and David Marble ’10, both tabbed in the 2007–08 preseason individual rankings released by InterMat and Amateur Wrestling News, are the team’s sophomore co-captains this year, along with classmate George Hingson ’10. By the end of the fall semester, the trio had combined for a record of 39–11.

Also seeing success in his young career is 149-pound Kevin LeValley ’11, who posted a 13–5 record in the opening portion of his first-year season.

Not satisfied with resting on their laurels, the Bison have their sights on the larger goals of breaking into the team national rankings and crowning some of their own All-Americans. At their current rate of progress, their dream could easily become tomorrow’s reality.
Evan Wessler has an eclectic science résumé. After winning awards for astronomy and geology in the Science Olympiad in high school, Wessler turned to molecular questions when he majored in biology at Bucknell. It was in "Introduction to Molecules and Cells" with Associate Professor of Biology Kathleen Page that he realized his true calling.

"When Dr. Page got to the topic of cell signaling, I knew I had to be a part of it," he says. "I stayed and worked in her lab the summer after my freshman year. I was hooked."

Page’s lab studies how the environment in the womb can affect behavior in offspring throughout life. Wessler’s focus has been on how maternal diet affects obesity in the offspring of rats.

The highlight of Wessler’s undergraduate research experience was presenting his work at the International Society for Pediatric Research in Toronto last spring. Page could not attend the meeting and Wessler was chosen to give a presentation. "The meeting was mostly MDs, and they introduced me as Dr. Wessler," he says. "A colleague who was there said they had never had a sophomore give a talk at this meeting before, and they were a bit blown away," says Page.

Wessler expanded his research experience last summer as an intern at Einstein College of Medicine, where he studied signaling pathways involved in diabetes. He intends to apply to graduate schools next fall and hopes to continue learning about the cellular signals that control everything we do.

"Is it “all science, all the time” for this accomplished researcher? “I do a lot of science, but the atmosphere at Bucknell allows you to pursue other things too,” says Wessler. “I co-founded a jazz sextet at the beginning of my freshman year, we have played at the Seventh Street Café and Uptown on the Bucknell campus. It’s good to get out of the lab sometimes.”

— Sandy Field
BOOKS

Philip Roth ’54
Exit Ghost (Houghton Mifflin)
Something ironic happens to Nathan Zuckerman on the way to decrepitude. A possible cure for one of his ills, post-surgical incontinence, takes him from his monastic rural retreat to Manhattan, where he collides with the past, present and future. As 71-year-old Zuckerman rashly negotiates a bid to re-enter civilization, author and character throw themselves at themes that have variously occupied them in eight previous novels. A wily plot endowed with astonishing riffs on culture, muses, memory, imagination and, ultimately, possession — of one’s own story and one’s cellular structure — makes this a worthy addition to one of today’s most acclaimed and provocative literary résumés.

Todd Buchholz ’83
New Ideas from Dead CEOs: Lasting Lessons from the Corner Office (Collins)
Trivia question: What did ABC’s parent corporation Disney get in return for releasing commentator Al Michaels to NBC Sports a few years ago?
The answer is just one of the revealing stories Todd Buchholz mines from the lives and ambitions of Walt Disney, Sam Walton, Estée Lauder, and other late captains of modern industry. In his latest venture, Buchholz draws on his experience as bestselling author of New Idea from Dead Economists, Harvard lecturer, White House advisor, hedge fund expert, and Broadway producer to pull out eternal lessons from mere mortals who converted challenges into opportunities. (Answer: Oswald, an 80-year-old cartoon rabbit, Walt’s very first creation lost in an intellectual property battle to a ruthless producer.)

Peter Van Buskirk ’78
Winning the College Admission Game (Peterson’s)
Two guides are included in Winning the College Admission Game, “Strategies for Students” and “Strategies for Parents.” Peter Van Buskirk says it always comes down to the applicant but learning where to start, how to package strengths, decipher school agenda, and negotiate financial aid can leverage success and dilute anxiety in the admission process. Van Buskirk shares insider expertise from a career as a college admissions officer and consultant and the perspective of a parent.

David Weinberger ’72
Everything Is Miscellaneous: The Power of the New Digital Disorder (Times Books)
Forget the Dewey decimal system, drawers just for socks, or stores sectioned into neat, numbered aisles. The organizational systems found in the bricks and mortar world have been dashed to bits in the digital, that alternative universe in which, David Weinberger observes, our lives are being lived more and more each day. This is not to say that it is chaotic, unmapped or uncontrollable. Everything Is Miscellaneous provides a fascinating introduction to search engines, keywords, tags, databases, browsers, and the other tools by which information architects deliver their commodity to the world all at once, one user and one user’s idiosyncrasies at a time (see p.26 for more).

Janet Weis
Tourific (Bucknell University Press)
International tourism stirred in the decades following WWII, and Janet Weis and her late husband, Siegfried, longtime Bucknell benefactors, were at the forefront. Drawing on her proliferate diaries and local newspaper columns she wrote for several decades, Weis...
recaptures the excitement of Europe and Asia as new doors were opening with each passing year. Gary Sojka, University president emeritus, contributes the foreword.

Jessica Livingston ’03
Founders at Work: Stories of Startups’ Early Days (Apress)

The most innovative, productive period in any company’s history is never the present, the future, or the recent past. It is the start-up chapter of its life, the heady two-guys-in-a-garage phase, when adrenaline fires creative risk-taking and commitment. Jessica Livingston interviews 32 founders of technology and Internet businesses about how they did it. Her questions draw incredible stories and invaluable insights for any student of entrepreneurship. Most began the same way, creating a product for their own needs. As blog host Typepad.com’s Mena Trott wryly observes, “It’s kind of like when people have babies and they can’t remember how painful it was and they say, ‘Let’s have another baby.”’

David W. Miller ’77
God at Work: The History and Promise of the Faith at Work Movement (Oxford University Press)

Though it has antecedents that go back to the late 19th century, it is in the last 20 years that the Faith at Work (FAW) movement has been accorded wider spread attention in the business world. Yale Divinity School theologian David W. Miller, a former businessman, explains in God At Work that business culture can put demands on workers that are at odds with their personal spiritual values, distancing them from the inner support system that could lend them strength in stressful times. Miller and FAW advocates believe business schools should provide study of how the four quadrants of spirituality — ethics, experience, enrichment, evangelicalism (expression) — can be included, rather than excluded, from decision-making and personal fulfillment on the job.

Jennifer Perrine ’03
The Body Is No Machine: Poems (New Issues/Western Michigan University)

“This is how clay becomes flesh,” Jennifer Perrine begins her poem, “Pica.” Using poetry, she defines, explores, and attempts to box her way out of the human cage, the body. The interplay of the sensual and the intellectual is the core of the first collection of her work, in which human physicality yields a seemingly infinite and surprising language. Perrine holds degrees in religion, art, English, and creative writing and is on the faculty of Drake University.

FILM

Gbenga Akinnagbe ’00
The Savages (Fox Searchlight)

Gbenga Akinnagbe makes an impressive big-screen debut (not counting his appearance in an eight-minute comic short, They’re Made Out of Meat) in The Savages, starring Oscar winner Philip Seymour Hoffman and Laura Linney as an estranged brother and sister reunited to care for their aging father. Akinnagbe, who currently appears in HBO’s The Wire, plays an aide at the nursing home Hoffman and Linney choose for their father as he slips into dementia. A wrestler while at Bucknell, Akinnagbe made his stage debut in 2001 in Sophocles’ The Oedipus Plays at the Shakespeare Theatre in Washington, D.C., while holding down a day job at the Corporation for National Service, the federal agency that administers Americorps and other volunteer programs.

Mark Bussler ’98
Horses of Gettysburg (Inecom)

Equestrian statuary has been a symbol of victory and valor since Roman times. Think Julius Caesar, Napoleon, George Washington. But our admiration for the human hero astride his mount generally eclipses any thoughts we might have about the horse itself. That’s not the case for director Mark Bussler, who gives the noble steed its due in Horses of Gettysburg, his most recent documentary project. (Previous subjects have included the 1893 Chicago World’s Fair, World War I, and the Johnstown flood.) Some 72,000 horses and mules served at the battle of Gettysburg between July 1-3, 1863. They carried officers, provided a means for swift reconnaissance, pulled cannon, ambulances, and supply wagons. And like their riders, they often were killed in the line of duty — roughly 5,000 equines fell at Gettysburg.
Inside her Port-au-Prince apartment for four days in September 1991, Erica Johnson-Meadows ’85 dared not leave. Haitian president Jean-Bertrand Aristide had been overthrown in a coup d’état, and the streets exploded with violence. Rebels set roadblocks afire. Gun-toting men rode through the city in the back of pickup trucks, shooting people in the streets. After spending more than a year as a health-care worker in one of the poorest areas of the city, Johnson-Meadows had become accustomed to the poverty and desperation. But this was anarchy. “You felt like you were watching the world fall apart before your eyes,” she says.

BY THERESA GAWLAS MEDOFF ’85 ★ PHOTO ILLUSTRATIONS BY DARREN BRAUN
Johnson-Meadows remained in Haiti for several more years, continuing to work in health care and later as a member of the U.N. Human Rights Mission. In 1996, she moved with the U.N. to the Balkans, another site of disarray and upheaval. “In many ways, the problems that followed the years of political unrest stemmed from leadership that went wrong,” she says. “In the Balkans, it was a complex scenario, with Franjo Tudjman, Alija Izetbegovic, and Slobodan Milosevic all in power. All of them were powerful leaders, but they were more interested in holding onto their power than in working on any kind of power sharing. Bosnia is still coming out of that dark post-war period.”

By way of contrast, as a U.N. electoral observer Johnson-Meadows notes how the “charismatic, tolerant, and inspiring” leadership of Nelson Mandela averted the widely expected chaos in South Africa’s first post-apartheid elections. Her experience there and with other high-ranking U.N. officials convinced her that effective leadership styles, while varying widely, can often mean the difference between order and chaos.

“I have worked with quiet, unassuming diplomatic types and with others who have been more the John Wayne, cigar-smoking, bombastic ‘take-no-prisoners’ types,” she says, “but each seemed to fit the mission and knew what he or she needed to do to get the U.N. mandate accomplished.”

Clearly, leadership matters today as much as it ever did. Human misery can be alleviated through leadership or exacerbated by its failure. Hurricane Katrina may well go down in history as much for the spectacularly bungled response to the disaster as for the power of the storm itself.

This past September, as the nation prepared for the 2008 presidential election season, during which the leadership potential of the candidates will be scrutinized endlessly, the University kicked off a 16-month national speaker series, “The Bucknell Forum: The Citizen & Politics in America.” Inaugurated with a talk by NBC’s Tim Russert, the series is bringing prominent speakers to campus to address vital topics such as leadership, citizens’ responsibilities, and the direction of our country.

For its part, Bucknell Magazine asked 10 distinguished Bucknellians — each a leader in his or her own right — to define leadership and articulate its most important qualities. Among the commentators are two Bucknell faculty members, a newspaper editor, a former U.S. ambassador-at-large, several public servants, and an associate justice of the New Hampshire Supreme Court.

Professor of Management William Gruver asserts that leadership is not an exact science. Despite at least a century of study by psychologists, sociologists, historians, and political scientists, the only generally agreed-upon definition is this: Leadership is a relationship between an individual and other individuals — leader and followers — in which that individual somehow causes those other individuals to take action they otherwise would not have taken.

Colby Cooper ’99, who has had a bird’s-eye view of national and world leaders during a career in the Office of the National Security Advisor, the White House, and the State Department, puts it even more succinctly: “To paraphrase President Eisenhower: Leadership is the art of getting people to do what you want done because they want to do it.”

Gruver encourages the students enrolled in his course “Leadership: The Theory, History, and Practice” to arrive at their own definitions of leadership by studying historical leaders such as Cleopatra, Mohandas Gandhi, and Winston Churchill, as well as current leaders from fields as diverse as business, medicine, and religion. The leadership course is intended not only to help students model their own lives and careers but also to help them decide whom to follow, for we are all “followers” in some areas of our lives.

Gruver has studied leadership close up in his own roles — as an academic, a professional, and a public servant. He was a Navy lieutenant during the Vietnam War, a general partner at Goldman Sachs, and a three-term mayor of Eagles Mere, Pa. He argues that a leader’s effectiveness arises from political skill (that is, interpersonal and intra-organizational skills), expertise in the field, the ability to engender trust, and a good fit between leader and position. The last, he argues, is a matter of luck and self-awareness: The same Jimmy Carter who failed to inspire the country as president has since emerged as a powerful human rights leader.

Leadership characteristics manifest in limitless ways. For example, Mohandas Gandhi gained influence primarily because he engendered trust, while another leader might find success because he had world-class knowledge in his field and just enough political skill to effect change.

Other Bucknellians generally agree with Gruver. They further refine the concept by enumerating some essential personality traits of a leader. For example, Joseph “J.D.” Smith ’67, who has designed and taught leadership programs for the Navy, emphasizes that a leader must have vision and the ability to carry out that vision.

John “Jack” Troast Jr. ’79, who has experience in private industry and has served in high-level government positions in

Theresa Gawlas Medoff ’85 is a freelance writer in Wilmington, Del., and a frequent contributor to Bucknell Magazine.
two states, believes that a leader needs to be creative, entre-
preneurial, and courageous enough to take on controversial
issues and challenge the status quo.

**John Miller ’59,** former U.S. Ambassador-at-Large on Mod-
ern Day Slavery, says leaders are “those who gather informa-
tion, listen to people, have a goal of where they want to go, and
move people toward that goal. In the public sphere, that goal
would be something important that would help people. In the
private sphere, it could be helping employees or shareholders.”

**Linda Green ’70,** executive editor of two daily newspapers
in California’s San Joaquin Valley, agrees that leaders are
defined in part by their desire “to make change for the good
of society.”

Like Miller and Green, Americans generally tend to assume
that leaders work for the good of others. But Gruver would
argue that morality does not enter into the equation. Josef
Stalin was inarguably a brutal man, he points out, but under
his leadership, the Soviet Union was transformed from a Third
World feudal society into a superpower.

Perceptions of good leadership are rooted in social values,
says Andrea Stevenson Sanjian, associate professor and chair
of the political science department. What determines good
leadership, she says, may be a function of a society’s values
and culture. “What makes a good leader during war time may
not work during peace time,” she says. “A Stalin might be a
completely acceptable leader under some circumstances, as
Putin is today. Or look at Charles DeGaulle, who was a great leader and led France through two crises. But while you could call his leadership ‘democratic,’ it’s probably not attractive to Americans.”

During his career in Washington, Cooper has observed the gamut of leadership styles and notes that despite differences among leaders, they share similar qualities of patriotism and a passionate concern for their people.

“One of the most difficult things I’ve seen leaders do is to ask others to make a sacrifice,” Cooper says. A leader, particularly at the upper echelons, must be tireless, both physically and emotionally, because he or she is “on” 24 hours a day, he adds. “Every word you say, every action you take, can have an effect on your work in multiple spectrums.”

Perhaps a leader’s most challenging task is leading other leaders. Cooper witnessed Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice at work in the February 2007 U.S.-led talks between the Israelis and the Palestinians. “It’s an incredible balancing act. The U.S. is there to help guide them, to offer a shoulder to lean on, but not to impose our will.”

When he was Deputy Director of the Department of Business and Technology for the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, Troast had the unenviable task of getting the public and private sectors to work together on divisive issues such as regulation. He sought to convince business leaders that environmental sustainability would pay economic dividends and to make both sides realize they would achieve a better outcome if they worked together.

Leaders also must have the passion and commitment to persist until they succeed, editor Green adds. Whether he or she is working with other leaders or leading the masses, a sense of humor and an ability to demonstrate lightheartedness at appropriate times helps to make a leader likeable and to engender trust.

“A dash of humility doesn’t hurt either,” says Gary E. Hicks ’75, associate justice of the New Hampshire Supreme Court. “If you don’t have that, your term of leadership certainly will be truncated. I don’t think you’re born with the self-confidence to lead. Most leaders continue to be self-doubters, because there’s always more to do and you can’t do it all.”

Ambassador Miller knows firsthand how international problems such as the fight against modern-day slavery require the leadership and cooperation of governments, nongovernmental organizations, businesses, communities, and individuals.

“I saw my mission as nurturing a 21st-century abolitionist movement, with the U.S. in the lead,” says Miller, who now teaches at George Washington University. “To have a movement, you need to have a lot of different people and a lot of leaders.”

Those leaders come from all walks of life, and sometimes they show up in unexpected places. They don’t always hold formal leadership positions, yet they are able to convince others to follow them in pursuit of a higher purpose.

“People tend to think of leaders as those who are in the news — the bigwigs of business and politics,” Troast says, “but good leaders are found all over the place: a nurse in the operating room, church leaders, those in local government or community organizations.”

Gruver, in fact, believes that more leaders can be found working outside government than in it. “Many politicians
today are followers, not leaders,” he says. They act based on opinion polls, reward supporters with pork barrel projects, and fail to take stands on controversial issues. There is a difference, he points out, between being a leader and holding a leadership position.

“In certain areas and at certain levels, leadership might be sputtering,” Justice Hicks admits. “But if you look at communities and industries across America, you’ll see that leadership is very much alive and very much appreciated.”

Green points to a pastor in Visalia, Calif., who led a campaign against youth gangs by persuading a group of his parishioners to focus on one neighborhood around a particular elementary school. They worked in the school, painted over graffiti in the neighborhood, and got to know families in the area.

“Soon the group was larger; then other church groups began helping. Now he’s organizing groups on a city level and setting up citywide forums to seek solutions to problems,” Green says. “It is pie-in-the-sky stuff, but it is working because he can communicate his vision and persuade people to act.”

She notes that community activists and local political leaders tend to be more impressive in terms of what they can accomplish than national leaders. She hastens to add that it does not necessarily mean they are better leaders, just that it is easier to be more effective more quickly when operating on a smaller scale and with a more homogenous constituency.

“If you look at other countries, they may not have much in the way of resources, but the leaders are able to do more because the problems they face are more specific,” Green says. “Political leaders on a national scale have to appeal to a lot of people to get elected. If they are too passionate, or not passionate enough, they alienate voters,” she says.

Smith, who served for 12 years on the Pensacola (Fla.) City Council, was advised to “stay local” by a former city councilman who became disillusioned with politics when he made the leap to state-level government. “He told me the higher up you get, the less direct impact you have and the more you are handled by other people,” Smith recalls.

And although he decries a dearth of impressive national leadership, Gruver admits that politicians who are courageous enough to take a stand often lose their leadership positions.

W hile the qualities a person needs to lead the country have not changed significantly over the years, the way America elects national leaders has. Gone are the days when someone like Miller could get elected to Congress by campaigning at neighborhood coffee shops. Miller recalls participating in 13 debates when he first sought office in 1984, a number he said was already too much. Now presidential candidates seem to be enrolled in a debate-of-the-week club. The debates sponsored by special-interest groups are of dubious value to voters, Miller says.

Green speculates that campaigning for the next presidential election began earlier than ever as a result of the jostling among states to increase their influence by holding earlier primaries. The longer season, in turn, has fueled already exorbitant campaign expenses. Candidates must spend more time fundraising, and their reliance on campaign donations increases the possibility that a wealthy few will have undue influence over policy.

Smith laments the influence that Madison Avenue advertising and “dirty” campaigns now have on elections. “The change in technology and the way campaigns are run has changed for the worse how we elect a leader. We’re focusing on hair and on images created by handlers instead of on real issues,” he says.

The influence of new technologies became apparent in 2004 when Howard Dean effectively used the Internet to raise funds. This go-round, YouTube can catch candidates’ unguarded moments and broadcast them to the masses, a development that both allows the public to know candidates as never before and encourages voters to focus on minutiae. With little or no vetting of their sources or accuracy, blogs likewise have the power to enhance or to obscure the public debate.

“Many politicians today are followers, not leaders. They act based on opinion polls, reward supporters with pork barrel projects, and fail to take stands on controversial issues. There is a difference between being a leader and holding a leadership position.”

“Political leaders on a national scale have to appeal to a lot of people to get elected. If they are too passionate, or not passionate enough, they alienate voters,” she says.

At times, it can seem like the odds are stacked against voters being able to make wise, informed decisions about whom to elect. It is for that very reason that they need to be able to look behind the hype and the adroitly created images to discover what type of leader a candidate would make.

Rather than base a decision on one or two issues, Toast says, voters need to take a hard look at a candidate’s track record as a leader in order to judge whether this is an effective, decisive person and to ask whether or not they trust the person.

“Leadership, Gruver admits that politicians who are courageous enough to take a stand often lose their leadership positions.

And, Smith adds, “We need to ask not only ‘Are you a good leader,’ but also, ‘Where will you lead us?’”
We’ve all played that game: whom would you like to meet — Plato? Einstein? Buddha? As for me, I’ve always answered Yeats.

At Bucknell last October, with no more of a time machine than an old Chevy cruising down Route 15, I almost got my wish. Instead of Yeats, I met the living poet perhaps most fit to take his measure: this year’s Janet Weis Fellow in Contemporary Letters, Nobel laureate Derek Walcott. Poet, dramatist, painter, essayist, and critic, Derek Walcott embodies my vision of that Irish colossus: omnivorous, relentless, lyrical, and visionary, singing in an unmistakably distinct voice. Yet, while Walcott remains himself, he stakes a Yeatsian claim to “be accounted one” with the forebears from whom his originality emerges. Some of these inhabit his native St. Lucia, a Caribbean island that has taken, through the lens of Walcott’s epic vision, imaginative dimensions far exceeding geography. Starting from this small place, Walcott has immersed himself in the Western tradition, while always remaining separate, a “fortunate traveler,” as the title of one of his books has it.

Behind this “fortunate traveling” is an idea that recurs often in his essays and interviews: “reverence.” Walcott doesn’t mean the piety of pulpit or lectern, but a deeper connection, a resonance, an attunement to the wave and fiber of being. When considering the increasing homogeneity of the modern world, Walcott reves the local. “If [the traveler] returns to what he loved in a landscape and stays there,” Walcott says, “he is no longer a traveler but in stasis and concentration, the lover of that particular part of earth, a native.” Walcott’s reverence is a way of keeping everything present, including all our diverse travels and histories. “Tribes,” says Walcott, “inhabit the present tense. Lakota singers and Dante both speak to us in the present.”

At 77, Derek Walcott is gracious and at ease; he has the air and physique of a man in his prime, a man who marks time to a longer set of rhythms than most. Following daylong events at Bucknell, including a private meeting with students, a reception in his honor with the Weis family, faculty, and others, Walcott delivered a lecture at the Weis Center that invited everyone into his immediate present.

Walcott’s present extends to far-off friends and fellow laureates, such as “Seamus” (Heaney) and “Joseph” (Brodsky), and includes Dante, Homer, and, yes, Yeats. They all seem to orbit, not so far off, in Walcott’s all-embracing locality. In this generous present, Walcott has composed epics such as Omeros, which sings the Caribbean, awakening the sea lover in all of us, and his more recent Tiepolo’s Hound, a book-length meditation generated from one glimpse of “a slash of pink on the inner thigh/ Of a white hound ...” His genius: the ability to make various pasts cohere in a self-renewing instant.

Walcott is not out of touch with the more strictly immediate. Asked about his views on Iraq, he recalled Shelley, that “poets are the unacknowledged legislators of the world.” He seethed with dignified vitriol: “I’m not used to seeing Americans as villains.” However broad Walcott’s vistas, his sight zeroes in on the here and now.

“A single, circling, homeless satellite,” Walcott calls himself. For the last half century, he has been remaking our ideas of home and travel. What a pleasure to share one day of his ongoing present tense.

Poet and memoirist, Philip Brady ’77 is a professor at Youngstown State University, where he directs the Poetry Center and Etruscan Press. His next book is an essay collection, By Heart: Reflections of a Rust-Belt Bard (University of Tennessee, 2008).

Present TENSE

Nobel laureate Derek Walcott talks about literary tradition, the importance of tribal society, and war.

BY PHILIP BRADY ’77
Half my friends are dead.  
I will make you new ones, said earth.  
No, give me them back, as they were, instead,  
with faults and all, I cried.

Tonight I can match their talk  
from the faint surf’s drone  
through the canes, but I cannot walk  
on the moonlit leaves of ocean  
down that white road alone,  
or float with the dreaming motion  
of owls leaving earth’s load.  
O earth, the number of friends you keep  
exceeds those left to be loved.

The sea canes by the cliff flash green and silver;  
they were the seraph lances of my faith,  
but out of what is lost grows something stronger  
that has the rational radiance of stone,  
enduring moonlight, further than despair,  
strong as the wind, that through the dividing canes  
brings those we love before us, as they were,  
with faults and all, not nobler, just there.

The Trashing of the Landline

Connected by the invisible lines of the rattling BlackBerry and the warbling ringtone, the rest of the world stands seconds away — if only you know where to look.

As technology hastens the rate and widens the scope of communications, people are more interconnected than ever, and without being tethered to a phone jack. Nowhere is the demise of the landline phone as pronounced as in the residence halls of a college campus.

At Bucknell, fewer than 30 percent of students have their campus landline’s voicemail set up, and that number is dropping every year. Ten years ago, about 90 percent of students were using a room phone. The Telephone Office discovered that so few students use its services, it had to consider whether to install the same vendor upgrade on student voicemail as it did for faculty and staff.

“Even if all landline calls were free, they’d still be second to the convenience of carrying a cell phone with you all the time,” says Dan Malick, the technical operations group leader who oversees the Telephone Office.

ANDREW LARSON ’08
Ian Hartshorn ’07, who had a landline phone plugged into his dorm room all four years, is among the last of his kind. He learned early in his sophomore year that the landline phone remains a highly reliable form of communication. He was at Bucknell’s Cowan Conference Center when Hurricane Ivan pummeled Lewisburg and caused the Susquehanna River to overflow its banks. He received a frantic call on his cell. “The cell phone service was intermittent, so I was only hearing the words, ‘house,’ ‘police,’ ‘evacuate,’” Hartshorn says.

Concerned about the phantom phone call, Hartshorn called Public Safety on Cowan’s landline phone. The reception was crisp and clear, and the dispatcher told him that his dorm, Edwards House, was on the verge of flooding. He arrived back on campus just in time to evacuate his room. “I was appreciative of the landline that day,” he says.

Increasingly, a cell phone number or an Internet handle tends to be more valuable than a landline phone number. Michelle Laxer ’09, news editor of The Bucknellian, gave up calling her reporters in their rooms when she realized none of them had a phone set up. Since then, she’s obtained most of their cell phone numbers, which she uses whenever she needs a quick answer to a question. Still, she admits a phone call can seem “confrontational.” That’s why her staff is more likely to contact her by email or text message than by phone, she says. “It seems like, even among my friends, if I can text them or instant message them, I’d rather do that than call them.”

Even though today’s persistent technology makes it hard to evade contact for long, text messages and email allow recipients the luxury of time to respond. “It’s almost like you can hide behind emails and instant messages and texts,” Laxer says. As for the cell phone, “It’s as face to face as you can get,” she says. “You actually have to deal with the person.”

But cloaked behind an email address or a screen name, people gain confidence that allows them to voice thoughts more freely, with both good and bad results.

“People can say things they wouldn’t have said up close,” says David Weinberger ’72, a fellow at the Harvard Berkman Center for Internet and Society and author of Everything Is Miscellaneous. “They can broach feelings in ways they normally wouldn’t be able to and can connect with people they might otherwise be intimidated by.”

Weinberger believes that new avenues of communication foster heightened levels of sociability, helping people maintain relationships, ranging from family to high school classmates to coworkers. “Can you have as deep a conversation through text as in person?” he asks. “Maybe. But long, deep conversations are not the only way that we maintain friendships.”

As people cut the cord to their landline, there’s irony in the fact that new methods aren’t always a boon. Email addresses and cell phone numbers can be difficult to procure since they aren’t listed in any conventional phonebook. Bucknell is addressing that problem by offering students the option of submitting their cell phone number to the online directory, in addition to their room phone number, which is automatically included.

Bucknell recently instituted a system to notify the campus of an emergency via cell phone. The University is capable of sending out a mass text message to the 65 percent of students who’ve submitted their cell phone numbers. Previously, the University would send an alert to every voicemail on campus. But in this transient world, Bucknell knows the limitations of a warning that would reach only people sitting at a desk, next to a landline phone, with an activated voicemail.

Outside Bucknell, so many people are scrapping their landline phones that it’s starting to affect phone surveys. According to U.S. government data, 13 percent of households can’t be reached through a typical telephone survey because they don’t have a landline phone installed. The loss of landline phones “may very well be damaging estimates for certain subgroups in which the use of only a cell phone is more common,” worries a recent alert from the Pew Research Center.

With landline phone usage at an all-time low, even students who have one in their room concede that its purpose is provisional, if not merely decorative. “Sometimes my room phone rings, and I don’t answer it,” Laxer says.

But the vanishing landline phone isn’t an objet d’art just yet. In the workplace, employees still prefer to confine work-related conversations to the landline, saving their cell phones for personal use. Also, the Career Development Center urges students applying for jobs to provide a landline phone number to employers because cell phone transmission can be finicky.

Further, Bucknell’s landline phones are usually cheaper for international calls because the school receives a special discount from the phone company. Plus, the landline phone is useful for students and employees who make many on-campus calls,
which are free from a landline on campus, and fast — they only require the prefix 7 plus the person’s four-digit extension.

Whether most of a person’s conversation takes place over a landline or a cell, over email or instant message, the fact that so many means of communication exist reflects a healthy state of human interaction, Weinberger says. That’s why he supports the development of emerging forms of communication like blogs and Web sites that solicit user comments: More ways of “talking” promote the exchange of ideas.

While spoken words are ephemeral, lasting only in the minds of the speaker and those at whom they’re directed, Internet communication can reach a much larger audience and is immortalized in the hard drives of computers and search engines.

At the same time that improved communication helps people keep in touch and share ideas, it has the potential to spread insidious misinformation and crass bigotry, while opening up a myriad of privacy concerns. On the Internet and in person, some conversations are necessarily more advanced than others, but perhaps it’s always better to have more access to each other — and to information — than we need.

“If you got on the roofs of all the bars and restaurants and heard what people were saying, you’d be appalled,” Weinberger says. “You’d also be amazed and enlightened. It depends what roofs you’re on.”
My Snowy Valentine

The Valentine’s Day Blizzard of 2007 dumped two feet of snow on cities along the East Coast and closed thousands of schools, including Bucknell — a rare occurrence here. But Bucknellians are intrepid, and this one hearty soul wasn’t going to allow a blizzard to get in his way on Valentine’s Day.

*Photography by Terry Wild*

Winter photographs are some of the rarest we have at Bucknell. If you would like a reprint of this photo or the photo on the back cover, please email bmagazine@bucknell.edu.
As I crossed the Mississippi River in May 2003, my father’s words echoed in my ears: “You’re not going to leave your job for THAT — are you?” It was a reasonable question. Who would give up a comfortable apartment, a stable position with a global management consulting firm, and the benefits of D.C. city life to join Howard Dean’s presidential campaign in Iowa?

I had never worked on a campaign. I had never been to Iowa. I had never lived in a motel or received driving directions that included 10 miles of unpaved roads. I didn’t know that a farmer’s tan actually includes a hat line. I didn’t know about hog lots, detasseling corn, fried Twinkies, or that eerie orange glow that precedes a tornado.

Despite concerns about my sanity, I was thrilled. Politics was my passion. During my teenage years, when my friends’ walls showcased Michael Jackson or Michael Jordan, mine displayed Michael Dukakis. I was confident when I got into my car, but somewhere along Route 80, an uneasy feeling surfaced. What was I getting myself into? Was Dad right?

I did know a few things about campaign staffers. They worked relentlessly for little pay; their standard attire included jeans, sandals, and the occasional alarmingly large tattoo; and, from what I read, most fell into two broad categories that sometimes overlapped — the professionals (derisively called “hacks”) and the true believers. Perhaps because Dean was then an asterisk in the polls, our team was solidly the latter.

For the next nine months after arriving in Des Moines, I led a diverse group of motivated, dynamic activists and grew emotional addressing issues facing our country. I had days when my dad’s words played over in my head — and others when I was overwhelmed by my good fortune. Most importantly, I began to genuinely believe in something — that, together, we can make a difference. It was exciting, and it was exhausting. It was my field of dreams.

Then, in the cold winter of early 2004, it was suddenly over. The day after the campaign ended, I awoke at 5:36 a.m. and tried to remember the last time I was alert at that hour without something to do or somewhere to be. It was the first morning in nearly a year that required nothing of me — no morning conference calls, no urgency, no tractor pulls, parades, or pork sandwiches with locals in one-restaurant towns … nothing.

I disassembled our office, packed my car to capacity, and called my parents to let them know I was on the road. Throughout my time driving through Iowa’s farmland, small towns emerged and faded in the rearview mirror, but the experience had left an enduring impression. I remain inspired by the notion that a small number of dedicated people can change the course of history, and I fulfilled a dream by working on Howard Dean’s presidential campaign. So, yes, I left my job for THAT. And, as my dad now says, I’ll always be glad I did.

“I didn’t know about hog lots, detasseling corn, fried Twinkies, or that eerie orange glow that precedes a tornado.”

Katie Malague ’94 observes this year’s presidential campaign on C-SPAN from the comfort of her home in Washington, D.C. She works at the Partnership for Public Service, where she focuses on government reform issues and the upcoming presidential transition. Her email address is katie_malague@hotmail.com.
That’s how Rick Peters ’76 describes his 30th Class Reunion. He and his wife, Kim, were struck by the enthusiasm and intelligence of the students they met at Reunion, where they also attended a faculty presentation by Rick’s college mentor, Doug Candland, professor emeritus of psychology.

“It dawned on me that the opportunities I was afforded as an undergraduate were directly proportionate to the previous contributions of others,” Rick says.

In planning their bequest for Bucknell, the couple decided to establish a named scholarship for a student with financial need. Kim and Rick’s annual gifts will activate the scholarship during their lifetime, allowing them to enjoy giving today’s talented students the gift of a Bucknell education.

Rick, who is Annual Fund co-gift chair for his class, also is establishing a chapter of the Bucknell Alumni Club in Richmond, Va., where they live.

“If we want Bucknell to not only remain excellent, but also to strive for the extraordinary, it will take the active participation and donation of resources by alumni, friends, and corporations — not only in terms of money, but also through our collective willingness to donate time and effort to the University and its programs.”