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Bucknellians
Building Democracies
Around the world, Bucknellians working in the State Department represent the best the United States has to offer.
By Theresa Gawlas Medoff ’85, P’13
President’s Message

A Worthy Quality

Diversity has become both provocative and vital in higher education. The inclusiveness and openness it invokes are not only essential to broad-based learning, but have long been core values of the United States, where immigrants established a society ultimately organized around the principle that the opportunities of a free society should be available to everyone. At this University, I am proud to say, diversity is not only one of the top five goals of The Plan for Bucknell, but a goal we have pursued with conviction.

Bucknellians know that we enrolled our first international student only 12 years after our founding in 1846. We enrolled women long before far older peers such as Harvard – as Professor Russell Dennis points out in the Bucknell history course being filmed this year, as discussed in this magazine. Today, we enroll students from across America and the world, of every ideological, religious, ethnic, and personal persuasion.

But it is still not always a given that diversity is intrinsic to a strong university life. As I prepare to conclude my tenure as president this June, and having served in a leadership capacity in private higher education for more than 20 years, I have encountered nearly every conceivable view of the mission of higher education. One flashpoint remains the term “diversity.” It is perceived by some not as a commitment to inclusiveness, but as a euphemism for Affirmative Action or political correctness and thus can invoke the same tensions those terms do.

Enrolling academically qualified students regardless of background, however, is more than a legal and moral imperative; as alumni constantly remind me, it is essential to providing a first-class education. Higher education prepares students not only by how it educates, but also by whom it brings together. Our duty and success in fact are intimately connected, for learning never occurs in isolation.

Bucknell has made much progress. In the last few years, we have become a national leader in private higher education in enrolling Posse Scholars, who are outstanding students from urban areas, as well as in enrolling the best community college transfer scholars. Instead of enrolling students from 30 or 40 countries, as we did only a few years ago, we now enroll students from more than 60. Our faculty diversity has grown too. Meanwhile, in building bridges with the local community and alumni and parent communities worldwide, Bucknell has opened new exchanges of ideas. And through the Bucknell Forum and other campus events, we have increased the range of voices heard on campus about challenging contemporary issues.

This magazine’s focus on the impact that Bucknellians have on the world as diplomats is a potent reminder of how important diversity is. It arises naturally in a global society. Such openness has long been a distinguishing feature of Bucknell’s history, and remains a quality worthy of a higher education lead —Brian C. Mitchell, President
BISON KEEPERS
I read, with interest, the back page of the winter 2010 issue that featured the B-Link contest asking for the name of Bucky Bison’s employer. It brought to mind that Bucknell University actually had a Bison mascot around 1947, and Tony Hoying ’48 and I were his keepers. (If the bison had been female, her name would have been Nellie.)

We received this bison, Bucky, from Shirley Shumberger Beiseigel’s ’49 father who ran a buffalo farm in the Allentown area and had a young buffalo that had been abandoned by its mother. At the time, my wife, Gladys, and I lived on a 400-acre farm in Montandon, owned by Abe and Meida Fairchild, whose two daughters, Mary Jane ’48 [Daugenbaugh] and Dotty ’50 [Wolford], also attended Bucknell. Abe granted me permission to run this bison with his cow herd.

We replaced the rear seat of my Mercury convertible with straw and would take Bucky to home football games. Bucky hated people, especially me, so we got him to chase me into the convertible, closed the doors behind him and dropped the top of the convertible.

Half-time entertainment included Bucky chasing me around the quarter-mile track, possibly setting records. He died the next spring of unknown causes.

Bill Watkinson Jr. ’45 Flemington, N.J.

OLDEST LIVING ALUM
As a faculty member and alumnus, I have recently communicated with Dave Humphreys ’96, who works in the U.S. Embassy in Bangkok and was featured in an article about soldier-scholars last year [spring 2009]. This correspondence reconnected me with Dave’s father, Dave Humphreys ’66, a fraternity brother of mine when I was a student. David’ ’66 tells me that David’ ’96 is the 34th member of his family to graduate from Bucknell, and many of these graduates have Ph.Ds, MDs or other advanced degrees.

Paul must be one of Bucknell’s oldest living alumni, if not the oldest.


Ed. Note: After an exhaustive search, our records office reports that Paul Humphreys is indeed the oldest living alumnus that we are able to confirm. To read more about him being inducted into Phi Beta Kappa the year he turned 100, go to www.bucknell.edu/x17830.xml.

MORE ON MOOSE
I’d like to follow up on the letter about Moose McCormick 1904 in the winter issue. In a recently published book, The First Fall Classic: The Red Sox, the Giants and the Cast of Players, Pugs and Politicos Who Re-Invented the World Series in 1912 by Mike Vaccaro, Moose is given his just due as pinch hitter during that series.

Jim LaBraico ’54 Boston, Mass.

AN ERROR OF THEATRICAL PROPORTIONS
I was surprised and delighted to see myself getting credited in the full-page photo on page 34 of the winter issue. I’d never seen that photo of the preparation for our performance of The Mikado and have added it to my collection of Mikado performance photos.

Unfortunately, the photo was mis-characterized. First, the performance was in 1959, not in 1973. Second, it was not a Cap and Dagger production, but was rather a Delta Upsilon “Demie Play,” performed by an all-male cast of fraternity brothers. And finally, the performance was in the Lewisburg High School auditorium, as the Coleman Hall theatre had not yet been built.

It was good to be reminded of that long-ago happy experience — to this day, The Mikado remains my favorite Gilbert and Sullivan work.

Herb Bohler ’58 Flemington, N.J.

Ed. Note: Bucknell Magazine stands corrected. In addition to Herb Bohler, we also heard from Robert Harder ’59, who identified Fred Bioren ’59 on the left and Don Shields ’59 in the middle; Bob Buys ’59, who appeared in the Demie Play as Yum Yum, the third maid; and Ann Sturgeon Lentz ’60, who remembers the play being held on an uncomfortably warm day in spring 1959. The error occurred when we went to University Archives to research the unidentified photo and found a playbook from a performance of The Mikado done by Cap and Dagger in 1973, thus the source of the misinformation. Our University Archivist is grateful to all who contacted us with the correct information.
Looking Up to Knowledge
Bucknell history course captured for posterity.

By Sam Alcorn

From its founding as the University of Lewisburg in 1846, when a group of Baptists deemed it “desirable that a literary institution should be established in Central Pennsylvania,” to its becoming one of the nation’s top liberal arts institutions, Bucknell University has experienced many changes, all while remaining true to its beginnings as an academic “beacon.”

“Remember, it was almost the frontier,” Russell Dennis ’64, assistant professor of education, says of Lewisburg in the mid-19th century, when Stephen Taylor, a Bucknell founder, first spied the hill upon which the University would be built.

“From Philadelphia, you came in by canal — four miles per hour — to Montandon,” Dennis says. “Then it was a crosscut across the Susquehanna to Lewisburg. When you looked up, you saw Old Main sitting on the highest piece of real estate in Lewisburg. It was a very symbolic placement of the University. It was the intellectual city on the hill. You were looking up to knowledge.”

Bucknell’s history, culture and traditions, which have guided the University through the years, are captured this semester in Dennis’ Capstone course, “Bucknell of Yesteryear and Today.” This is the seventh and final time Dennis, resident Bucknell historian, will teach the course. He will retire at the end of this academic year.

To preserve and share Dennis’ knowledge of Bucknell’s history, each session of the class is being videotaped and posted online along with dozens of documents and other materials Dennis has assembled for the course. This is the first time Bucknell has provided a course online in its entirety.

The course is divided into four time periods: University at Lewisburg from 1846 to 1886; growth and transformation from 1887 to 1929; the Great Depression,
World War II and its aftermath, 1930 to 1949; and Bucknell in the second half of the 20th century, 1950 to 2000.

“In some ways, it is quite typical of a denominational liberal arts college,” Dennis says of the University’s 164-year history. “However, in other ways it is quite different.”

For example, Bucknell was far ahead of its peers in admitting women, becoming co-educational nearly a century before other universities such as Brown, Dartmouth and Harvard. “Bucknell first admitted females as first-years in 1883, but had the Female Institute from its beginning,” Dennis says.

Dennis uses architecture, campus walks and digital archives to give the class first-hand meaning. Students are asked to reflect on how the architecture and physical nature of the campus at different times influenced the form and meaning of a Bucknell education.

He points to the first two buildings on campus, now called Taylor and Roberts Halls, and notes that they were built in an imposing classical Greek style. Both were designed by Thomas Ustick Walter, who was responsible for adding the Senate and House wings and the central dome to the U.S. Capitol building.

In contrast, the Female Institute was built downhill in an Italianate style, reflecting in part the charge of the institute at the time to be a sort of finishing school for women. Nonetheless, men and women did share classes in the University’s earliest days, Dennis notes, although the men and women sat on opposite sides of the room.

Throughout the semester, Dennis asked class participants to “reflect on how their Bucknell education is similar to as well as different from the intent and meaning of a Bucknell education in the past,” he says.

Witness to a Half Century of Change

Bucknell alumnus and history professor glances backward.

By Russell Dennis ’64

When I arrived on the campus as a freshman with a dink on my head and a hand-lettered sign around my neck, compulsory chapel attendance had just ceased to be a graduation requirement; all physically fit males had to take the two-year basic ROTC course for which a grade was given; all students were required to take two years of physical education for which a grade was given that along with that for ROTC was included in the cumulative GPA; and all students had to pass a swimming test in order to graduate.

Males lived “on the hill” in the male dormitories, while females lived “down hill” in the female dormitories or in the houses along St. George, Sixth, Taylor and Walker Streets. Freshman males had their own cafeteria in their own recently constructed dormitory. Most women were served family-style meals by student servers in the Women’s Dining Hall where they had to appear in “proper dress,” while upperclass men and a few selected females went through the line at the University Cafeteria and ate at long tables, which probably were the same ones used by the V-12 cadets in the early 1940s. Women had “hours,” while men did not. People actually went out on dates, and when men picked up their dates in the women’s dormitories, a student receptionist would call the hall phone on the date’s floor to inform the girl that the guy was waiting in the lounge. There was only one phone on each floor, which made communication between the sexes difficult at times and which is why many students actually exchanged hand written notes and letters.

Most students smoked cigarettes, and many faculty members smoked either cigarettes or pipes. There were ashtrays in offices and on the tables in seminar rooms, and in the halls were large concrete receptacles partially filled with sand for collecting cigarette butts. Some faculty members even smoked when lecturing in the classroom. Bells rang in the halls and classrooms on the hour to announce the beginning of classes and 52 minutes later to announce the ending. Classes were held six days a week, but not on Saturday afternoons.

While I was a student, the history department changed some of the requirements for the major, adding a course in historiography. Since I had met the requirements for the major that had been in effect when I entered the University, I complained to the chair that this was not fair. He told me that it was. I made an appointment with the dean. I recall his response clearly. He reached for his copy of the catalogue, opened it quickly, and pointed to a well-worn passage, which stated something like, “The catalogue is not a contract between the University and the student.” I took the course.

As I look back on a nearly 50-year history with my alma mater, I realize that though social mores have changed with the times, the heart of the University beats just as strong in this century as it has in the past.

To access Professor Dennis’ course online, go to www.bucknell.edu/858158.xml.
New President Announced
John Bravman named 17th president of Bucknell University.

By Molly O’Brien-Foelsch M’08

John C. Bravman, a distinguished professor and academic leader at Stanford University, has been named the 17th president of Bucknell University by unanimous vote of the Board of Trustees. Bravman will begin his duties as president July 1, 2010. He will succeed Brian C. Mitchell, who last year announced his intention to step down from the presidency after six years in the role.

“John Bravman is a highly accomplished teacher, scholar and university administrator,” says Board Chair Kenneth W. Freeman ’72. “He has led many aspects of Stanford’s renowned undergraduate programs and is well prepared to guide Bucknell as it moves forward as one of America’s finest liberal arts universities. We welcome him with great enthusiasm and anticipation.”

For 11 years, Bravman has led Stanford’s undergraduate program as the Freeman-Thornton Vice Provost for Undergraduate Education. He also is the Bing Centennial Professor of Materials Science and Engineering, professor of electrical engineering by courtesy and founding dean of Stanford’s Freshman-Sophomore Residential College.

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Q&A

In December, an Ethiopian court sentenced Professor of Economics Berhanu Nega, former mayor of Addis Ababa, to death in absentia for terrorism.

Q: Your colleagues and friends understand that this charge is bogus, but do you hear from others who don’t?

A: I haven’t heard from anyone who takes this as a serious judicial decision — only the Ethiopian government and its blind supporters. Even the government knows that the decision of the court is nothing but a reflection of the regime’s desires rather than based on any reasonable evidence. It sends a message to the public — there is no court to save you, you live by our rules, if you question our rules, we will do what we want, and no one will stop us.

Q: The death sentence is real, and you were jailed under the Zenawi government. Are you afraid?

A: One of the reasons you struggle for freedom and liberty is because you feel that life isn’t meaningful without liberty. I am not worried — not because the government would not try to harm me, but I now live in a society of laws that will protect me. You can’t live in fear. If you allow this kind of fear to determine your actions, dictatorships will exist forever.

Q: What sustained you while you were imprisoned?

A: First, the Ethiopian people and their yearning for freedom. While I was in prison, I was hearing about Bucknell, my colleagues, students and people at other universities supporting freedom. This connection at the human level, that people love and support freedom everywhere, recognizing that freedom is a human condition, is the hope for humanity that keeps you going. It was a source of hope for me when I was in prison, and I suspect for all people fighting for liberty around the world.

Q: What is your hope for Ethiopia?

A: Unless the international community takes the position of outrage as it did in Guinea, the government will not change. The brutality of this regime is mind boggling. This is a government known for committing genocide against its people. Its basic strategy is to stay in power by terrorizing people and by dividing them on primordial grounds. There are several groups fighting against the government. Unless there is a serious intervention, the whole region will blow up. I encourage Western policymakers to recognize what is happening and adjust their policy before it is too late to make a difference. The only credible and durable solution for the region, in my view, is the democratization of Ethiopia.

Bucknell in the News

MOST POPULAR

U.S. News & World Report recently released a new listing of colleges and universities based on their yield rate, the percentage of accepted applicants who enroll in that academic institution in the fall. A high yield rate reflects a school’s popularity. With a yield rate of 40 percent, Bucknell tied for the 14th place in most popular liberal arts colleges.

LASER BUILDERS

Assistant Professor of Physics and Astronomy James Higbie was featured in Technology Review for his efforts to find a more cost-effective way to measure the earth’s magnetic field. His team is building a 20-watt laser that will line up the atmosphere’s sodium atoms with the magnetic field. The resulting fluorescence can be used to accurately measure the field.

AUCTIONING HERITAGE

In the spring issue of The Key Reporter (Phi Beta Kappa), lawyer Laina Catherine Wilk Lopez ’96 ponders whether victims of state-sponsored terrorism should have the right to force sales of national treasures to satisfy judgments. As one who has filed briefs to protect artifacts from the auction block, she argues artifacts should be preserved.

WHOLE LOTTA SHAKIN’

Jay Vaishnav, assistant professor of physics and astronomy, was quoted in an article on PhysicsWorld.com about the European physicists who were the first to witness a trembling particle. Vaishnav believes this discovery will be a major step forward in quantum mechanical simulations, inspiring other research groups to attempt similar feats.
From Blogs to Books

Student co-authors book about liberal arts colleges.

By Julia Ferrante

A mathematics and economics double major from China, Li Wan ’10 has co-authored a book about her experiences attending a top liberal arts college in America. She was asked to participate after Yongfang Chen, a senior at Bowdoin College, read Wan’s blog.

About 10,000 copies have sold in China since the book was released in July under the title Bo Yi Mei Guo Ben Ke, or A True Liberal Arts Education.

The book is written almost entirely in Chinese and includes autobiographical accounts as well as reflective essays about the students’ experiences at their respective schools.

“A well-rounded liberal arts education teaches you more how to think and learn ... I have learned how to ... be independent and, most importantly, to be dependable,” Wan says.

Take Me Out to the Board Game

Strat-O-Matic founder creates a league of his own with new series.

By Rhonda K. Miller

There was a time in baseball’s not-so-glamorous past when Hall of Famers like Josh Gibson were prohibited from playing in the major leagues simply because of their race. Gibson died three months shy of Jackie Robinson’s entry into the majors in 1947, leaving baseball fans to wonder how the “black Babe Ruth” might hit against “Bullet Bob” Feller.

Thanks to Hal Richman ’58 and his Strat-O-Matic game company, baseball fanatics have the chance to find out. Richman recently introduced a 103-card Negro League All-Star set for Strat-O-Matic, a baseball board game that uses dice, cards and player statistics to simulate play. Gamers, who act as team manager and fill their own rosters, role dice and consult the cards for results. The game is the progenitor of today’s fantasy sports.

“As a child, I loved sports, and I was very statistically minded,” says Richman, 78, an accounting major who recorded stats for Bison basketball and football. He perfected Strat-O-Matic in the summers between Bucknell semesters, he says. “I was too busy studying or with fraternity [Sigma Alpha Mu] activities to work on it.” His invention took off in 1962 and has since created a cult-like following.

Richman says the Negro League set was always his dream. “This is the one piece of history that wasn’t there,” he says, adding that statistics on black players were non-existent. With the help of Scott Simkus, a baseball zealot, Richman analyzed 3,000 Negro League box scores to create accurate player stats. “It’s the greatest contribution I’ve made to sports-based games,” he says.
Making an Argument for the Environment

Bucknell Forum speaker advocates for a green economy.

By Julia Ferrante

Environmental lawyer and bestselling author Robert F. Kennedy Jr. spoke about economic and environmental policy to a packed house at the Weis Center for the Performing Arts in February. Kennedy kicked off the Bucknell Forum spring events with the talk, “Globalization and the Green Economy: A New Vision for American Leadership and Strength.”

“Good economic policy is identical to good environmental policy,” he said. “A true free market promotes efficiency and the elimination of waste. We need to protect our natural resources.”

Kennedy serves as senior attorney for the Natural Resources Defense Council, chief prosecuting attorney for the Hudson Riverkeeper, president of the Waterkeeper Alliance and partner in Silicon Valley’s VantagePoint Ventures. He also is a clinical professor and supervising attorney at Pace University School of Law’s Environmental Litigation Clinic.

He has led successful battles to preserve and protect rivers, fragile land and the New York City water supply. In 2009, Rolling Stone named him one of the “100 Agents of Change.” TIME magazine named him one of the “Heroes for the Planet” in 1999 for his role in helping Riverkeeper restore the Hudson River, a project that led to the creation of more than 160 Waterkeeper organizations around the world. Bucknell alumna Eliza Smith Steinmeier ’98 is executive director at Baltimore Harbor Waterkeeper.

During his talk, Kennedy argued for flipping the current business model so that energy conservation is richly rewarded. “Nature is the infrastructure of our community, and if we want to protect our future and the dignity, enrichment and prosperity of our children, we’ve got to start by protecting our infrastructure,” he said. “We need to change it so that companies get rich by getting customers to conserve energy.”

Building Community
Alumni give back in their hometowns.

By Gigi Marino

In Boston, alumni are picking up trash and debris alongside the Charles River. In California, they are helping to raise funds for multiple sclerosis research. In London, they’re donating money and having a bit of fun at a charity pub quiz. This weekend and next (April 17–18 and 24–25), hundreds of Bucknellians across the country — and the Pond — are participating in the second annual Bucknell National Alumni Community Service Event.

Says Joel Berelson ’85, who is coordinating this year’s community service event on behalf of the Alumni Association Board of Directors, “Bucknell has a long tradition of volunteerism, both on campus and around the world. We’re tapping into that spirit of generosity by engaging people who love Bucknell and want to give back to their communities.”

The Bucknell event coincides with National Volunteer Week and is arranged as an activity through the network of Bucknell Clubs. Regional clubs each volunteer to help a cause or organization in their areas.

“We are thrilled that students will also volunteer in Lewisburg. It has been inspiring to see so many Bucknellians come together to make this world a better place,” says Berelson.

If you are interested in volunteering next year, contact your local club, log onto B-Link or e-mail Kim Thompson at kat016@bucknell.edu.

ART AROUND THE WORLD

BUCKNELL ARTISTS PARTICIPATE IN INTERNATIONAL SHOW.

Last December, three members of Bucknell’s art community traveled to the Tianjin Academy of Fine Arts Museum in China, where Professor of Art Rosalyn Richards exhibited 19 new graphite drawings. Richards’ China venue included sculptural installations by Deng Guo Yuan, the dean of the Tianjin Academy. Dan Mills, director of the Samek Art Gallery, also opened a solo exhibit of paintings, “Meditations on Empire.” Cynthia Peltier, operations manager of the Samek, accompanied the artists to Tianjin. The Samek Art Gallery will present “Strokes and Expressions,” an exhibition of Guo Yuan’s ink wash paintings and Richards’ drawings, January to March 2011. Mills states, “Deng’s and Richards’ works complement each other in conceptual and perceptual ways. Their art reflects the influences of each other’s art and cultural traditions.”

SHORT STACK

Bipedal robots could soon be joining students on campus, thanks to mechanical engineer Keith Buffinton’s $1.2 million Navy grant and his theory that walking, and therefore navigating obstacles, is a form of controlled falling. Buffinton’s team built a partial bipedal robot that they hope will soon be capable of navigating obstacles like stairs and curbs.

Robert Rosenberg, assistant professor of English, has been awarded the prestigious 2010 Literature Fellowship from the National Endowment for the Arts. His winning novel, This Is Not Civilization, was inspired by his experiences teaching as a Peace Corps volunteer in post-Soviet Kyrgyzstan, on an Apache reservation in Arizona, and in earthquake-shattered Istanbul.

Student athletes have teamed up to gain academic honors. Last semester, 240 athletes earned dean’s list honors, with at least a 3.5 grade-point average. Included were 41 team captains and 27 student athletes with perfect 4.0 averages. Of Bucknell’s 27 athletic teams, 26 earned collective GPAs of 3.0 and higher and 120 students were named to the Patriot League Honor Roll.
Bucknellians Helping Haitians
Alumni, students and staff reach out to help quake victims.

By Andrew W.M. Beierle

So powerful was the mammoth earthquake in Haiti, its shockwaves registered at Bucknell’s seismic station in Carnegie Hall.

The 7.0 killer touched the lives of countless Bucknellians, none more directly than Grace Brown ’88. Brown cheated death when the Port-au-Prince office in which she was developing plans to improve the island nation’s judicial system withstood the quake while neighboring structures collapsed. Her room at the Hotel Montana vanished in a cloud of dust.

A resident of quake-prone San Francisco, Brown now has an exit strategy for every building she enters — and a new appreciation for everyday experiences like kissing her 3-year-old son good night.

As Brown evacuated the disaster zone, James Geiling ’78 traveled toward it.

Now chief of medical services at a Vermont Veterans Affairs Medical Center, Geiling had coordinated the emergency medical response to the Pentagon attacks on September 11, 2001. He used the skills honed there to coordinate relief efforts among international nongovernmental organizations in Haiti.

“Believe it or not, the quality of care was exceptional,” Geiling says.

On campus, Black Student Union President Marissa Calhoun ’10 organized numerous events to benefit quake victims under the umbrella title “Halos for Haiti.” The BSU joined other groups to work toward three goals endorsed by President Brian C. Mitchell: to raise funds for organizations working in Haiti, to keep the Bucknell community informed about the situation and to pursue a “sustainable initiative” to address Haitians’ long-term challenges.

One Bucknellian’s plan to improve the lives of impoverished Haitians was underway even before the January 12 catastrophe. Muyambi Muyambi ’11 spent 10 days in Haiti in December 2009 developing a program to distribute free bicycles to transport goods, produce and water. He returned home just two weeks before disaster struck and says the bikes are now even more urgently needed.

For more on Bucknell’s Haiti relief efforts, go to www.bucknell.edu/haiti.

The Best Places to Work program ranked Bucknell University 22nd out of the 50 best large employers in Pennsylvania. Nominees were evaluated by a consortium of business and economic development organizations that includes the Pennsylvania Chamber of Business and Industry and the Pennsylvania Department of Community and Economic Development.

Computational number theorist and Assistant Professor of Mathematics Nathan Ryan has returned from Uruguay after a semester-long Fulbright Fellowship conducting research and teach at the Universidad de la República. Ryan’s area of research was on the central values of L functions, which relate to the frequency and distribution of arithmetic data.

New online interviews highlight the expertise of Bucknell professors. “Ask the Experts” features a Q&A with expert faculty members on a variety of current news subjects and topics from Haiti to Hip Hop to the economy. A new interview appears regularly on Bucknell’s web site every Thursday during the fall and spring semesters at www.bucknell.edu/experts.
Art Appreciation
Roger Rothman makes a case for understanding the visual world.

By Barbara Maynard ’88

Articulate and enthusiastic, Associate Professor of Art Roger Rothman inspires his students to appreciate art in new and unconventional ways.

Rothman teaches courses in modern, contemporary and 20th-century art with an emphasis on French Impressionism and Post-impressionism, Cubism, Dada, Abstract Expressionism, Minimalism and Postmodernism.

“Art history is a deeply interdisciplinary field. With it, I’m free to incorporate issues that stem from sociology, religion, philosophy, science and more. It’s an ever-expanding field that values experimentation and creativity,” says Rothman.

He was drawn to Bucknell by its proximity to New York City, the undisputed hub of the contemporary art scene, and opportunities to work with “a brilliant faculty ... and bright students.”

Rothman expects a lot from his students. His classes go far beyond memorization and identification. Together, Rothman and his students explore the meaning of art and its importance in contemporary society. While his students tackle assignments designed to open their minds and explore artists and their work, Rothman is finishing a book on Salvador Dalí as well as continuing his ongoing research on contemporary art and theory, both of which he considers labors of love.

“Modern art forces you to rethink your view of how things ought to be and why things ought to matter,” he says.

Rothman believes that all students — majors and non-majors alike — gain lifelong benefits from learning about art.

“We live in a world that is more and more mediated by technology, in a world that is visually driven,” says Rothman.

“Understanding how the visual world works is a skill that I think all individuals of the 21st century are going to need. I look forward to teaching a course with a mathematician or physicist so I can return in some way to my earlier passions,” he says, of his original life’s path.

See more profiles at www.bucknell.edu/x18559.xml and click on “Faculty Stories.”
Kyle Anthony ’10 grew up in rural New York, just north of the Pennsylvania line and about 30 miles northwest of Port Jervis. His graduating class was made up of about 50 students, but Anthony attracted the attention of several college track coaches as a state champion in both the long and triple jumps.

He became even more well known after competing in an indoor meet in New York City during his senior year of high school. After another strong showing, Anthony learned that the coach of a major college track program out west wanted to talk to him. But Anthony had already committed to Bucknell and felt there was no reason to explore other options. “I came for a visit in the fall of my senior year,” he says. “I really liked the coaches and I really liked the program. I felt comfortable on campus.”

Nearly four years later, Anthony ranks among the all-time best at Bucknell. Prior to the 2009-10 indoor season, the English and philosophy major was second in school history in the indoor triple jump (49-7 3/4) and outdoors (49-11 3/4), fourth in the long jump indoors (23-11 1/4) and outdoors (23-10) and sixth in the indoor sprint medley in 3:35.25. “The biggest goal would be to break the school record indoors and outdoors,” he says.

Anthony, who plans to attend law school in the fall, also has been a key performer away from the track. This academic year, he is president of the Bucknell Student-Athlete Advisory Committee (SACC). “He was really active helping us with various projects as a junior,” says Terrie Grieb, associate athletic director/business and team services. “He helps get the agenda together. Before school even starts, we put together causes for the year.” One of those causes has been the involvement of Bucknell athletic teams at the Lewisburg Food Pantry, located at First Baptist Church.

Anthony has been named to the Patriot League academic honor roll and was a 2009 Arthur Ashe Jr. Sports Scholar Award second-team selection. He also played soccer and cross country in high school at Eldred Central and was a captain for two years in soccer, as well as the most valuable player in that sport as a senior. He was a co-captain for one year in cross country in high school and the captain for his indoor and outdoor teams. As one of six children, Anthony is used to being in a leadership role. And that is what he has done during his career at Bucknell. “He is quiet and laid back but approachable,” Grieb says. “The teams and kids kind of gravitate to him.”

“He leads by example,” says head coach Kevin Donner. “He is all about the team. He is a great leader on campus.”
It’s Her Party
First-year student brings Zumba to Bucknell.
By Heather Peavey Johns

The line of students and staff members stretches down the hall. All turn as a cheery redhead unlocks the door and calls out, “Welcome to Zumba!”

Grace Ragold ’13 is the University’s first Zumba instructor, and she describes the fitness trend with characteristic enthusiasm: “Zumba is a party!”

Ragold was introduced to the Latin-inspired dance cardio workout at her home gym in New Vernon, N.J., and enjoyed it so much she became certified before matriculating to Bucknell. “I didn’t see a lot of group fitness classes offered,” she says. So she proposed to recreation services that she teach Zumba on campus, and the idea was approved. She teaches three classes a week.

Her initiative has paid off. Class sizes swell to more than 80. A Facebook page dubbed “Zumba at Bucknell with Grace Ragold” has more than 100 fans. Greek organizations clamor to have her teach it at their non-alcoholic events. Best of all, Zumba has helped Ragold find her way as a new student at Bucknell.

S T U D E N T P R O F I L E
Alison Koellner ’12

“It runs in the family” is a phrase that could have been coined by Alison Koellner ’12. Koellner and her twin sister, Melissa ’12, (one of the three sets of female twins in the Class of 2012) dissolved their pact to pursue separate college careers when both applied for, and received, the PricewaterhouseCoopers scholarship and internship through Bucknell’s accounting program.

“I’m learning so much more about the principles of accounting. It’s not just punching numbers. The principles are always changing, and there’s always new information to learn,” says Koellner.

The Bucknell experience proved to be more than formative. Koellner found that the small classes in her major equaled individualized attention from the professors, who regularly offer advice and networking opportunities to students. Even the on-campus social activities created opportunities for her to focus on her chosen career: She is the vice president of finance for Alpha Chi Omega. “I’m in charge of balancing the budget, collecting dues and paying the bills,” she says. “I get to be on the executive board and stay involved in the inner workings of the sorority.”

The New Hyde Park, N.Y., native takes her involvement beyond Bucknell’s campus. After a post-Katrina clean-up trip to New Orleans with the Bucknell Katrina Recovery Team, Koellner travelled to Chicago last semester with the student-led Bucknell Inclusiveness Team to help develop diversity at Bucknell by mentoring prospective college students from a variety of backgrounds. Each member of the Inclusiveness Team was paired with a select group of inner-city students for mock lectures and candid discussions about the importance of college. She is still in touch with her students and excited about next helping to expand the Inclusiveness Team to New York City.

She also has expanding career plans, with her sights set on her CPA certification and a position at one of the big accounting firms that will involve world travel. “I want it to be not just a job, but a career.”

— Julie Dreese

Alison Koellner ’12 believes that both numbers and good works add up.
Legacies  Gifts & Giving

Appointments of Note...Treble and Clef

New professorships reward musical mastery – from hot jazz to cool opera.

By Christina Masciere Wallace

One professor creates operas and “sound gardens” for smartphones. The other studies jazz and social justice. Each exemplifies excellence in teaching and scholarship at Bucknell.

They are Bill Duckworth and Barry Long, the first recipients of the newly created Williams Professorships in Music. Part of a $4 million bequest from Ellen Peterson Williams ’19, these endowed positions honor faculty excellence and provide special funding for the pursuit of scholarly interests.

“Endowed professorships allow faculty members to better and more actively pursue their interests and passions, and that knowledge and enthusiasm are returned to students in countless ways,” says Duckworth, who joined the Bucknell faculty in 1973. “The Williams professorships are a strong vote of confidence in the value of the music department and its continued success.”

Duckworth, who will hold the Ellen Williams Professorship through August 2014, has won numerous teaching awards as well as four NEA and NEH fellowships, among other international honors that recognize his excellence as a composer, performer, author and professor. As a postmodern composer, he plans to use the Williams funding for travel in support of his current work, Sonic Babylon. This international art project consists of invisible “gardens” of sound that can be heard on mobile devices, such as iPhones and iPod touches, when visitors pass through the space. Sonic Babylon is installed in Australia but will move to North America and Europe over the next several years.

Long’s work, in contrast, focuses on jazz musicians and music intended to help protect civil rights or freedoms. He studies the rich legacies of jazz figures such as Charles Mingus, who spoke out for civil rights; Max Roach, activist and critic of apartheid; and Miles Davis, who supported voter registration and awareness. “You can only imagine what these artists could have done with YouTube,” says Long, who will hold the Samuel Williams Professorship through August 2012 and plans to do archival research in Memphis and New Orleans with his funding.

Long is already using a significant portion of the resources to support the Samuel Williams Colloquia on Jazz and Culture. The series, which is open to the campus community and began in February, examines the relationships between jazz, popular music, race and culture. The first visiting lecturer, Nate Chinen, is a jazz author and columnist for The New York Times. The second, Jessica Courtier, is a traditional jazz scholar from the University of Wisconsin-Madison. Guests like these, Long says, give students opportunities to learn about jazz from different perspectives. He hopes to include Bucknell faculty as future series speakers and deepen this interdisciplinary approach to music education, which drew him to Bucknell in 2008.

“I love teaching in a liberal arts environment and placing music in a larger social and cultural context,” says Long, who in 2007 became the first doctoral graduate in jazz studies from the Eastman School of Music. “If I can help students see how music links into different aspects of society, they’re able to start making connections on their own.”

There is one more connection between the two Williams professors. Duckworth is currently co-editing a music text titled Music iPpreciation, and Long is writing the jazz portion of the book. It will be produced almost entirely online in a format meant to mimic the playlist of an iPod. Chapters on jazz, classical, rock and world music will offer music selections, listening guides and historical context — a fresh arrangement for traditional scholarship.

For more, go to www.sonicbabylon.com.

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BOOKS

Salman Ahmad
with Rob Schroeder ’92

Rock and Roll Jihad: A Muslim Rock Star’s Revolution (Free Press)

In his candid memoir written with guidance from Rob Schroeder, internationally acclaimed Pakistani musician Salman Ahmad takes back the word “jihad” from extremists. Nearly 30 years ago, he was a faithful Muslim enjoying an American adolescence playing in garage bands before his family returned to its native Lahore. The contemporary reality of his homeland greeted him when he played publicly for the first time. “Religious police” took to the stage, destroying his beloved Les Paul. His book recounts how he chose a music career over medicine and established the band that has been called “the U-2 of Asia,” Junoon. Stardom has its costs: Ahmad has faced AK-47s, and his music was banned in Pakistan. He has never given up, and today this musician is a UNAIDS ambassador and founder of SSGWI, a foundation promoting interfaith understanding.

Philip Roth ’54

The Humbling (Houghton Mifflin Harcourt)

Throughout his prolific career, Philip Roth has addressed a variety of conflicts faced by a culture or individuals through the prism of diamond-cut fiction. In his latest novel, The Humbling, he returns to a theme that resonates through several recent works. Simon Adler, a 65-year-old actor who has enjoyed a distinguished career, suddenly finds himself completely abandoned by his artistic powers. That is the problem, he says, and so are the divorce and bad back that contribute to a suicidal depression. His post-hospitalization solitude is interrupted by the arrival of the 40-year-old daughter of old friends, a lesbian trying to mend her own romantic disappointment. They launch into a vigorous sexual adventure that promises rejuvenation, but the words of the younger woman’s mother nag in the background: “He's growing older by the day. That's the way it works.” Watching Adler struggle with the inevitable is an absorbing meditation on how difficult it can be to find grace in aging.

Roger Dodd ’73

Media Skills: The Lawyer as Spokesperson (Lexis Nexis)

Cable and satellite television, not to mention the Internet, are shaping the legal spectrum in the 21st century. Awareness of the legal system has risen hand-in-hand with the phenomenon of “instant” news. The court of public opinion cannot be ignored and the successful lawyer must learn how to master it. Roger Dodd and co-author Claudia Oltean have produced a textbook to assist their brethren and law students in mastering these skills. The text is accompanied by a DVD that dramatizes the lessons in good and not-so-good scenarios of an emotionally charged tort case, as well as lectures by Dodd emphasizing the major points of mastering the media encounter.

Marian Wolbers ’75

Uncovering Fashion: Fashion Communications Across the Media (Fairchild Books)

Freelance journalism has taken Marian Wolbers around the world and back in pursuit of many subjects, but it is the recent assignment of authoring a textbook for fashion studies that pulls together many parts of her past, from being the granddaughter of a dressmaker, to a model in her college years, copywriter for clothing manufacturing publications and CEO of a sportswear concern, to name just a few of her related experiences.
“Civil twilight,” writes Susan Dunlap in her latest mystery starring Darcy Lott, a stuntwoman-sleuth, is “the bridge between clear afternoon and the first shadow of dusk, the last time you could see clearly without artificial light.” A student of Buddhism, Darcy is still learning to grapple with the ambiguities that stalk her, like the disappearance of a favorite brother when she was a teen, or her return to the large family fold in San Francisco after years of estrangement. The questions threaten to outweigh the answers before her perspicacity and physical prowess rally to the rescue.

Sandra Amoako, who has lived abroad for many years, cooking the foods of her native Ghana, West Africa, is a way of staying in touch. For fellow expatriates and anyone interested in learning about Ghanaian cuisine, she has compiled “down home” recipes that capture the essence of the culture in a book titled Akwaaba, which means “welcome.” Most of the dishes are prepared using ingredients found on supermarket shelves: nutmeg, peanuts, rice, tomato products, peppers, tilapia and ginger root. Items like fufu flour and fermented cornmeal, available through Internet resources or African grocers, take the American cook into adventurous new territory with easy to follow instructions.

Matt Bellace ’96, M’98

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Laura Lopez ’82
The Connected and Committed Leader: Lessons from Home, Results at Work (Living Leadership)

“Management is doing things right. Leadership is doing the right thing.” When she adopted a child and became a mother at age 44, she abruptly had to learn to let her heart, not her head, do the talking. Lopez found that she became a more effective team leader when she applied her new parenting skills in the workplace. Her book promotes nurturing strategies in the interest of sustainability.

James Cullen ’65
Finely Carved and Nicely Painted (James H. Cullen, Publisher)

George Boyd (1873–1941) could have been a supporting character in Our Town. A man who probably never spent a full day in his life away from Seabrook, N.H., nonetheless enjoys posthumous fame as sculptor of waterfowl decoys prized by expert collectors. As a young man, Boyd supplemented his income from shoe-making by market gunning — hunting game birds of the tidal marshes for the Boston market. Early 20th-century conservancy laws shuttered the practice but gave rise to sport hunting, which created a demand for the well-crafted decoys at which Boyd excelled. Jim Cullen has collected photographic illustrations, well-documented research and oral history into a striking volume honoring Boyd’s legacy.

MUSIC

William Duckworth
Time Curve (Arabesque Recordings)

In 1978, William Duckworth, Bucknell professor of music, launched the post-minimalist movement in contemporary classical music with the debut of “The Time Curve Preludes.” The compositions have never ceased to fascinate, and their latest expression, juxtaposed with minimalist Philip Glass’ “Six Etudes For Piano,” is found on renowned pianist Bruce Brubaker’s album Time Curve. It is a synergetic combination of pieces that comprise a conversation on the nature of time. Glass’ etudes pulse with an urgency while Duckworth’s pieces prize individual moments in fluent measures. Brubaker weighted several piano keys to introduce subtle hues and effects in the Duckworth preludes. The result is a listening experience that is pristine as well as thought provoking.
Afghanistan, says its former ambassador, William B. Wood ’72, “is a very foreign place.” One of the few countries in the world that never experienced colonialism, it also has remained largely undiluted by globalizing influences. Afghanistan has seen the largest refugee flows in the world. It has a 30 percent literacy rate, and the average life expectancy is just 45 years. For the past 30 years, the country has been besieged with war, insurgency and instability.

A professional foreign service officer since 1977, Ambassador Wood is newly posted at the National War College in Washington, D.C., where he teaches members of the State Department, Armed Forces and other civilian employees preparing to assume greater policy and strategic responsibilities.

Wood is the most senior of an impressive number of Bucknellians who work for the State Department in Washington, D.C., representing America to the far reaches of the globe.

He is no stranger to regions of conflict. He served in Uruguay during the brief time it was under a military dictatorship, began his posting in El Salvador at the beginning of a multi-year insurgent threat, and from 2003 to 2007 headed up the U.S. embassy in Colombia, where terrorism and drug trafficking combined to make it one of the most dangerous countries in South America.

Afghanistan is a greater challenge than any of those places, Wood says, and yet it is a challenge we must meet. First and foremost, he says, because the September 11 Al Qaeda attacks were launched from Afghanistan, and we must defeat the Taliban and stabilize Afghanistan so that they cannot return. And second, because Afghanistan has been an important source of instability in a very volatile area. “From a regional perspective, Afghanistan will be either part of the solution or part of the problem,” Wood says.

During his 2007–09 tenure as ambassador to Afghanistan, Wood acted as a bridge between the presidents of the two countries, meeting with Afghan President Hamid Karzai four to five times a week. He was in charge of all civilian officials in the country, working in the political, economic, law enforcement, intelligence and development arenas. He also was charged with ensuring that the civilian and military structures in Afghanistan “shake hands and work well together” — not a trivial challenge in a country with such a large multilateral military and civilian presence.

The initial hope was that with the Taliban removed from power, Afghanistan would be able to heal itself. Good elections and a constitution were a start, Wood notes, but not enough to overcome the effects of three decades of war and turmoil.

While not fully satisfied with what he was able to accomplish there, Wood is proud that despite the threat environment, the shortage of development personnel and the extreme decentralization of Afghanistan, he was able to improve cooperation among local governments, communities and tribes.
University and joined the State Department in 1992. This past fall, Schwartz was honored with the Bucknell Award of Merit, one of the highest awards given to alumni. He credits Dick Peterec, professor emeritus of geography, with being a longtime inspiration and mentor.

Schwartz’s office, comprising both geographers and foreign affairs analysts, has broad responsibilities in the State Department. With the digital precision that GPS systems afford, the office is remapping virtually all of the world’s boundaries — and making that information widely and transparently available. “A line on a map could represent 100 or more yards on land,” Schwartz says. “Knowing exactly where the U.S. government says the border is could help to prevent conflict.”

The office is working as well to implement “participatory mapping” tools that make use of cell phone and GPS technologies to map crowd sourcing, social networking and other growing sources of on-the-ground knowledge. Similar technologies are being promoted for use by indigenous peoples to establish land ownership rights, which are lacking in much of the developing world.

The office also is charged with addressing problems that do not fit neatly into the State Department’s regional bureaus — refugees, human rights issues and international environmental concerns. His recent focus has been on using geospatial science to promote sustainable development in Africa.

THE CONGO: MAPPING FOR HUMANITY

Each month, more than 1,000 women and girls are raped in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, and yet they are just some of the victims in a region the central government has long struggled to control. Security forces, rebel organizations, militias and other armed groups have inflicted brutal sexual violence upon the civilian population on a massive scale. “There are thousands of reports of horrible things happening to women and children there,” says Lee Schwartz ’76, “but few of these are being put together systematically in a way that can help achieve justice and accountability.”

As director of the State Department’s Office of the Geographer and Global Issues in the Bureau of Intelligence and Research in Washington, D.C., Schwartz and his staff are helping to coordinate the process of collecting and reporting on violence in the DRC and — just as importantly — working to link those reports to satellite imagery and other information that might show the movements of militia leaders.

“Linking the geospatial data on things such as gender-based violence with the movements of particular groups and military campaigns brings us closer to determining who bears responsibility for widespread and unchecked human rights violations,” Schwartz explains. Such documentation has been used by Schwartz’s office in the past to document atrocities in Darfur and to help bring war criminals to justice in former Yugoslavia.

Schwartz, who also holds the title Geographer of the United States, earned a doctorate in geography from Columbia University and joined the State Department in 1992. This past fall, Schwartz was honored with the Bucknell Award of Merit, one of the highest awards given to alumni. He credits Dick Peterec, professor emeritus of geography, with being a longtime inspiration and mentor.

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SIERRA LEONE: STABILIZATION AND DEVELOPMENT

Authorities spotted it in waters off Freetown, Sierra Leone: a Taiwanese-flagged fishing vessel that had just hauled in between $300,000 and $500,000 of fish — illegally. West African fisheries are among the richest in the world, but with local governments lacking resources for enforcement, poachers are robbing Africans of their livelihood and damaging the environment in the process. They weren’t getting away with it this time.

These particular poachers were seized Aug. 17, 2009, by Sierra Leone authorities and crewmembers of the U.S. Coast Guard Cutter Legare in a joint operation allowed under a bilateral maritime assistance treaty between the U.S. and Sierra Leone, signed on behalf of the U.S. by Charge d’Affaires Glenn Fedzer ’85. A World Bank fisheries expert called that first seizure “globally significant” as a strong deterrent for other illegal fishing activities. In addition, Fedzer hopes the fines and penalties imposed are used by the Sierra Leone government to work toward building its own enforcement capacity.

“Profitable and sustainable economic activities are essential to helping fragile states maintain stability, and artisanal fishing communities particularly suffer when their waters are overexploited,” Fedzer says. “Many people attribute problems off the coast of Somalia to overfishing, saying that today’s pirates are
yesterday’s artisanal fishermen, now without livelihoods because their fish stocks have been nearly wiped out by foreign fishing vessels.”

Fedzer, who joined the State Department in 1998, has spent the past six years in sub-Saharan Africa — in Gabon, Mali and now Sierra Leone. He currently heads the Embassy in Sierra Leone pending the appointment of an Ambassador later in the year.

There is no typical day at work, he says. In the space of two days recently, Fedzer talked with American students in Sierra Leone studying international nutrition, met with local officials in a remote border town about a road-building project, and represented the U.S. at a ceremony with the Chinese foreign minister and the Sierra Leone minister of education. Another evening he had dinner with the Minister of Energy to discuss solar power in rural communities. Among the other issues Fedzer and his staff are addressing: gay rights, narcotics trafficking, economic development, anti-corruption and political instability.

“People in Africa need and want help, and they want the United States to be involved,” Fedzer says. “I really feel like what I’m doing matters.”

RUSSIA: RELATING TO COLD WAR RIVALS

John Mark Pommersheim ’86 was sitting at his desk in the U.S. Consulate in Vladivostok, Russia, when the news came in: North Korea had just conducted a nuclear test, not far from the Russian Far East city where he was living and working. Whatever had been on his schedule for the day was immediately pushed off. Instead, Pommersheim worked the phones to find out what Russian officials in the area knew about the nuclear test, while his staff set out to gauge local effects and reaction.

Sharing information with the Russians about events in North Korea once would have been unthinkable, but the former Soviet Union — and its relationship with the U.S. — has undergone tremendous changes since the early 1980s. Pommersheim has witnessed quite a few of them.

He first visited the country as an undergraduate student of Russian and political science and returned twice for postgraduate studies. He was in Minsk, Belarus, after the 1992 collapse of the Soviet Union, when the newly formed republic was returning legacy nuclear weapons to Moscow’s control. He worked on the Russia desk in Washington, D.C., and then returned again, this time to Vladivostok, where he served as the U.S. consul general from 2004 to 2007.

“The Russian Far East is a fascinating place, two-thirds the size of the continental United States,” Pommersheim says. “We worked on a lot of different issues, from the large oil projects on Sakhalin Island to U.S.-Russian military-to-military contacts to cooperation on people-to-people contacts between the U.S., mainly Alaska and the West Coast, and Pacific Russia.”

In one of his more unusual relationship-building activities, Pommersheim appeared as a guest chef on a Russian cooking program, there to make a “typical U.S. dish.” He chose to make Maryland crab cakes — substituting Kamchatka king crab for Maryland blue — and accompanied the dish with Californian and other American regional wines, an increasingly popular U.S. export to Russia.

Fast forward to 2010, when another Bucknellian is serving with the State Department in Russia. The task for David Fay ’86, a regional English language officer stationed at the U.S. Embassy in Moscow, is to update Russians’ views of America.
American studies in Russia had long been taught using one- to two-page excerpts from 19th century literary works by authors like Emerson, Poe and Melville. Fay and his staff provide access to more contemporary teaching materials. A recent DVD, for examples, uses Voice of America and other podcasts to create lessons around human interest stories. The idea, he says, is to build a more encompassing view of the U.S. than that presented in music, film and other popular media.

“Most countries are anxious to have support for their English teaching programs, and we give them that,” Fay says. “We bring over American experts, send locals to the U.S. and develop curriculum, materials and assessment tools.”

Nepal: Nurturing Democracies

When CNN announced returns on the evening of the 2008 U.S. presidential election, Anne Bennett ’87 watched the coverage in the company of Nepalese citizens invited to the embassy in Kathmandu for an election results party. It was one of a series of election-related events hosted by the embassy for students, academics and younger political party members in Nepal. As a political officer who had previously taught political science at the university level, Bennett was one of the experts called upon to help teach influential Nepalese citizens about U.S.-style democracy.

The lessons had vital relevance in a country that just seven months before had held its own historic election. After decades of political unrest that included reforms and counter-reforms, political assassinations, a violent insurgency and the dissolution of multiple governments, in April 2008 the people of Nepal had elected a Constituent Assembly to serve as a parliament and write a new constitution.

Leading up to that election, Bennett had met with leaders of the various Nepalese political parties and worked with local groups and other diplomatic missions to coordinate sending election-monitoring teams to observe the polls in districts across the country.

“When a country goes so many years without an election, no one knows where they stand and what to expect,” says Bennett, who has since returned to the U.S. to learn Urdu for her next assignment at the U.S. Embassy in Pakistan.

During the same period when Bennett was working to support democracy in Nepal, Katie Kohn McLain ’03 was working for the State Department in Washington, D.C., on efforts to foster democracy in Iraq. As a grants officer for the Bureau of Democracy, Human Rights and Labor in Iraq, McLain helped to coordinate myriad nation-building projects. “I oversaw grants for voter education, violence prevention, get-out-the-vote campaigns and other grassroots efforts,” McLain says.

McLain also administered grants to organizations offering free legal assistance to Iraqis in cases ranging from domestic violence to property disputes to human rights threats, she says.

Since December, McLain has worked for the State Department’s Bureau of International Narcotics and Law Enforcement Affairs with a focus on Central America, a position that draws heavily on the Latin American subspecialty of her international relations major.

The Near East: Representing the U.S.

The photos coming out of Gaza were heart wrenching: hungry people begging for food, sick and injured without medical supplies, vehicles without fuel and abandoned along the roadside. In an attempt to stop the flow of arms to Hamas during the Gaza War, Israel had tightened its 18-month-old economic blockade, and humanitarian aid was no longer reaching the people.

An Al Jazeera reporter put the question to Ann Donick Somerset ’98: Why was the U.S. allowing Israel to get away with this?

As the Washington, D.C.-based spokesperson for the State Department’s Bureau of Near Eastern Affairs, Somerset was
often on camera several times a day during the three-month war in the winter of 2008–09. “There is a widespread belief in the Arab media that the U.S. has a lot of influence over Israel. I kept emphasizing that Israel is a sovereign state and that we do not control its actions,” Somerset says. She also tried to point out that Hamas had a responsibility to care for its people, and that by sending rockets into Israel, it had abdicated that responsibility.

“It was a very challenging period,” Somerset recalls. “During this time we were also trying to end the war as soon as possible and address humanitarian needs. We were coordinating convoys with humanitarian assistance, sending in oil tankers so Gaza would not run out of power and trying to evacuate Americans from the region.”

Somerset began working for the State Department not long after she graduated from Bucknell. Eight years into the job, she already had battle experience. Her assignment as the senior desk officer for Lebanon (another Washington, D.C., posting) had begun just one week after the fighting between Israel and Hezbollah commenced in July 2006. She finished that assignment in 2008 and moved on to the Bureau of Near Eastern Affairs. Since October she has worked as the special assistant to the undersecretary of public diplomacy and public affairs.

Diplomacy, says Wood, is no mystery. It’s something we all engage in individually many times a day, whenever we get two or more parties to agree on a project plan at work or a movie at the cineplex. Of course, the challenges — and the stakes — are much greater for diplomats negotiating with sovereign powers who sometimes have competing goals. The job can be frustrating at times, but in the end, these Bucknellians say, they know they are making a difference.

Theresa Gawlas Medoff ’85, P’13, a regular contributor to Bucknell Magazine, is the 2010 Delaware Press Association Communicator of Achievement.

International Relations @ 25
Bucknell prepares students for global challenges.

The International Relations Program at Bucknell celebrated its 25th anniversary last fall with a special coming-of-age announcement: The program is now a full-fledged academic department.

The International Relations major, in existence officially since 1984 and as an interdepartmental major since 1973, already had set Bucknell University apart from its frame-of-reference and aspirant schools, few of which offer such a major. “We were very fortunate to have people like Professors Tom Travis, Richard Peterec, John Peeler and Robert Beard [all now retired] with the commitment, charisma and foresight to begin building this program back then,” says Emek Uçarer, chair of the department.

“In an increasingly globalized and interdependent world, it is critically important for us to be informed about world events, to understand how the international system works, and to explain and interpret world affairs. IR offerings seek to offer such opportunities.”

Already, 1,200 Bucknellians have graduated with an IR degree, and another 45-50 join their ranks each year, along with a dozen or so minors. The IR curriculum at Bucknell has always had a multidisciplinary approach, with courses drawn from economics, history, geography, international relations, political science and foreign languages. Students have a geographic area concentration as well as an advanced foreign-language requirement. Most study abroad in the region of their specialization.

Beginning with the Class of 2014, the major also requires students to take three courses from a thematic track of their choice: Foreign Policy and Diplomacy, Sustainability and Development or Global Governance and Conflict Resolution. IR alumni have taken a broad array of career paths, most of which have some international connections, Uçarer says. They have gone on to graduate school and law school, to volunteer commitments like Teach for America and the Peace Corps, and to jobs with the government, nongovernmental organizations, nonprofits and the private sector.

The department also benefits non-majors with courses, programming and outreach designed to get students excited about and engaged in international affairs, including programs sponsored this year in conjunction with the University’s new MacArthur Chair in East Asian Politics.

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The membership of Bucknell’s Phi Lambda Theta represents the antidiscrimination forces on campuses. In this house varied religions and races live in harmony.

The College Fraternity Crisis

By HOWARD WHITMAN

PART 2—DEMOCRACY IN ACTION

EVENTY-FIVE young men from eleven colleges sweated out a hectic week end in Chicago last May to launch a new national fraternity. They worked night and day. They wrote by-laws, by-laws, articles, amendments and resolutions. They tore up pages, rewrote pages. Finally they came up with the constitution of Beta Sigma Tau, a fraternity which opens its arms alike to Christian and Jew, to white and Negro, to rich and to poor.

Having paid their own way to Chicago, the students didn’t have any money to spare. They could not afford more than one paid employee to aid in their labors: a nimble-fingered public stenographer. She sweated it out with them, working way past midnight, taking shorthand, transcribing, typng. She was grumpy when it was over.

But after it was typed the final version of the constitution—with its pledge of “brotherhood and democracy which transcends racial, national and religious differences”—she had all the pep she needed to say, “Gee! I’ve never seen anything like this in all my life! Do you fellows really mean it?”

Assured that Beta Sigma Tau was in unmitigated earnest, she gulped, “Well, I want to help, too! You can keep my pay check! Call it a contribution—-I guess I just worked free!”

Beta Sigma Tau, which formally calls itself an “intercultural fraternity,” is a dramatic outgrowth of the bare-fist battle over discrimination which is being fought on American campuses. This fraternity draws heavily upon the One World philosophy of Wendell Willkie and has attracted scores of college men to whom fraternities for “white Caucasians” or “full-blooded Aryans” are a little nauseating in this day.

By the opening of the fall term, Beta Sigma Tau—without benefit of trumpets’ blare—had amassed seven full-fledged chapters, at Ohio State, the University of California at Santa Barbara, the University of Buffalo, Hobart College, Roosevelt College, Baldwin-Wallace and Ohio Wesleyan. In addition to these, four more chapters were busily forming. November saw the launching of chapters at Stanford, the University of California at Berkeley, the University of Southern California, and the University of California at Los Angeles—all within the month.

While most of Beta Sigma Tau’s membership is white Protestant, as is the population of the U.S., it includes Catholics, Jews, Mohammedans, Negroes, Chinese and Naii. John Caldwell, one of the top national officers of the fraternity, happens to be a Baptist from Texas. Kenneth Woodward, president of the Ohio Wesleyan chapter, happens to be a Negro.

Caldwell, who goes to the University of California at Santa Barbara, said to me, “Maybe my Texas raise” had something to do with it. Out our way we judge a man for what he is—not for the labels on him.” Caldwell had behind him the heritage of the Pecos country, where it once was “justifiable homicide” to shoot a man for asking where you came from and what you had done before you got there.

Eschewing the mumbu jumbo of a secret order, Beta Sigma Tau will gladly tell you that its name stands for “Equality, Understanding, Unity.” After the hectic founders’ week end last May, the boys wrote:

“Coming as we do from different racial, religious and cultural backgrounds, we are constantly made aware of the dignity and integrity of the individual. As we better understand this concept of equality and do something practical about it, then the unity which is so much needed in our world will come.”

In addition to national Beta Sigma Tau, a lusty litter of local antidiscrimination fraternities also has appeared. Union College has a new local named Beta Eta Upsilon. It calls itself an ‘anti-
Each year, Thomas Deans ’55, alumni adviser, speaks to the new members of the Phi Lambda Theta chapter of Chi Phi fraternity, and each year he asks them the same question: “How many of you might not have joined a fraternity if not for Chi Phi?” This year, he reports, 19 out of 24 hands went up.

Founded in 1924 out of a deep desire to create a fraternity that encouraged and supported individual choice and diversity in a time that engendered neither on most college campuses, the fraternity possesses a singular character of inclusion that has shaped its past and present and will continue to shape its future. Deans attributes those core values to a group of men at Bucknell who refused to be a part of any organization that denied membership to individuals of different ethnicities and religions.

Brothers from several decades and their special guests celebrated 85 years of brotherhood at an anniversary banquet that took place over Homecoming. Current president Matt Feder ’10 says, “It was really great for the current brotherhood to be able to get together with the older alumni to reflect on what it really means to be a Chi Phi and a Phi Lambda Theta.”

The organization also has a distinctive history, as its genesis began with a group of men affiliated with the Odd Fellows at Penn State University. Then, in 1924, the Phi Lambda Theta chapter formed at Bucknell, and in 1983, PLT joined the Chi Phi national fraternity. Within that history was a journey that included affiliation and disaffiliation with another national fraternal organization that claimed a commitment to diversity but which, in actuality, did not follow that commitment, as well as the election of the first African-American fraternity president. In 1959, Frank Wood ’62 joined Phi Lam as its second African-American member. In his junior year, he was elected president of the organization. Wood recalls, “There was of course racism during that time. There were only four black students on campus and no black professors, but from the time I started at Bucknell I held positions of leadership.”

Indeed, as dorm president for Old Main (Roberts) and a member of the swim team, Wood was no slacker in the leadership department. He credits Phi Lam as being “pivotal to my success — the fraternity provided a social structure for me that allowed me to date and go to parties that I might not otherwise have had available. Back then, Phi Lam was an exception to the social order. All the other frats had written local and national rules that prohibited membership for anyone but while males.”

In 1963, the year after Wood’s graduation, the chapter sponsored a campuswide debate on discrimination at Bucknell. “The student and faculty participants attacked Bucknell’s latent discrimination in the classroom, admissions, athletics and scholarship assistance,” he says. “The audience filled the basement and living rooms of 203 South Third Street, the fraternity’s then-house, and a loudspeaker carried the debate to a large crowd outside on the lawn.” In the ’70s, the chapter held a historic vote which resulted in the inclusion of women among its ranks. While the fraternity no longer admits women, its alumnae members are afforded the same treatment and communication as the men. Deans is one of the loyal and committed PLT Chi Phi alumni who believe that the fraternity’s strength lies in its inherent belief in the value of diversity and acceptance of individualism. He points proudly to the alumni support of the chapter’s unanimous vote two years ago to become a safe house for GLBT (gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgendered) students as evidence of the chapter’s commitment to diversity and inclusion.

At the banquet, Deans asked the same question of the 100-plus assembled multi-generational brotherhood that he asks each pledge class. Everyone in the Terrace Room stood, all raising their hands in solidarity with their alumni brothers.

Mary Ann Sigler Stanton ’89 is Bucknell’s senior regional director of leadership gifts.
OUR humanity

By Richard Wormser ’55
Paul Remmey ’53 is dead. Ned Miller ’53 also. Fred Locke ’54, Leila Feifer McRibbin ’53, Rick Richter ’55, Jack Sisto ’55, Ed Friedman ’54. Every new issue of Bucknell Magazine comes as a messenger bearing news of classmates whom death has undone. The faces of some, in the full flush of their youth, remain vivid in my mind’s eye. The faces of others have detached themselves from their vaguely familiar names, descending into the dark matter of my mind.

Even as the arrival of the magazine brings news of deaths, it also gives life to thoughts of my college days. I enjoy reading the chatty, gossipy Class Notes that bear witness to the bonds of friendship that persist among my former classmates — even though 55 years have passed. Death and the drift of life have long dissolved the bonds I forged at Bucknell. It was through the fellowship of my little band of friends and teachers — Dick Duwors, Al Pierce and Bill Weist ’50 — that helped me emerge from the fury and mire of my life. In their kitchens and living rooms, through debates and discussions arcing from the fall of night to the edge of daybreak, the power of ideas, the passion of ideals and the poetry concealed within the mundane surfaces of existence lay revealed to me.

I absorbed much but digested little. My teachers had set me on what the Chinese call “the right path,” but after college there were no beacons to guide me. Uncertain of what I was to do, I was determined to steer clear of the huckster professions and to avoid becoming a tool of the ruling classes.
I took refuge in graduate school, and then, with my master’s degree in hand and a traveling bag on my shoulder, I learned by going where I had to go. In California fruit factories, I packed lemons. In Olympic National Park, I logged in lumber camps; in Yellowstone National Park, I washed nearly 1,000 dishes a day and then served 500 scoops of ice cream a day in Yosemite. I considered exploring the chance to search for uranium in the Utah desert for a year, but reluctantly turned it down after I learned that it meant co-habiting with scorpions and rattlesnakes.

Throughout my travels, I encountered extraordinary men and women whose harsh lives were alien to my own relatively secure existence. I listened to their stories, rich in human experience, and learned from them. I set sail for France, ostensibly as a student, but searching for my destiny. Pure happenstance drew me into the gravitational fields of Bill Burroughs and Allen Ginsberg, where I orbited for over a year. I dallied with writing, but lacked the discipline and imagination, let alone the talent, to create fiction.

Fourteen months later, Bucknell re-entered my life. My former teacher, Bill Weist, then editor of a small weekly newspaper in Shamokin, Pa., offered me a job as a reporter/photographer in a Pennsylvania coal town. I seized the chance. There, in the circus of small-town life, I struggled to give form, in clumsy prose and concise images, to what I felt about what I saw in this dreary, dying mining town that was so rich in stories.

The journalist’s path eventually led to documentary films.

My first film was about mentally disabled children growing up in a state institution in Pennsylvania. Then came the civil rights and the anti-Vietnam War movements, which allowed me to combine political passion with aesthetic perception. Documentary filmmaking gave me privileged access to men and women whose stories were seldom told, whose humanity was rarely recognized and whose struggle to validate their lives in a meaningful way was too often ignored. In the Middle East, I lived among Arab peoples in villages, the desert, refugee camps and in cities, documenting their daily lives with still images. In prisons, I filmed and wrote about men serving life terms for murder, or waiting anxiously on death row,

“Immerse yourself in the great variety of life.”
champion, pitching to a major league baseball team, quarterbacking a professional football team. Zuckerman recognizes the divide between them:

“Suddenly George Plimpton stood for all that I had squandered by removing myself as forcefully as I had to seek asylum from the great variety of life. George said to me, his singular voice rising into spirited confidence, ‘It is our humanity. We have to be part of it too.’ ”

That was the unspoken drift of my teachers’ teachings that so profoundly shaped my life: Immerse yourself in the great variety of life. It is your humanity. Be part of it. Have an effect — if you can.

I know, of course, that my journey is without destination, that it has been taken for its own sake and will end with the Supreme Oblivion, the end of all journeys. Yet I continue to focus on the work I may hopefully one day accomplish and disregard whatever I have already accomplished. I also teach at a university and try to inspire my students with the passions that inspire me. They are receptive, but they live in hard times that require attending to harsh realities rather than indulging in dreaming. To instill in them the hunger for the world so many of my generation had is hard, which is understandable considering the present condition of the world. But I try. I tell them: “It’s your humanity. Be part of it too.”

Richard Wormser ’55 is a documentary filmmaker and president of Video Line, Inc.
Full Frame

Classic Columns
The Breakiron Engineering Building uses classic Doric columns.
Photograph by The Wild Studio

If you would like a reprint of this photo or the photo on the back cover, please e-mail fullframe@bucknell.edu with your name and address, and we will send you a complimentary 8x10 photo.
For some, whether you’re five or 25 years out, your relationship to your undergraduate alma mater is tethered by little more than a bullet point on a résumé. This was certainly true in my case.

I grew up in Pennsylvania, graduated from Bucknell in 1982 and lived seven years each in Boston and New York (plus one year in Germany on a Fulbright Fellowship) before settling in Los Angeles in 1997. Since then, my East Coast life has receded ever further in the rear-view mirror.

Over the years I didn’t think much about Bucknell. I never attended a Reunion, and I didn’t look up classmates on Facebook — well, okay, except for an old flame from senior year, long since married with children. Only once did I venture out to a mixer for Southern California that happened to take place at a bar near my neighborhood. In the dimly lit room, it would have been difficult to find people I knew among the 50 or so attendees, but it didn’t matter; I knew no one, and there was no one to help break the ice. The experience only widened the gulf between Bucknell and me.

Then last summer, I learned that Bucknell was preparing to choose 10 Los Angeles public high school students to receive four-year, full-tuition scholarships through an exciting partnership with the Posse Foundation. Each year, Posse Foundation affiliates in seven American cities identify public high school students with strong academic and leadership potential who may be overlooked by traditional college selection processes. In teams — or Posses — of 10 students each, supported by scholarships, mentors and each other, students achieve a 90 percent graduation rate, well above the national average. Since its founding in 1989, Posse has sent 3,100 Posse Scholars to 37 colleges and universities throughout the country.

Discovering this new connection between my home-state alma mater and my adopted West Coast city electrified me. I pictured two bright lights pulsing on a giant map of the United States, one in Lewisburg and one in Los Angeles, and a stream of positive energy circulating between them — and myself a part of that, not only because I have lived in both places but because I was invited to participate in the Posse selection process.

Last fall, I joined dozens of other local volunteers in helping to winnow the L.A. applicant pool from more than 2,300 down to 160 finalists for 80 Posse scholarships to eight colleges and universities that partner with L.A. Just before Christmas, Bucknell officials visited L.A. to meet the University’s 20 finalists and, in an unusual move, were able to award scholarships to 11 (rather than the usual 10).

In January I attended the Posse award ceremony in the elegant auditorium of the Colburn School of Music in downtown L.A. along with hundreds of proud family members and teachers. Throughout this spring and summer I will serve as a volunteer writing tutor for the college-bound L.A. Posse Scholars. Come September, 11 of them will enter Bucknell’s Class of 2014, joining 85 fellow Posse Scholars from Boston and Washington, D.C., who are already at Bucknell which is one of only two American universities that has enrolled Posse Scholars from three cities.

I will be rooting for them all as they navigate life in their new community, my old community. And I will look forward, in a few short years, to welcoming them into the far-flung circle of Bucknell alumni who sooner or later find ways to give back.

Sylvia Sukop ’82 is a writer and artist based in Los Angeles. She adapted this essay from two stories originally published on The Huffington Post. You can read other pieces by the author at www.huffingtonpost.com/sylvia-sukop.
Meet the SKELTON SCHOLARS.

THE NEXT JACQUES COUSTEAU.
Hannah Rosen ’11
Animal behavior

YOUR FUTURE DENTIST.
Kelly Usenko ’11
Cell biology/biochemistry

THEIR BIGGEST FANS.
Dick Skelton ’60 and his wife, Cindy Helgren Skelton ’68
Richard C. Skelton Family Scholarship

As the longtime director of admissions, Dick knows a thing or two about talent and potential. Now retired, he and Cindy stay close to Bucknell by helping to make sure that outstanding applicants have the same great opportunities that they had.

To learn how you can fund a scholarship, please call Chris DelGiorno, executive director of leadership gifts, at 570-577-3200.