Altitude, Latitude, Aptitude

Study abroad gives students a new outlook.
Join fellow alumni, students and faculty at the third annual Bucknell Village and Homecoming Tailgate.

The academic departments welcome you to the Bucknell Academic Village. Spend time visiting former professors, meeting current students and reconnecting with classmates. Also, enjoy the tailgate lunch before the football game!

**Academic Village details**
- Saturday, Oct. 24, 11 a.m. – 1 p.m.
- Academic and Science Quads
- Free child care will be offered by Sunflower Child Care Center
- Great tailgate lunch, $8 per adult, $5 per student, $3 per child (10 and under)

**Additional weekend activities that you might enjoy**
- Celebration of 125 Years of Coeducation at Bucknell University
- Weis Center Series event: Violinist Angèle Debeau and LA PIETA
  Music for strings: *Myth & Legend*
- Bucknell vs. Lehigh football game
- Bucknell Athletics Hall of Fame induction
- Zero Year Reunion for the Class of 2009
- Bison Chips performance at the Weis Center
- Greek networking brunch
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Photograph by Corey Schwitz ’10
President’s Message

Compassion and Curriculum

At Commencement this past May, Nobel Laureate Elie Wiesel said, “There must be on this planet at least one person who needs you. One person you can help. Don’t turn away. Help.” Mr. Wiesel’s message of empathy and example provides a valuable context for work that Bucknell students are doing across the country and, in fact, the world. Our students regularly impact communities from Bucknell to New Orleans, Lewisburg to South Africa. These students carry out this work as part of coursework and research, service-learning projects and study abroad programs, student organizations and volunteer groups.

The recent 10th anniversary trip of the Bucknell Brigade and its inspiring work in Nicaragua is an example of how transformational such work can be for the individuals who participate and the communities they touch. The students who pursue this work come from all walks of life, whether as first-year students beginning college, community college transfer students or Posse Scholars. Emily Haley ’09, a member of our first Posse graduating class, is a good example: she revived Community Harvest, which provides 250 meals a week, in the Bucknell neighboring town of Milton.

As these programs make vividly clear, Bucknell builds bridges with and has some bearing on the world. We are proud in this edition of the magazine to celebrate the individuals who participate in such programs.

We also celebrate the work of our faculty who, after extensive analysis and planning, recently put into motion a new curriculum for the College of Arts and Sciences. This curriculum provides renewed focus on the University’s commitment to an education grounded in the liberal arts and focused on educating the whole individual.

As Mr. Wiesel said, and as Bucknell has proven it believes, “Knowledge must be transformed into commitment and sensitivity.”

* * *

By now, you have heard the news that I have decided to step down as president of Bucknell effective June 30, 2010. Since this is the first subsequent issue of this magazine, it didn’t seem right not to mention this news and to take the opportunity to thank everyone, on behalf of Maryjane and me, for all the wonderful experiences of these past five years and to ask for your special commitment to Bucknell at this time. This is no time for an inactive transition year. Bucknell needs its alumni, parents and many other friends fully engaged. We look forward to working with the community of Bucknellians near and far to keep progress going and to continue strengthening this institution that is so vitally important to so many.
SOLDIER, SCHOLAR
I just read the spring 2009 issue. Your article on Bucknell’s “scholar soldiers” was terrific. My father was a tail gunner during WWII. A second-generation American, I served in the U.S. Navy AirCorps from 1962–66. Much later, I used the G.I. Bill to help pay for my education. At age 50, after attending school for six years, I received a master’s degree in business administration from Bucknell. Thank you and all who serve our country.

Francis Demko ’91
Ruckersville, Va.

GIVE CREDIT TO MILITARY SCIENCE
Thank you so much for your spring cover story, “Conscience and Consequence,” and thanks especially to President Mitchell for his statement in his column that “Bucknell is proud to have been home to an ROTC program since 1951.” Too many university magazines would never run such an article, and too many university presidents would not say such a thing. All involved deserve kudos for putting a much-deserved spotlight on the Bison Battalion. But we shouldn’t stop there. If we are indeed proud of our ROTC program, let’s give the hard-working cadets academic credit for their military science courses. Not only is this the right thing to do, but it would take away the only bragging rights that Lehigh (which does give credit) has over “Dear Bucknell.”

Charles Mitchell ’05
Alexandria, Va.

AN EARLY MODERNIST
It is gratifying to learn that Bucknell has developed an active, diversified dance program [spring 2009]. In the mid 1940s, Peg Bryan of the phys. ed. department started a Modern Dance club. Although still devoted to ballet, I was interested in dance of any kind and became a member of Peg’s group.

Jean Lenox Toddie ’48, my roommate and still my dearest friend, was directing Starbright, a musical written by a fellow student, Leon Gonzalez ’49. I was to choreograph and produce the dance for the show. When Heidi Wood, wife of sociology professor Arthur Wood, got word, she volunteered to work with me. Heidi had been among the first to receive a master’s in modern dance at University of Wisconsin.

Thanks to Peg and Heidi, I spent the following summer studying with Hanya Holm and Alwin Nikolais at Colorado College. Thanks to Peg and Heidi, Bucknell had entered the new dance world. I never did go back to ballet — except as a fan.

Good luck to the dancers and the active department at Bucknell.

Dorothy Gotterer Horwitz ’48
Manchester, Conn.

HEAVIER METAL
I enjoyed the “Trendspotter” article on reusable bottles in the spring issue. There is one factual error, however. Kleen Kanteens are 100 percent stainless steel, not aluminum, as stated in the article.

Stephen Buonopane
Assistant Professor, Civil and Environmental Engineering

ERRATA
In the spring issue, on pg. 15, a review of The Singing Revolution refers to the Baltic region, which is incorrect and should read, Balkan region.

BUCKNELL DANCE HISTORY
I’ve always been glad to hear that the dance program at Bucknell has really taken off, with more funding and resources. During my years at Bucknell from 1981 to 1985, I was involved in the program, from taking classes to being a teacher’s assistant, as well as dancing, choreographing and managing the Bucknell dance company. When I arrived in 1981, the dance company was quite active. There were many fine dancers involved before I arrived, even though there were no tenured professors, but rather teachers brought in from off campus. It was a significant part of Bucknell life for many students long before 1987. I took a lot away from my dance experience at Bucknell, including leadership and management skills and lessons I’ve used in my business career all these years.

Jeanne Wiggers Bremer ’85
Seattle, Wash.

WEB EXCLUSIVES
Go to www.bucknell.edu/bmagazine to check out this issue’s web exclusives:
• Photo Galleries: Commencement and Reunion
• Download Campus Beauty Photos
• Which Cover Would You Choose?
• Video: Bucknell Brigade 10-Year Anniversary

ARE YOU BEYOND PAPER?
Do you love the printed word but hate the paper copy? Let us know, and we will take your name off of the distribution list for the print copy of Bucknell Magazine and send you a notice when each quarterly issue goes live on our website. E-mail requests to bmagazine@bucknell.edu.

BUCKNELL ON TWITTER
You now have one more way to follow what’s happening at Bucknell University. Become a follower on Twitter by visiting twitter.com/BucknellU. The University will post regular news and information updates as well as a few surprise announcements from time to time.

SUMMER 2009 BUCKNELL.EDU
New Arts and Sciences Core Curriculum

Curriculum requires students to examine issues in the global community.

By Sam Alcorn

Initiating one of the biggest changes in the arts and sciences curriculum in more than a decade, the College of Arts and Sciences faculty has approved the new College Core Curriculum and implementation timetable. It will be launched in fall 2010 with the arrival of the Class of 2014.

The four College Core Curriculum elements are Intellectual Skills, Tools for Critical Engagement, Disciplinary Perspectives and Disciplinary Depth: The Major. The Intellectual Skills component will include a required foundation seminar for first-year students, a foreign language course requirement, a co-taught integrated perspectives course for second-year students and a laboratory science requirement. Tools for Critical Engagement will provide students with opportunities to apply skills and knowledge to issues that are either a historical or new challenge. These courses include Diversity in the United States, Environmental Connections, Global Connections and Quantitative Reasoning.

Diversity in the United States has as its central concern approaches to gender, sexual orientation, class, race, religion or ethnicity in the cultural landscape of the United States. Environmental Connections will allow students to confront their personal connection to the environment through an analysis of environmental systems, cultural narratives that shape the environmental relationship or societal mechanisms that collectively interact with the environment. Global Connections courses will help students to identify and explore different cultural perspectives and inter-relationships between and across cultures. Quantitative Reasoning courses will prepare students for engagement with quantitative examination in which they will gain specific skills.

An additional requirement will expose students to a “wide range of intellectual inquiry” by requiring that they take two courses from each of the college’s divisions, including the arts and humanities, social sciences, and natural sciences and mathematics.

The new curriculum requirements are “aimed at improving on some of the
strengths of the previous requirements while also rectifying some of their problems,” says Sue Ellen Henry, a co-chair of the Arts and Sciences Curriculum Committee and associate professor of education. “One of the important improvements this curriculum makes is in taking our curricular values and offering learning goals that we can actually assess to see if we’ve fostered these values and created these educational outcomes.”

John Hunter, co-chair of the Arts and Sciences Curriculum Committee and associate professor of comparative humanities, says that learning goals offer consistent and minimum expectations for what these courses are to achieve for students and what students should know and be able to do as a result. “The new curriculum helps us focus our attention on some common aims, not the sole aims of any course, but some consistent aims across courses,” says Hunter. “The change should help our students gain a more consistent experience across the curriculum and, ultimately, be better educated as they navigate their way through their education with clear goals in mind.”

Development of the College Core Curriculum took place over the last 30 months. Some College Core Curriculum elements, like the integrated perspectives course and foreign language requirement, will require sufficient funding for development and staffing. A phased implementation is therefore planned, along with a transition period designed to allow departments to research and discuss options for classes, and adjust course offerings. Each College Core Curriculum element will be subject to ongoing assessment with a full review being conducted during the 2015–16 academic year. The foreign language requirement will be reviewed at the end of the 2013–14 academic year.

College of Arts and Sciences Dean Christopher Zappe recognizes the magnitude and impact of such a change at Bucknell. The new College Core Curriculum, he says, will provide students with the “foundational preparation for a lifetime of critical thinking and civic engagement” in a rapidly changing world.

Bucknell Celebrates 159th Commencement

Several thousand people assembled in Bucknell’s Academic Quadrangle on Sunday, May 17, for the University’s 159th commencement. More than 1,000 watched the ceremony online.

Nobel Laureate Elie Wiesel delivered his commencement address to each of them, but spoke directly to the Class of 2009. “Remember that it is possible by a kind of indifference to do so much to help evil triumph,” he said. “Never be indifferent.”

Wiesel traced the roots of this message back to his childhood in Transylvania and the months he and his family spent in the Auschwitz concentration camp. He spoke of missed opportunities that still haunt him, said decisions should have a “moral dimension,” and encouraged Bucknell graduates to “think higher and feel deeper” as they make their way in the world.

About 900 undergraduates and 40 graduate students received degrees at Commencement. Of the undergraduates, about 750 were conferred degrees in the arts and sciences. Another 140 received engineering degrees. Degree recipients represented 38 states and the District of Columbia and 15 countries.

President Brian C. Mitchell presented honorary degrees to Lauren P. Breakiron ’52, who has given back to Bucknell through donations that have supported financial aid and modern facilities; Gary A. Sojka, who served as the University’s 13th president from 1984 to 1995; and Wiesel, a Holocaust survivor who Mitchell described as a “passionate advocate for justice and equality.”

Mitchell told the new graduates to continue to ask questions as they begin the next stage of their lives. “Perhaps more so than you recognize at this thrilling hour, you are prepared to think, lead, serve, explore and make a difference in your community and in your world,” he said.

Class speaker Stephanie Rink ’09 encouraged her classmates to think of Bucknell as home. “Each of us has been impacted by what we have learned, what we have accomplished and who we have interacted with,” she said. “Each of us has made an impact on this campus.”

—Julia Ferrante
Reunion 2009

Bucknellians from around the world return for Reunion Weekend.

By Heather Peavey Jobns

Warm weather, crowds of proud Bucknellians and an all-new Reunion Rally marked Bucknell’s 2009 Reunion Weekend. More than 1,900 alumni and their families traveled from 37 states and four countries to take part in the four-day celebration from May 28–31.

The Class of 2004 returned in force for its fifth Reunion. It had the largest presence with 290 class members. Those who stayed on campus filled up Swartz Hall and a part of Roberts Hall. The Class of ’04 also gave generously, logging the highest percentage of giving by any Bucknell class that has celebrated its fifth Reunion.

During Saturday’s revamped Reunion Rally, Bucknell President Brian C. Mitchell thanked all alumni who are “rising to the challenge” in difficult economic times. He outlined the major initiatives that are allowing the University to “change where we need to, while protecting the sacred elements of Bucknell.” These initiatives include The Plan for Bucknell, the new campus master plan and the University’s continuing $400 million comprehensive campaign. Award recipients also were honored.

Reunion concluded with Sunday’s farewell luncheon. As alumni enjoyed one last meal together, they were treated to photo galleries showcasing the weekend’s festivities. “What a way to end the weekend,” said Paul Stratton ’87. “As I was saying goodbye to friends, I also checked out the photos showing all the fun we had during Reunion. I’m really looking forward to next year.”

To view Reunion photo galleries and videos go to www.bucknell.edu/bmagazine.

‘Time for Bucknell’

Applause and laughter filled the Weis Center for Performing Arts as alumni enjoyed Bucknell’s all-new Reunion Rally on Saturday, May 30. Time for Bucknell took the audience back through the years and treated them to a theatrical, musical and multimedia celebration of alumni accomplishments and giving.

The video portion of Time for Bucknell concluded by showcasing each Reunion class gift to ever-louder shouts of “Ray Bucknell!” Class gifts totaling more than $29.8 million were presented to the University at Reunion Rally, each earning its own well-deserved ovation. The Class of 1959 had much to cheer about. Celebrating their golden Reunion, ‘59ers raised $3.8 million, with 75 percent participation, and earned all three Reunion giving awards, including the Pete Pedrick Cup, given to the class with the highest giving percentage.

2009 Alumni Award Recipients

From left to right: James E. Nevels ’74, Award for Service to Humanity; Katie Malague ’94, Young Alumni Award; Stuart E. Berelson ’59, Loyalty to Bucknell Award; and Ronald Billings ’69, Award for Outstanding Achievement in a Chosen Profession.
Q&A

Jay Wright ’83, head men’s basketball coach at Villanova, answers a few questions about basketball and Bucknell.

By David Driver

Q: How has the appearance in the Final Four changed your life?
A: You can see a little more respect from people in the basketball world, from the fans and others. There have been a few more requests to speak, but so far, my life hasn’t changed that much. It was neat that Charlie Woollum, my former coach at Bucknell, was able to attend the Final Four.

Q: What is the most rewarding part of your job, including the head post at Hofstra and eight seasons with the Wildcats?
A: Really, just to see these young men grow in four years as players, as students and young men. Every player that has played for us at Villanova and Hofstra graduated on time. I get to keep in touch with the players, five to 10 years after they played. That is the most rewarding part of the job.

Q: What are your best memories of Bucknell, and how did that time shape you as a person and coach?
A: There were so many intelligent, well-rounded people from around the world there. I learned as much from the students as the professors. I came from the Philadelphia area, and all of a sudden I met people from all over the world. I thought I was a pretty good athlete and pretty good student, but I met guys who were better athletes and much better students. It opened my eyes to the world. It opened me up to opportunities that I could never think of.

Q: Do you keep in touch with Bucknell alumni?
A: We have one game each year at the Wachovia Center [in Philadelphia], and about 150 Bucknell alumni come out for the game. We get a skybox for them. After the game we go to the home of Jim Costello ’83 in Downingtown. It is my favorite game of the year, even if we lose.

Q: When and how did you first meet former Wildcats head coach Rollie Massimino, whom you later worked for as a Villanova assistant?
A: I met him while working at his basketball camp. I was a coach at the University of Rochester and was two or three years out of Bucknell. He came over during a camp drill and said, “You are doing a great job.” It was a thrill for me.

Bucknell in the News

BURST BUBBLES

Campus Technology reported that four Bucknell biomedical engineering students developed a device to help medical professionals inject fluids into blood vessels without also injecting air bubbles. Working with Geisinger doctors, the students created a device that filters out air before it reaches the catheter, reducing the likelihood that air bubbles will enter the body.

THE BIG LEAGUES

Matt Daley ’04 made a successful Major League debut with the Colorado Rockies, according to MLB.com, pitching a no-run inning. Daley was signed as a non-drafted free agent out of Bucknell in 2004 and has spent his entire career in the Rockies organization, making all but 10 of his 226 Minor League appearances as a relief pitcher.

ROBOTS “R” US

NBC local affiliate WBRE filmed staff and students demonstrating robot technology for Rep. Chris Carney (D-PA). Bucknell partnered with the Science Advisory Council’s Institute for Human and Machine Cognition to develop robotics that may eventually help accomplish tasks in situations hazardous to humans, hopefully saving lives as robot technology advances.

COME HERE OFTEN?

Professor of Psychology Joel Wade’s research indicates that men favor a direct approach when being chatted up by women, as reported by The Telegraph. His study shows that men have difficulty reading subtle signs even if accompanied by flirtatious body language. While men found direct approaches most appealing, women responded to common interests.
A Night at the Movies
Orchestra performs classic movie scores.
By Andrew W.M. Beierle

From the early days of silent films to the lush orchestrations of Hollywood composer John Williams, music has been as integral to the movie-going experience as popcorn.

Bucknell University Orchestra Director Christopher Para paid homage to that fact when he presented “the very best of the genre” during a Weis Center concert in April. “A Night at the Movies” featured film scores by Williams, including *E.T.* and *Jurassic Park*, as well as works by George Gershwin, Dmitri Shostakovich and others.

As Para conducted accompanying music by Jules Massenet, English professor Eric Faden narrated the classic 1902 film, *A Trip to the Moon*, by Georges Melies.

“I wanted to give the orchestra the opportunity to accompany a film,” Para says, “to work as real theater musicians.”

Engineering Dean Returns to Teaching
Orbison steps down from dean post.
By Tom Evelyn

Jim Orbison, who has served as dean of the College of Engineering for the past nine years and who has led a marked expansion and strengthening of the college’s academic programs and facilities, has announced his decision to step down from his post effective Aug. 1.

“Jim has built and guided one of the country’s best engineering programs and helped ensure that it will have continued success in graduating engineers who are ready to address the challenges of the global community,” said Bucknell University Provost Mick Smyer. “We look forward to his continued engagement in the life of Bucknell and to his returning to his first love of working daily as a faculty member with students.”

A 1975 Bucknell graduate, Orbison taught for 18 years in the college before accepting the appointment as dean in 2000. Following a sabbatical year upon his stepping down, Orbison will return to the faculty in the fall of 2010 to resume his teaching responsibilities.

During Orbison’s tenure as dean, the College of Engineering has added four new degree programs, beginning with the biomedical engineering degree and master of science degree in environmental engineering in 2003. In 2006, the college added a five-year dual-degree engineering and management program, and last year it introduced the bachelor of science in computer engineering degree.

Since Orbison became dean, applications for admission to the college have increased by 75 percent. As a result, the college now offers admission to fewer than one out of every three applicants.

“We’ve reaffirmed our commitment to providing undergraduate engineering education of the highest quality,” Orbison said, reflecting on his tenure as dean. “We’ve reaffirmed our mission statement, but most importantly, we act on it.”
Serving Land and Sea
New University Chaplain comes to Bucknell from the Navy.
By Julie Dreese

One of the newest members of the Bucknell community, the Rev. Thomasina Yuille began her duties as campus chaplain on July 13. A career Navy chaplain, she earned masters’ degrees in divinity and sacred theology from the Yale Divinity School, and is a 2009 doctoral candidate at Hartford Seminary, where she has focused on Christian, Islamic and Judaic studies. She retired in 2008 as staff chaplain at the U.S. Naval Submarine School in Groton, Conn., which is the largest fleet school in the Navy and graduates 30,000 officers and enlisted members each year. Yuille joins the campus community as University Chaplain. She follows the Rev. Timothy Dugan, who served as Bucknell’s interim University Chaplain since August 2008.

Yuille previously completed two deployments in the United Arab Emirates as command chaplain aboard the USS Jason; served on the Chaplain Emergency Response Team at “Ground Zero” after the 2001 terrorist attacks; and coordinated volunteers working at a humanitarian relief project in Mexico.

“We welcome the Rev. Yuille to the Bucknell community,” says Susan Hopp, dean of students. “She is an ordained and well-seasoned pastor, counselor, administrator, educator and theologian who has provided a vigorous ministry to young adult populations in diverse, specialized and competitive environments.”

Says Yuille, “Bucknell’s traditional worship center is a critical component of building community. In turn, there is a fundamental respect for spirituality, which informs every aspect of our lives.”

Network News
The Bucknell Professional Network connects and energizes alumni.
By Gigi Marino

In 2007, Bucknell’s Alumni Affinity program launched its first industry and professional group, the Bucknell Finance Network (BFN), with 125 alumni attending a reception at Morgan Stanley in New York City. A year later, the BFN had 500 members. Since then, Bucknell’s Alumni Relations and Career Development Office has introduced five industry specific groups to function as conduits for interactions among Bucknellians, including alumni, parents, students and faculty: consumer products, health, media/technology and public service. The College of Engineering also launched an engineering network. Later this year, the Bucknell Entrepreneurial Network and the Bucknell Law Network will join the expansive group that offers professional resources to alumni and students.

Matt Gay ’92 and Eric Rutter ’93, leaders in the Bucknell Media/Technology Network, started talking to Todd Singer ’91 in the BFN and Bob Gamgort ’84 of the Bucknell Consumer Products Network about connecting the various groups to harness even more energy and ideas. Thus was born the Bucknell Professional Network (BPN), designed to function as an overarching uber-network that can tap into the collective knowledge of all the industry and profession groups.

The BPN held its inaugural event May 19 at the Martha Stewart Living Studios in New York City, which was telecast to groups in four other cities around the country; a group in Los Angeles viewed the tape later that day.

For more information on becoming involved with any of the Bucknell industry/professional networks, or to receive the upcoming Bucknell Professional Network newsletter, contact Carole Bourgeacq-Hardt at ipinet@bucknell.edu or 570-577-3039.
Business Leaders Unite

Bucknell hosts its first Entrepreneurship Summit.

By Kyle Winslow ’09

In February, a panel of alumni and parent entrepreneurs met with Bucknell faculty, staff and students, providing a venue for discussion of what makes a successful entrepreneur. Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences Christopher Zappe summed up the message of the summit. “Put simply, a liberal arts education and the co-curricular opportunities available to our students come together to create unique opportunities for future graduates to rehearse the behaviors that are essential for entrepreneurial achievement over the years of their productive lives,” he said.

Seminars focused on topics from how student initiatives like Bucknell’s Residential Colleges promote entrepreneurship, to the importance of internships and externships.

Richard Caruso MS’66 spoke about the makings of a successful entrepreneur, most notably the importance of capitalizing on a liberal education with a competitive attitude. Caruso drew on his experience as founder of Integra Life-Sciences Corp., an organization that makes Integra DRT, the first product approved by the FDA to regenerate skin damaged by thermal injuries. In 2006, Caruso was the Ernst & Young Entrepreneur of the Year.

Also, the Department of Alumni Relations, Bucknell Business Leaders and the Bucknell Finance Network hosted Bucknell’s first Venture Plan Competition. Elizabeth Geisinger ’09 and David James ’09 took first place and were awarded $5,000 for their plan, MyHometownLink LLC, an online social network designed to connect high school and college students who are looking for work with local families who need help with everyday jobs.

President Brian C. Mitchell reflected on how education can foster the entrepreneurial spirit. “The intellectual and social development that is promoted by a Bucknell education forms the basis for a lifetime of meaningful civic engagement and entrepreneurship, regardless of one’s chosen career path,” said Mitchell.

SHORT STACK

Bucknell bids a fond farewell to six retiring faculty who have devoted a combined 190 years to the University: Robert Gainer, associate professor of theatre; Thomas Greaves, professor of anthropology; Jai Kim, professor of civil engineering; Edward Mastascusa, professor of electrical engineering; Susan Fischer, professor of Spanish and comparative literature; and Madhu Malik, associate professor of Russian.

Jessica Jackley ’00, co-founder of the nonprofit peer-to-peer micro-financing company Kiva, was voted one of Time’s 100 most influential people. The list focuses on people who are using their ideas, vision and actions to transform the world, and includes Barack Obama, the Dalai Lama and Pope Benedict XVI. “It’s a huge honor,” says Jackley. She ranks No. 69 in reader votes.

The Bucknell Bison have earned the Patriot League Presidents’ Cup all-sports championship for the 15th time in the league’s 19-year history. Army is the only other institution to hold the President’s Cup. The Bison also captured their 12th and 15th overall Women’s Cup title. Men’s golf, women’s rowing and women’s outdoor track and field all won Patriot League championships.
‘Philadelphia Fire’ Author Named Janet Weis Fellow in Contemporary Letters

John Edgar Wideman will speak at Bucknell on Sept. 29.

By Andrew W.L. Beierle

A cclaimed novelist, short story writer and essayist John Edgar Wideman, whose brooding, Faulknerian work examines the often-tragic complexities of African-American life, has been named the 2009 Janet Weis Fellow in Contemporary Letters.

Born in Washington, D.C., in 1941 but reared in the Homewood section of Pittsburgh, where much of his fiction is set, Wideman dared to envision for himself a future as a novelist, academic and intellectual at a time when the nation had barely begun to grapple with the divisive and often violent issue of civil rights. His academic prowess earned him a Rhodes Scholarship and, in 1963, an article in Look magazine titled, “The Amazing John Edgar Wideman.”

But he could not entirely escape the consequences of being a black man in mid-20th-century America, and he used literary alchemy to transform personal tragedy and racial strictures into meaningful narrative. The Dictionary of Literary Biography praises him for “his serious consideration of contemporary issues, including the deterioration of African-American urban life, the meaning of modern black manhood and the role of violence and criminality in American life.”

Wideman is the first author to receive the international PEN/Faulkner Award for Fiction twice — once in 1984 for his novel Sent for You Yesterday and again in 1990 for Philadelphia Fire. He also has received the National Magazine Editors’ Prize for Short Fiction, the American Book Award for Fiction, the MacArthur Award and the O. Henry Award. His 1996 memoir, Fatheralong: A Meditation on Fathers, Sons, Race and Society, was a finalist for the National Book Award.

Wideman will receive the award and give a talk at 7:30 p.m. on Tuesday, Sept. 29, in the Weis Center for the Performing Arts.

Bucknell has chosen Barnes & Noble College Booksellers to design and manage a new 29,000-square-foot University bookstore scheduled to open in summer 2010. Occupying a historic building on the northwest corner of Fourth and Market streets in Lewisburg, the new bookstore will include a café and spaces for literary and artistic performances. Construction began this summer.

Bucknell exceeded academic standards for the fifth year in a row in the latest NCAA Academic Performance Rate report. A recently implemented formula tracks student-athlete eligibility and retention over a rolling four-year period. All 27 Bucknell teams compiled a score above the national Division I average, and 12 earned perfect 1,000 scores — well above the 925-point cutoff.
Ancient Subversives
A classics professor turns to poetry to uncover secrets about Pindar and Penelope.
By Maria Jacketti

Stephanie Larson, associate professor of classics, hopes to make the ancient world relevant to her students and reveal new layers of a still-mysterious past through her original research on poetry from the time. She is researching a book about the ancient Greek poet Pindar, who was born in Boeotia in 522 B.C. Early in his career as a local lyric bard, Pindar made “cultural history as an individual poet,” says Larson. His performances commanded high fees, and included the Pan-Hellenic Games in Olympia and spectacles at Delphi.

As with many literary figures of his time, getting to know Pindar is a difficult task. Detailed biographical information is scarce; however, Larson has been able to piece together details of his life by examining his extant poetry. Her preliminary research reveals that despite Pindar’s mainstream success, he was a rebel of the times, using poetry to counteract the negative stereotypes of his home province. By tracing the development of a typical Pindarian ode, Larson has discerned patterns the poet used to extol the virtues of Boeotia. He tended to praise local heroes, such as Herakles, a Theban, and also interspersed details of his own life in his work.

Larson is also working on a series of articles dealing with Greek poets Sappho and Herodotus. She is examining Sappho’s view of Homer’s Penelope.

Over the ages, men have praised Penelope as a patient, chaste and long-suffering wife, the ideal of Greek womanhood. Yet it appears that Penelope, too, was subversive. Larson’s newest findings suggest that Penelope was a shrewd queen, holding suitors at bay and perhaps even manipulating them during Odysseus’ absence from Ithaca, ultimately achieving matrimonial equality with the king through her persistently veiled intelligence, ruses and tests.

Larson’s research on Herodotus examines his view of Eros, the Greek god of love, as applied to politics of the day. Herodotus viewed erotic excess — particularly that of the rival Persian King — as a political liability.

FACULTY PROFILE
James Baish
James Baish, professor of mechanical and biomedical engineering, is spending his sabbatical year conducting research to answer some of medicine’s most fundamental quandaries. He has been collaborating with Geisinger Medical Center’s Department of Urology on the development of a computer program that can depict and measure urine flow through the ureter. Understanding the shapes of obstructions can lead to simpler and more effective treatments. This research is geared toward treating blockages most commonly found in infants.

Baish also is conducting research at Massachusetts General Hospital in the Edwin L. Steele Lab for Tumor Biology. Doctors have found that blood vessels feeding cancerous tumors differ substantially from normal human blood vessels in that their structures can display chaotic patterns rather than predictable geometric configurations. This often impedes the effective delivery of chemotherapy to tumors. He hopes that his work will help discover ways to normalize blood vessels so chemotherapy can treat tumors with greater efficiency and success.

Baish began his career in mechanical engineering, recognizing early the value in the merger of medicine and engineering. He believes that pre-med students should investigate new opportunities in this field, because the merger between the two disciplines has the potential to improve patient care and treatment in ways we have yet to imagine. — Maria Jacketti
The Education of a Golf Champion

Andrew Cohen '10 is the reigning king of the greens.

By David Driver

This year, as a junior, Andrew Cohen ’10 was the individual golf champion in the Patriot League and helped the Bison win the league title for the third time in four years. A double major in political science and religion, Cohen was named the GolfWorld Player of the Week during the 2009 season as Bucknell advanced to the NCAA regional tournament in Kentucky this past May.

“He has really developed into the type of player we anticipated,” Coach Jim Cotner says of Cohen, who has been named to the Patriot League academic honor roll during his career and become a team leader. “Physically, he has gotten stronger. He has lost a little weight, due to the winter fitness that he does. His short game has improved tremendously.”

Cohen says his temper occasionally got the best of him on the golf course. But, a turning point came during his sophomore year at Bucknell, when he lived with a pair of senior golfers Keita Aoki ’08 and Stu Lindgren ’08.

“My game has definitely matured, and I am definitely more mature,” Cohen says. “I had a bad temper and had to control myself. I lived with those seniors last year, which really helped me.”

Cohen’s development was also aided by an ongoing friendly rivalry with teammate Brian Bartow ’10. The two played golf against each other, as well as being baseball teammates, while attending rival high schools in Westchester County, N.Y. They teamed up again when both joined the golf team and advanced to the NCAA tournament as first-year students.

This year, Cohen shot a league-record 208 at the Patriot League event and won the title by eight shots in late April. That victory came one week after he won the Caves Valley Intercollegiate title near Baltimore.

He shot a 75 on the second day of the NCAA regional tourney in May as the Bison were 14th out of 14 teams. Cohen shot an 85 on the third and last day. No matter how he fares, Cohen’s parents are among several family members who follow the team at home and on the road. His parents, Fred and Eileen, have professional backgrounds in television distribution but also find time to play golf. But Cohen is slow to give them advice, since he is focusing on his own career.

“I feel my game has progressed every year,” he says. “Driving the golf ball has always been a strength. My short game and putting have really improved this spring.” Cohen is looking forward to a stellar senior year on and off the links.
Bison by the Bayou

The Katrina Relief Team helps rebuild the Crescent City.

By Kyle Winslow '09

Ever since Hurricane Katrina brought disaster to the Gulf Coast in 2005, Bucknell students have been getting their hands dirty in the cleanup effort. The Katrina Recovery Team (KRT), a group of students and faculty traveling to New Orleans, La., and Bay St. Louis, Miss., has helped sort through the debris of the storm’s aftermath and rebuild homes during its twice-annual delegations.

Since the inception of the KRT, dozens of Bucknell students have participated in the weeklong trip, organized by the Office of Service Learning. In March, the KRT worked in the Upper Ninth Ward, in collaboration with Habitat for Humanity, putting the finishing touches on brightly painted homes before their new owners move in. Bucknell students not only see the destructive forces of the storm and the extent of the damage firsthand, but also learn the skills necessary to have an impact on the city’s revitalization — like patience, selflessness and an even hammer strike.

STUDENT PROFILE

Jay Hahn ’11

Jay Hahn ’11 did not have to wrestle with his decision of where to attend college. With its balance of academic excellence and athletic opportunity, Bucknell University emerged as the best option. “I wanted to go to a school that had a good reputation for a business program and a school where I could participate in Division I athletics,” says Hahn, whose deal was sealed by being recruited for Bucknell’s wrestling team and earning an academic scholarship in his accounting major.

Hahn has found Bucknell life to be a multi-dimensional and challenging endeavor, noting that his global and diverse interests are not only supported, but also encouraged by the University. “I have always been interested in business, the stock market and finance,” he says. “I figured that although I may not necessarily want to be an accountant, an accounting major could open many doors for me in the business world.” Hahn is also fascinated by global economics, thanks to a class he took as a first-year student. He is considering a minor in East Asian studies and is monitoring economic trends in the region, particularly China.

A full university experience to Hahn extends far beyond the classroom. The Malvern, Pa., native continues to pursue his longtime love, wrestling. During the wrestling season, his days are filled with classes, training and practice. While some might find such a schedule exhausting, Hahn thrives on the challenge. He prides himself on maintaining an appropriate balance between academics and athletics that the University affords its students.

“Division I sports really helps you to manage your time better and teaches you how to be more responsible,” says Hahn, who also enjoys attending lectures from guest speakers like CNBC’s Mad Money host, Jim Cramer; participating in the accounting club; and trading Bucknell stories with his aunt, Patricia McConnell ’75.

Despite the insecurity characterizing the current American economy, he has “complete confidence in the investment” in his degree. Hahn is proud to illustrate the importance of diversification of the individual, not just a portfolio.

— Maria Jacketti
The Young and the Generous

The adventurous spirit of Jared Rosner ’02 inspires his classmates to create two summer internship funds in his memory.

By Christina Masciere Wallace

Audrey Richardson ’10 is spending her summer as a legislative intern with the American Civil Liberties Union in Tennessee. Benjamin Clements ’10 is teaching English, math and soccer with the Right to Dream Football Academy in Ghana. Neither knew the late Jared Rosner ’02, but each received a Bucknell Public Interest Program (BPIP) internship stipend funded in his memory.

McMahon initially hoped to fund one $2,500 internship but ended up raising enough money for two. “People were just so excited about this idea. It’s been a really nice way to get back in touch and talk about our memories of Jared and stay connected to the University,” he says.

Twenty-seven other Bucknell students also were awarded 2009 summer stipends through the BPIP Internship Fund. Other current host organizations include the Starlight Child Foundation, the Red Cross of Macedonia, the Philadelphia Zoo, Shakespeare Theatre of New Jersey, Medical Teams International, the Environmental Defense Fund, Make a Wish Foundation and Unite for Sight.

The BPIP Internship Fund has grown steadily, according to Pamela Keiser, director of the Career Development Center. “A significant percentage of Bucknell students are interested in gaining experience and doing some ‘reality testing’ of what the nonprofit sector offers, both government and non-government, and how that might fit with their career aspirations,” she says. “There is an application process, and the program has become quite competitive.”

Since 2004, the BPIP Internship Fund has supported undergraduates who have secured and accepted an unpaid, full-time summer internship with a public nonprofit or government office. All stipend funds are gifts from alumni, parents and friends of the University.

Trip McMahon ’02, who led a dozen classmates in the fundraising effort, was looking for a creative way to pay tribute to his friend, who died following a skiing injury in 2004. He found it with BPIP. “The program was the perfect fit for honoring Jared’s legacy,” he says. “Jared was adventurous and always into finding knowledge outside the classroom.”

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The goals of BPIP are twofold: to help selected students pay for costs related to secured unpaid internships, and to educate students and alumni about career opportunities within the nonprofit and government sectors — areas that many times cannot match the on-campus recruitment presence of large-scale business and engineering firms.

“There are so many public service programs out there that are specific to a geographic area or issue,” Keiser says. “Our Bucknell alumni and parents are an extremely important source of information and assistance for students who want to explore careers in public service.”

Each April, the BPIP Alumni Advisory Board gathers on campus to interview student applicants and select the recipients. The board includes Meiko Boynton ’05, an events planner with the International Peace Institute, which works closely with the United Nations community in New York City. With help from BPIP during her senior year, Boynton secured a two-year fellowship working as an elementary school development director and later spent time as a grants writer with Amnesty International.

“Since I benefitted so much from BPIP, I really enjoy giving back to the program,” Boynton says. She advises sophomores with BPIP summer internships in New York, and spoke about the nonprofit sector as part of a BPIP panel recently held in Princeton, N.J.

Richardson, currently with the ACLU, appreciates the opportunity to explore her interest in policy without having to worry about finances. Clements, whose award helped defray the cost of his travel to Ghana, looks forward to working with young soccer players there. And McMahon hopes that he and his classmates can continue their good work in Jared Rosner’s name.

“It’s pretty cool to be able to give back as a group of friends,” he says. “And it’s rewarding to see that our contributions are helping current students.”

The Susquehanna River is a rich resource for the BUEC’s array of programs.

**Growth Spurt**

Success of Environmental Center inspires new support.

**Dave Ekedahl ’56, P’79,** a retired financial analyst with a keen eye for good investments, likes what he sees in the Bucknell University Environmental Center (BUEC). He and his wife, Patricia P’79, recently committed $500,000 to an endowment that will support and sustain new programs and new projects.

“I wanted to be involved with something at Bucknell that is starting up and needs support,” says Ekedahl, a University trustee, who made the decision after seeing a presentation by BUEC directors Craig Kochel and Peter Wilshusen last fall. “They explained what they were doing, but more importantly, they talked about their dreams. I was very impressed with their work and ideas.”

That’s good news for Kochel, a geology professor. “We have so many great ideas, and so much energy from faculty, students and partner organizations,” he says, “but we’re growing faster than our budget.”

The rapid success of the center, founded just five years ago, increases its need for resources.

“Word is getting out about the fact that we are not just about science or engineering, but also about humanities, social and cultural issues, so student interest is increasing,” Kochel says. “And our connections with off-campus groups have increased dramatically to include numerous federal, state and regional agencies, county planners, foundations, Geisinger Health Research, other universities and the Susquehanna River Heartland Coalition for Environmental Studies. Every year we are maxing out and facing the same challenges.”

The center is organized around three major initiatives, which focus on the Susquehanna River, Campus Greening, and Nature and Human Communities. It has attracted several major grants, including a $450,000 Henry Luce Foundation grant, as well as state and federal funding. In addition, the BUEC recently was granted use of a state-owned field station and land in the Roaring Creek watershed, located 35 miles southeast of campus — a distinction for an undergraduate institution, notes Kochel.

Ekedahl, who describes himself as more skeptic than “greenie,” has a personal interest in the economic aspect of environmentalism. For him, the BUEC represents a valuable opportunity for students and faculty to examine a complex issue from many different angles.

“The center is well balanced, and the interdisciplinary approach is a priority for Bucknell,” he says. “This is an opportunity to help it get off the ground a little faster.”

—Christina Masciere Wallace
For Bucknell students, study abroad programs offer the ultimate classroom without walls. By Brett Tomlinson ’99
The Maasai are one of the most recognizable indigenous groups in Africa. Studying abroad in Tanzania, Jessica Scott ’08 lived among the Maasai and observed their customs.
When Linda Kang ’10 scanned the dilapidated homes of a
South African shantytown, she
saw graffiti, corrugated metal
and tenuous wooden walls. But
after a few days working with
some of the people who lived in
the township, she came to understand that the houses represen-
ted a larger reality: “Miles and miles of people with no
employment, and really no chance of employment,” she says.

Kang traveled to South Africa as part of Semester at Sea, a
study-abroad voyage and one of the many programs open to
Bucknell students, which took her to 10 countries in 108 days.
The program offered variety and immediacy. One day, Kang
would sit in her cabin and read about the Zen temples of Japan.
The next, she would explore the temples firsthand.

But the trip promised much more than sightseeing. Though
Kang was already a seasoned and eager traveler when she arrived
at Bucknell, she had spent little time in the developing world.
Semester at Sea’s stops in places like Namibia, India, Malaysia
and Vietnam allowed her to interact with people from different
cultural and economic backgrounds — an exciting prospect for
Kang, a double-major in religion and psychology.

Kang chose a schedule packed with service projects and home
visits, opportunities to get to know more about the people she
encountered. When she spent a day with an Indian family, she
wanted to talk about Hinduism, but the discussion turned to
everyday life. She was impressed by how the people she met
“put love first,” valuing compassion and friendship over material
things. In Malaysia, Kang made an emotional visit to a home for
adults with physical and mental disabilities, where a young woman
confined to a wheelchair confessed her profound loneliness and
her prayers to one day walk again.

But no person affected Kang more than the man she called
“Playa,” a South African worker she met while building new
homes in Cape Town. (He’d mentioned that his name meant
“to play” in Xhosa, his native language, giving birth to Kang’s
affectionate nickname.) Together, they stacked concrete blocks,
hauled bags of sand and mixed cement. Playa, like Kang, was a
volunteer, mostly because there were no paying jobs to be found.
He arrived hungry each day, left with a bit of bread and slept
nearly in the shantytown. But he had adhered to the routine for
six months. Working on homes provided some sense of promise,
he told Kang — a hope that the next generation would not have
to sleep beneath leaky roofs or fear that an errant flame would
reduce their house to ash.

The day after Kang met Playa and heard his story, she returned
to the construction site with a backpack stuffed with coloring books,
pens, snacks and candy for the children nearby, along with a fresh
loaf of bread for her new co-worker. In her blog, she wrote that
she “never expected to want to give a loaf of bread to someone
so badly.”

That night, Kang made a vow to herself: Each day, she would
send an e-mail plea to South Africa’s Habitat for Humanity
office, which ran the construction site. She would lobby, donate,
íncrease funds — whatever it took — to get Playa, and other hard-
working people like him, on the payroll.

During that trip, Kang was learning what many
who have studied abroad know well: The
experience can change your life, in ways great
and small. It can nudge you toward a new career
path, reshape what you value and expand your
mind in directions that would never occur to you when you first
sit in front of that white screen to pose for a passport photo.

About 45 percent of today’s Bucknell students engage with the
world by spending a semester abroad. If you include the students
who study abroad during the summer, the figure climbs to half of
all undergraduates, according to Robert Midkiff, the assistant
provost who oversees the Office of International Education.

Study abroad has been a key part of Bucknell’s effort to build
bridges to the world beyond the campus. The University offers
two “Bucknell in” programs during the regular academic year —
Bucknell in London, Bucknell en France, Bucknell en España
and Bucknell in Barbados — as well as several three- to six-week
collaborations in the summer months. The international
education office also approves dozens of programs sponsored by
other institutions, allowing undergraduates to pursue studies in
more than 50 countries.

Participation in study abroad has grown significantly in the last
10 years, but travel programs have long been a part of Bucknell’s
offerings. Lee Schwartz ’76, the geographer of the United States
and director of the State Department’s Office of the Geographer

“Study abroad has been a key part of Bucknell’s effort
to build bridges to the world beyond the campus.”

and Global Issues, recalls spending a few memorable weeks
abroad with geography professor Richard Peterec in Egypt in
1975 and in the former Soviet Union and Eastern Europe the
following year.

The trips were built around cultural exchange, not course
assignments or field studies, but there was no mistaking the
educational values that Peterec instilled. Schwartz, then a young
geography major with a budding sense of wanderlust, says that
he learned to travel “because of intellectual curiosity, as much
as adventure.”

To pay for the trip to Egypt, Schwartz cashed in savings bonds
from his Bar Mitzvah, to the dismay of his grandmother. (Egypt
had been at war with Israel just two years earlier.) In Egypt,
Schwartz says he was embraced by the people he met, a sign of
with international leaders for diplomatic and scientific exchanges. Wherever he goes, he says, the cultural awareness that Peterec taught travels with him.

For recent graduate Jessica Scott ’08, cultural immersion was a top priority when she chose to spend the spring of 2007 in Tanzania. The animal behavior major enrolled in a program that centered on field studies. She learned Swahili and spent weeks in the country’s national parks, surrounded by lions, giraffes, elephants, baboons and just about every other African animal one can imagine. But the most memorable experiences for Scott were her interactions with the people of Tanzania.

She lived for four days with families from the indigenous Maasai community. The Maasai engage in the controversial practice of female circumcision, and dynamics within the group, like the power relationships between men and women, were very different from what Scott had known at home.

Among the Maasai, Scott says, men strove for wealth — more cattle, more wives — but also observed an overarching sense of community. All seemed to realize that one person or one family
could not survive without the help of the larger group. The students became eager observers, not quick to judge what they’d seen. “The only way to learn, and the only way to help people, if that is your thing, is to understand their culture,” Scott says.

During her semester in Tanzania, Scott endured two serious medical problems: a case of appendicitis that sent her to a Nairobi hospital for two weeks, and a brief but frightening bout with malaria. Still, she remembers the trip fondly — so fondly, in fact, that she plans to travel to Africa again in the coming year as part of a year-long trip from Japan to Kenya by land.

Along the way, Scott plans to work with organic farmers to earn room and board. Her itinerary is uncertain and her language skills are limited, but because of the lessons learned in Tanzania, she is not sweating the details. “I’m comfortable with the thought of being uncomfortable,” she says.

Not all of the students who choose to study abroad are avid travelers like Scott and Schwartz. For Meghan O’Reilly ’10, a double-major in French and English, the prospect of a semester away from campus was a bit intimidating. She chose to spend the fall of 2008 studying in Bucknell en France, the University’s collaboration with the Université François Rabelais in Tours, because it offered a few reminders of home, including Bucknell faculty and a handful of American students.

At the same time, O’Reilly says she enjoyed the everyday challenges of being immersed in a language that she had studied since middle school. Living with a French host family, she found that speaking French went from a two-hour-a-day commitment to a round-the-clock reality. O’Reilly gained confidence over the course of the semester and began taking opportunities to be more inquisitive and travel outside of Tours. She’d chosen the Bucknell program for the support it promised, but “by the time I left,” she says, “I felt like I didn’t need that support.”

Adjusting to French culture was not without aggravations. O’Reilly laughs when she recalls one of her last days in Tours. She had decided to bake cookies with her host sisters, in an effort to share an American experience. Unable to find the right ingredients in her kitchen, she left for the local market. But on the street, she was caught behind a protest march (“People are always striking in France,” she says), and by the time she passed the protesters, all of the stores were closed for the two-hour luncheon break. The string of minor inconveniences illustrated a contrast with life in Lewisburg, where the errand might have taken 20 minutes.

But when O’Reilly came back to Bucknell, a strange thing happened. She began to miss the slower pace of life in France. She started being more frugal and conscious of conserving...
Three months after arriving in Barbados, Stephanie Quinn ’10 learned to embrace the island’s unhurried pace. “Sometimes the buses are slow; the water didn’t run two weekends ago ... and the Internet is always slow,” she wrote, “but no one else seems to mind, so I’m not about to.”

In Cairo, a city of nearly 20 million people, Lindsay Baker ’11 found rewards in one-on-one interactions when she volunteered to teach English in a nearby suburb. “They know more English than they think,” she wrote of her eager students. “For me it’s a matter of providing practice.”

At a professional soccer match in Buenos Aires, Corey Schwitz ’10 huddled among tens of thousands of “fanatics,” trying his best to decipher the lyrics of the home club’s songs. When he gave up and started mumbling a Cher tune, a local fan called him out. “I should never have doubted the Argentines’ encyclopedic knowledge of ’80s music,” Schwitz quipped.

These stories were among the dozens of fresh impressions posted by undergraduates on Bucknell’s study abroad blog last spring. Since the summer of 2007, students have volunteered to write about their international experiences as they happen throughout the year, filing stories, photos and videos from more than 25 countries. This summer’s bloggers will be reporting from around the world in South Korea, Ireland, Egypt, Australia, Morocco, Costa Rica, Germany, Italy, England and Spain.

Nearly all of the students’ memorable episodes take place outside the classroom — on weekend journeys, in the homes of host families or during everyday interactions.

Schwitz, who spent time in both Argentina and Peru, says that he expected to see amazing sites and improve his Spanish during his time abroad. But it was the small exchanges with people he met that really made an impact. “Being able to study abroad has allowed me to see how similar yet different the people of the world are,” he says, “and that is truly a beautiful thing.” — B.T.

Scroll to the bottom of the page at www.bucknell.edu to read the study abroad blogs.
Jamie Cistoldi Lee ’99 gazed through the wrought iron fence toward the smoking mountains of trash, dirt and the cobbled-together homes. In the distance, figures of men and boys bobbed up and down on moving dump trucks as they foraged for discarded items to sell. Lee turned to her husband, Andrew Lee ’99, clearly disheartened by the scenes of desperation at the Managua municipal dump, where men, women and children live and work for survival. “Children should not be living like this,” the mother of two daughters said.

Lee found it difficult to be hopeful in that moment, surrounded by such clear reminders that poverty persists in Nicaragua, and that there is more work to be done. She recalled how she felt 11 years ago when she visited the dump as a Bucknell University student studying abroad and how she was inspired, with the help of Associate Professor of Latin American Studies Bonnie Poteet, to start the Bucknell Brigade to Nicaragua.
The Lees and 21 other alumni, community members, family and friends who returned to Nicaragua from March 28 through April 4 for the 10th anniversary of the Brigade were encouraged to see the far- and wide-reaching effects of their original efforts. Over the past decade, 445 people have traveled to Nicaragua on the Brigade, working with the host agency Jubilee House Community to construct a health clinic and sustainable businesses for residents of Nueva Vida, a resettlement community formed after Hurricane Mitch hit Managua in 1998.

When the first Brigade arrived in Nicaragua in 1999, the displaced residents of Nueva Vida were living in shelters consisting only of black tarpaulin and wooden poles. Neighborhoods since have taken shape with homes made of concrete block and metal roofs. Schools have opened, and the clinic provides medical and dental care to about 15,000 patients.

The alumni Brigade included another married couple, as well as a father and son, mothers and daughters, friends and community members, all with Bucknell connections. For those who had been to Nicaragua, the trip was about recapturing a feeling, refocusing their lives on making a difference or sharing the experience of the Brigade with others. Alumni who had been to Nueva Vida before were encouraged by the progress there, in particular by the completion of the clinic they had helped begin several years ago. The trip to the Managua dump, where many families live, highlighted ongoing struggles with poverty in Nicaragua, but even there signs of hope prevailed. The Brigade visited with a group of young men who escaped the life of the dump through an outreach program that feeds, clothes and teaches job skills to children who live there.
could have only imagined and dreamed of."

The Brigade has become known for bringing together a cross-section of Bucknellians, who work together, eat together and sleep in a one-room dormitory. It also is known for changing lives. The experience resonates, and Brigadistas come back from Nicaragua with an enhanced consciousness about world issues and the devastating effects of poverty. Many Brigadistas have found a calling in public service after their experiences in Nicaragua. Some join the Peace Corps or Teach America or go into public health or international development fields. Blakeley Lowry ’99, an original Brigadista, works for a community-based organization in Harlem helping patients with HIV and AIDS find homes and identify other resources. Ben Colby ’03 and Ashley Wilhelm ’05 both plan to attend medical school.

Jubilee House Community (JHC), Bucknell’s host agency, has been working in Nicaragua for 15 years. The three original members, Mike Woodard, Kathleen Murdock and Sarah Junkin Woodard, moved from North Carolina to Managua to identify community needs in some of the poorest areas of Nicaragua and help residents build sustainable businesses. Woodard and Murdock are discouraged at times that their efforts are only discernable in small measure. But the cumulative effects of
JHC's work and the partnership with Bucknell are nearly monumental. The clinic is probably the most prominent example of this. The first Brigade, which included Bucknell's director of student health services, Dr. Don Stechschulte, independently identified a health clinic as a priority. The clinic now is supported by about $40,000 in donations from Bucknell.

"The two buildings of the health clinic would not have happened without our relationship with Bucknell," Murdock said. "That was Don Stechschulte and Bonnie Poteet's shared vision. The Bucknell group came and we said, 'We're committed to building a clinic.'"

The Brigade also helped build a dormitory and has assisted in construction of a spinning cooperative where the process of making yarn for cotton clothing creates jobs. And a group of engineering students in 2007 secured a $10,000 grant to construct a pipeline to provide water to a coffee cooperative in the mountain top village of El Porvenir. Another delegation secured a grant to film a documentary about the banana workers, who are sick and dying after exposure to pesticides.

Work during the alumni Brigade ranged from treating patients and doling out medication at the clinic to digging a large cube-shaped hole and laying a stone-block floor for a septic tank. As much as the Brigadistas give, they also take home a lot. Colby, who had been on the Brigade three times before the alumni trip as a student, student-leader and alumnus, said each experience has been different.

"The first time it hurt. The second, I got to help people through it, and that helped me. The third was renewing," he said. "This time was entirely new because I'm here sharing it with my father. The experience makes me want to give back."

Recapturing the feeling of his first Brigade was more difficult this time. Colby said midway through the trip he wanted to be "hit in the face" with the shock and outrage he felt the first time he went to Nicaragua. Colby also wondered how he could explain to others that it was worth the expense to travel to Managua rather than directing that money toward a donation to the clinic or another cause.

"I've always felt in my heart that I was doing the right thing by going on the Brigade, that my money was well spent," Colby said later. "Something always happens on the Brigade that makes the problems in Nicaragua personal, and that's what burns in me and drives me to stay connected and share the stories with everyone who will listen."

Woodard agreed that going to Nicaragua to experience the poverty and difficult conditions first hand is the only way to truly understand it. And sharing that experience with others is part of what a Brigadista gives back. "I tell people Nicaragua is a full, five-senses experience," Woodard said. "You have to see it, hear it, touch it, smell it and taste it. Very few people are able to maintain that level of clarity. That's why it's worth spending the money to come here."

Cara Anderman '03 made a friend the first time she went on the Brigade. Eliseo Garay was playing with a high school band during the March 2001 clinic dedication. After the ceremony, Garay, who knew some English, approached Anderman, and the two exchanged addresses. They have stayed in touch and reunited on this trip.

‘I tell people Nicaragua is a full, five senses experience. You have to see it, hear it, touch it, smell it and taste it. Very few people are able to maintain that level of clarity.’

knowing Eliseo brought the experience home for Anderman. Garay and his wife have been directly affected by the economic struggles in Nicaragua. They both were working at a Levi Strauss & Co. denim clothing factory across from JHC before the factory closed indefinitely during the alumni trip. The couple’s second child was born less than a week later.

When Anderman, a French teacher in Massachusetts, returned to the classroom, she told her fifth-grade students about her trip and about Garay. Anderman’s students live in a fairly affluent area outside Boston and couldn’t imagine that children their age didn’t have cell phones, let alone food and proper housing, Anderman said. But they seemed to understand the bigger picture.

At the end of class, a girl approached Anderman and asked if there was some way she could send things to the children in Nicaragua. The girl later talked with her class, and they decided to start a donation drive. Then, the whole school got involved. Students made posters and collected toothpaste, soap and other items.

Anderman has continued to talk about Nicaragua with her class. She learned a few weeks after the trip that Garay found another job and shared the news with her class.

"I was nervous about coming back and thinking, 'How am I going to share this experience with my kids?’" Anderman said.

"I’ve been really happy with how they’ve become involved. One of the most exciting things is that when I told them Eliseo had a new job, they started clapping.”

Julia Ferrante is a senior news writer in Bucknell’s Office of Communications. She traveled with the Brigade on its anniversary trip in March. To see a video and more photos from that trip, go to www.bucknell.edu/bmagazine. 

Like his Bucknell peers and their families, Odinakachi Justice Anyanwu ’09 and his parents value education. But for Anyanwu, higher education was not simply an aspiration, it also was a path to a particular freedom. While in high school, he worked 30 hours a week, holding down two jobs at the Washington, D.C., Convention Center and a third at the Washington Plaza Hotel. Odinakachi’s father, with a law degree from the University of Manchester in the United Kingdom, drove a taxi cab when he was in the States. His mother discouraged him from working. “She wanted me to focus on my studies, but she was working three jobs herself,” he says. “I wanted to liberate my parents from providing for me.”

Anyanwu attended a public high school that trains its students for careers in the hospitality industry. In 2006, these students’ standardized tests showed an 11 percent proficiency in math and an 18 percent proficiency in reading. The top-level math course was Algebra II. “I didn’t feel as prepared as others did for college,” he says. “I also didn’t have the money. But ever since I was a kid, I always believed I would go to college.”

Enter the Posse Foundation, an organization that “identifies public high school students with extraordinary academic and leadership potential who may be overlooked by traditional college selection processes.” Celebrating its 20th year, Posse operates offices in six major cities and partners with 33 undergraduate institutions in the United States that fund the scholars. Posse had just opened its D.C. office in 2004 during Anyanwu’s junior year of high school when he was struggling to find a good university he could afford. His guidance counselor nominated him for the program. At the initial meeting, one of the ice-breaking exercises involved chasing an invisible chicken around the room. During his childhood years in Nigeria, Anyanwu had chased actual chickens. “I’m pretty sure I was the only one in the room who had,” he says of his inner-city peers.
Odinakachi Anyanwu ’09 with his parents, Odinakachi S. and Ojoma Anyanwu, near their home in Washington, D.C.
After being selected from a group of 600 nominees for a second interview, Anyanwu researched the two partner institutions that had each committed to accepting a group of Posse students from the D.C. area, Grinnell College and Bucknell University. “I was hooked,” he says. “At the next interview, I told Posse that I really really really wanted to go to Bucknell, and by the grace of God, I got in. On my first visit, I was amazed at how kind people were and how beautiful the campus was. I cried when I left.”

Fast forward five years to 2009 as Bucknell graduates its first group of Posse scholars. Students, families, teachers, mentors and friends fill Bucknell Hall. Big smiles, big hugs, big joy. The energy is more like that of a tent revival than an academic reception. The scholars and family members speak. The students all have one thing in common: they wouldn’t be at Bucknell without Posse, and the impact the two institutions have had on their lives has been profound, in the fullest sense of the word. Many Posse students are the first in their family to earn a college degree. None imagined coming to a school like Bucknell. Their collective gratitude is overwhelming; even the photographer fights back tears.

President Brian C. Mitchell references something Posse member Nancy Lee ’09 said when the group of 10 students first came to Bucknell: “We’re going to change ourselves first, then become a whole, then make changes in the school, then affect the community and workforce. It’s like throwing a stone in the water. We’re the stone. Let’s ripple.”

“And ripple they have indeed,” says Mitchell. “Their list of accomplishments is quite impressive.” An abbreviated list includes Anyanwu winning the John R. Crossgrove Prize in Economics and the University Prize for Men; Emily Haley ’09 serving as the student coordinator for Community Harvest, a meal outreach program in Milton, Pa.; Lyndon Thweatt ’09 serving as the treasurer for five organizations at the same time; May Naldo ’09 working with abused women in the Susquehanna Valley; Loretta Miller ’09 re-energizing the Voices of Praise gospel choir and setting up her own research project in South Africa; and Arjun Raman ’09 setting up his own hedge fund while a senior. They have all had leadership roles in dozens of organizations, participated in sports teams as athletes and managers, traveled abroad, been members of the Conservatives Club and the Social Justice Res College, done service, become resident assistants, mentored others. They often sit in the front row, raise their hands and ask lots of questions. They are not easily pigeonholed or monolithic in any sense, except that before coming to Bucknell, they spent eight months training to be leaders.

The best testimony I’ve heard about Posse comes from faculty members who are so impressed with these students that they want to know how to get more Posse scholars into their classrooms,” says Mark Davies, assistant vice president for enrollment management and liaison for Bucknell’s Posse program. “Their leadership skills are strengthened by the training they get before they even step foot on campus.”

Since partnering with the D.C. office, Bucknell also has been working with Boston Posse; as of the 2009 spring semester, there were four Posse groups from D.C. and two from Boston. “We’ll reach full capacity with 80-plus students in fall 2010 when we will have four Posses from each city,” says Davies.

While Posse scholars train together before coming to campus, they live apart once they come to campus. At the heart of the program is the idea that Posse members interact with a variety of different people. Rather than self-segregate, they cross-pollinate. Each Posse informs the campus at large — the intention of “Posse Plus.”
“They absolutely have an influence beyond their numbers,” says Elaine Hopkins, associate dean of arts and sciences and mentor of D.C. Posse 1 and Posse Plus. “They attract other students into their orbit. They’ve also created a critical mass for all of the other Posse students to make them feel the ground has been broken for them to prosper.”

Hopkins talks about the genius behind the Posse program, and she’s not the only one. In 2007, Posse founder Deborah Bial was awarded a MacArthur Fellowship, also known as the “genius grant.” Bial was recently tapped by the Clinton Global Initiative and has received props from President Barack Obama, who lauded Posse in *The Chronicle of Higher Education*, saying, “Candidates for this program are selected using a process based on qualities such as leadership, motivation, teamwork and ability to effectively communicate. The students that are selected form a ‘posse,’ and are provided with extra supports, and end up graduating from selective colleges with a very high success rate. This shows the validity of using less-recognized skills as indicators of likely educational success.”

Kurt Thiede, vice president for enrollment management, initiated conversation with the Posse Foundation soon after coming to Bucknell in 2003. He recognized the importance of diversity and began planning pipeline projects with organizations like Posse and regional community colleges. The partnership has been transformative for all involved.

Hopkins says that she, too, has benefitted greatly from the program. “Working with my Posses is a joy because we have all become a part of each others’ lives. I also have learned a tremendous amount about how students experience Bucknell. It was not easy for the first Posse scholars, in all of their glorious diversity, to come from the D.C. area to rural central Pennsylvania and feel that they belonged here. Now I understand what culture shock is,” she says. “I have learned that SATs are not a good indicator of academic success. I have seen how students whose families are low-income make trade-offs. I understand that first-generation college students feel responsible for living out the dreams of their families.”

Marcy Mistrett, the first director of the D.C. Posse office, has been with the first Bucknell class from day one. She says, “While the scholars have explored their purposes and contributions both to Bucknell and the greater world, they have always reflected on how much Bucknell welcomed them and gave them opportunities. As special as it is watching our first Posse walk across that stage, it also has been an honor to see the campus listen, learn and grow. The ripple among the Posse scholars, administrators and faculty has been one that is among the most special to observe and participate in. I thank the University for providing this gift to the first class of Bucknell Posse alumni.”

“For a lot of us seniors, it was a struggle in the beginning,” says Anyanwu. “But I’ve come to love Bucknell. It’s become home. Posse gave us an opportunity we otherwise would not have had. I cherish and value them both.”
Chapel Lights

Eric Kennedy, assistant professor of biomedical engineering, not only understands the intricacy of musculature but also the nuance of light. He captured this dramatic sky during Commencement Weekend 2008.

Photograph by Eric Kennedy

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.
Like the Roman god, Janus, with one face forward and the other back, I have two views of the Class of ’09 — one in the rearview mirror, the other on the road ahead.

Soon after arriving at Bucknell in 1957 and settling into a dorm at the top of Old Main, I confirmed that the spirit of the Class of 1909 was still very much present at the College Inn, the mid-20th-century version of a fast food shop, convenience store, game center and just plain enjoyable place. Presiding over the establishment was its owner-operator, a fascinating codger named Guy Payne ’09, known simply as “09” to the Bucknell campus community for more than half a century.

The legend of Guy Payne came as no surprise to this former freshman. My sentimental father, Bill Curnow ’32, had told me about his own adventures with “09” when dealing with the Great Depression was a daily chore. Like many classmates, Dad scrambled for cash to stay in school. He generated a small income by selling candy to the men of his dorm. He bought supplies wholesale, then sold individual candy bars to his customers. All went well, until Guy Payne caught onto the fact that nearby competition had caused a small leak in his own cash flow. Guy raised a howl. Dad, the sentimentalist, finessed the situation, and both survived those bleak years.

How this entrepreneurial member of the Class of 1909 happened to own and operate a business right in the heart of the most historic campus turf was always a bit of a mystery to me. According to the University website, “The original College Inn building was the first wooden structure on the Hill. It was built by Guy Payne ’09 in 1908 on the west end of property rented from Dr. George G. Groff... In 1915, the original structure was replaced by a brick building in which Guy prepared and served food to college students. In an agreement with President Harris, the profits from the sale of tobacco, about $500 yearly, were given to the University.”

The house that Guy built kept growing in a Rube Goldberg sort of way — a barbershop here, a basement apartment there. It didn’t take long for me to build my own memories of the College Inn. It was a convenient spot for something quick to eat. Walk through the door and greet an omnipresent crowd, some waiting to place orders, while others held down booths and visited with friends. To the left were a couple of pinball machines, seldom idle.

Behind the counter was Guy Payne himself, wearing a white apron that had once been spotless. He would build a sandwich, chicken salad on wheat. Then he’d pat his dog. Next, egg salad on white. Then pat the dog. Both customers and dogs got plenty of attention. In 1977, Professor Emeritus C. Willard Smith wrote an essay about Guy’s College Inn, noting that hospitality was shown to all creatures, including cats and dogs, especially Guy’s own proud Chinook named Bering. Wrote Smith, “It was known among patrons of the College Inn that ‘What’s good enough for Bering is good enough for you!’” The health department never looked too closely. In fact, Guy did lots of good and very little harm. He rented rooms above the shop, employed students and helped people in his own quiet way.

This rearview mirror glimpse is now long in the past. Guy died in 1962, and the memory of his College Inn lingers only with older alumni. Now, it’s the Class of 2009 that has stepped forward. If he were still here, “09” would likely raise a cup of his famous coffee, pat the dog and surely join me in wishing the current ’09s a successful journey ahead.

Bill Curnow enjoys retirement in southwest Florida after a domestic and overseas career in the petrochemicals industry. Blessings that please him most include his grandson Connor being a Bard of the Cornish Gorsedd and, of course, his Bucknell heritage.
It’s not brain surgery. Just abdominal surgery.

**Dan Cavanagh** holds the William C. and Gertrude B. Emmitt Memorial Chair in Biomedical Engineering and chairs the Biomedical Engineering Department.

**Jenell Smith ’09** will continue biomedical engineering studies at Drexel University and do research at Drexel and the University of Pennsylvania through a National Science Foundation fellowship.

**Joe Lee ’09** will continue biomedical engineering studies at Marquette University.

**Courtney Shanney ’09** discovered her interest in intellectual property and plans to attend law school.

The surgical device they developed with Geisinger Medical Center simplifies laparoscopic surgery by using a single point of access for multiple instruments.

Bucknell faculty make a difference – in the classroom and in the world.