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Cover Photograph by J. Klingebiel
Stepping Into This History

This fall marks the start of Bucknell’s 164th year, and my first as its president. I stress this difference to underscore the fact that all of us fortunate enough to be involved with the University today are part of a greater whole. The institution we serve has educated tens of thousands of men and women across its lifetime and, through them, impacted countless others. It has overcome difficult challenges, from the obstacles its founders met, through the financial stress from which William Bucknell rescued it, to the demands of the Great Depression and now the Great Recession. It has grown and prospered thanks to the success of generations of students and alumni, the work of colleagues who have come before us and the commitment of friends who have invested their time, energy and resources in its future. As I assume the presidency, I can only step into this history with a deep sense of humility and appreciation.

Great universities are one of the few enterprises in the world that we take for granted will likely last forever. Being part of the life of such an institution is an incredible privilege. Being asked to lead one as strong and promising as Bucknell is both daunting and inspiring. Having spent my life in higher education at Stanford University, I am well aware that I have much to learn about Bucknell. I am comforted in knowing that we have an exceptional strategic plan, The Plan for Bucknell, thanks to the efforts of President Mitchell, the Board of Trustees and the campus community. I am comforted in knowing that I am surrounded by a community of Bucknellians who share a common confidence in its future. I would not have accepted the honor of becoming president if I did not fully share that confidence.

Of course, I do not come here alone. My wife, Wendy, who will be a tenure-track professor in the Department of Mechanical Engineering, and our new son, Cole, join me. We have been deeply touched by the amazingly kind welcome we have received from Bucknellians near and far. Thank you.

Together the three of us have begun making our new home in the President’s House, just across from the spectacular Grove. Out our front window, we can see the historic stone columns that mark the entrance to Bucknell’s original campus. It’s a wonderful reminder that whatever any of us may think about our own time at the University, we have a sacred obligation to make it stronger and better while we are here. Bucknell wouldn’t be what it is today if others before us hadn’t done just that. Our students certainly count on us doing so. As my time at Bucknell begins, I pledge to you my greatest efforts to live up to their, and your, highest expectations. I am grateful in knowing I can count on your help.

John C. Bravman
PRESIDENT
Letters

HEARTSTRINGS IN SPRING
I had to write to say thank you for two great pieces that immediately connected with my heartstrings in the spring issue. First, the essay about Posse by Sylvia Sukop ‘82. My husband and I are big fans and supporters of Posse and are proud that Bucknell has been a leader in the organization for many years. Like Sylvia, we attended the awards ceremony in January and could not have been more proud to see those terrific Boston kids wearing Bucknell T-shirts and hats.

Second, the lovely picture of Dick ’60 and Cindy Skelton ’68 on the inside back cover. Dick and his admissions team were responsible for admitting me to my beloved alma mater. Cindy was the Alpha Chi alumni chapter rep during my Alpha Chi college years. Their devotion to students was one of the many reasons we all enjoyed the staff and faculty at Bucknell so much. I am touched by their generosity to today’s — and tomorrow’s — students.

Few days pass when I don’t remember how lucky I was that my parents made it possible for me to go to Bucknell for those wonderful four years. I continue to cherish my connection to the people and the place.

Carol Christie Rosner ’81
Milton, Mass.

FROM BASRAH WITH LOVE
I would like to thank all the Bucknellians for their outstanding support for my family and me during my deployment to Basrah, Iraq, from May through December 2009. The many phone calls, e-mails, letters, care packages and other little things were really appreciated. Again, thank you all.

Trevor Smith ’91
Hudson, Ohio

NOTES ON A HISTORY OF INCLUSIVITY
As a past member and president of the older Phi Lambda Theta social fraternity, now Chi Phi, I particularly enjoyed the story, “Odd Men In” by Mary Ann Stanton ’89 in the spring issue. I pledged PLT in the spring of 1958 in a large freshman group that included Frank Wood ’62, who is rightly mentioned in the article as an outstanding campus leader and our first African-American fraternity president. I recall the accompanying artwork, a page of the Collier’s Magazine article, “The College Fraternity Crisis” with its picture of PLT brothers. The magazine was displayed on tables in our Brown Street fraternity house for all prospective members skeptical of PLT’s innovative, non-sectarian and interracial ideals to see.

Not mentioned in Stanton’s story are the names of the young men depicted in the picture. I can recall three. On the extreme left is Clint Marantz ’48, in the middle, Irvin Graybill Jr. ’49 and on the extreme right, Tony Martin ’47. These WWII veterans helped re-establish and redefine the post-war Phi Lambda Theta fraternity along with other no-nonsense vets who had all shared their wartime travail with men and women of varied backgrounds.

Another fraternity not mentioned in the article, Delta Upsilon, also pledged an African-American member, Dick Boddie ’61, during Wood’s time at Bucknell. Two other African-American Phi Lams at that time were Hank Livas ’60 and Joe Hines ’62, also outstanding individuals worthy of membership in any fraternity. All these men can be considered part of the national civil rights movement gaining momentum at that time. Bucknell’s academic and campus community makeup changed because of them and other non-white students who followed. Bucknell joined early the national movement to integration that still continues and Bucknell is the better for it.

Post-war Phi Lams did not think of themselves then as “Odd Men” or even mavericks. The membership recognized the reality of globalization brought about by WWII and the necessity of establishing an identity beyond the confines of a small, selective, academic community. They saw Bucknell as part of a much larger diverse world, a place where everyone had to live, work and survive with people of all races, colors, religions and nationalities. We were coming of age at a time of great national social change. PLT offered the opportunity at a critical time in our formative years of education to learn to live and associate with persons of different backgrounds, races and outlooks. And PLT offered men of different color, race and religion the chance to associate with mainstream Americans to the benefit of both. We older alumni take pride in seeing our descendants, Chi Phi, continue to practice the ideals of inclusiveness that are so basic and important to Bucknell and to our country.

James Riley ’62
West Palm Beach, Fla.

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Tomorrow’s Library Today
Library & IT is a popular stop along the University’s information superhighway.

By Rhonda K. Miller

It’s 10 a.m. on a Monday morning, and all of the Research Services’ computers have users. Study carrels are occupied, group study rooms are booked — even the “living room,” with its large comfy furniture, holds students using laptops, downloading articles, highlighting textbooks or sneaking in a much-needed nap. Although a near-capacity building at semester’s end has been the norm since the Ellen Clarke Bertrand Library opened in the early 1950s, the way in which patrons use the library during finals week certainly has changed.

“We aren’t just a warehouse of books,” says Param Bedi, Bucknell’s chief information officer. “We are about information access, and we must provide it to support digital scholarship as well as traditional research.”

Indeed, librarians still offer personal assistance at the reference desk, but they may also answer questions via instant message on the desk’s computer. Students learn about library events from Bertrand’s Facebook page, through a web news ticker or from Library & IT’s blog.

“Technology has been the most important improvement over the years,” says Barbara Hollenbach, a library employee since 1963 who recalls a time when she edited Library of Congress subject headings on card-catalog cards with an electric eraser. “You had to be careful or you’d have a hole in the card,” she says. Now her cataloging work is done by computer, and the library catalog is completely online.

Nearly all scholarly journals, dictionaries, encyclopedias and other academic reference materials also are online to meet faculty and student demand for 24-hour information access. In fact, more patrons are using the library’s databases for research. From January to April in 2010 alone, more than 36,000 searches were run in the JSTOR database, an electronic archive that includes academic journals from the humanities, social sciences and sciences. In the most recent 12 months, users ran 157,132 searches in Science-
Direct, another electronic source for scientific, technical and medical research.

“Students are definitely using the library more. We are offering more collaborative space and group study rooms, we are open 24 hours during finals week and, during the academic year, we are open until 2 a.m.,” Bedi says.

Five group study rooms at Bertrand are equipped with flat screens for students to connect their laptops and practice classroom presentations or collaborate on group projects. Patrons can check out laptops, projectors, audio devices and digital drawing tablets, among other equipment. Bedi says staff are also testing Apple’s latest gadget, the iPad, for potential academic use.

Library & IT soon plans to offer ePortfolios, enabling faculty and students to create digital repositories of their work. “Starting with their first year, we will help students collect the work they’ve done at Bucknell to create a presentation portfolio to share with prospective employers or graduate schools,” Bedi says. Students can provide web-based access to their academic work and extra-curricular activities, including videos of athletic events.

Moreover, Library & IT is investigating how students and faculty can use mobile devices to access services. The library will soon launch BookMyne, an iPhone application that will allow users to search the catalog and renew or place holds on materials. Other ideas for the near future include how users can access Blackboard, a learning management system via their phone or PDA, says Bedi. Data warehousing and document imaging projects are also in the works for the entire University.

Both projects will help Bucknell reduce its dependence on paper and increase real-time information for institutional decision making. “We are always making changes to meet our users’ needs,” he says.

The main lobby inside Bucknell’s library features the well-known quote of John Zeller III ’41, former vice president of business and fiscal affairs and general counsel emeritus, which reads, “We are all teachers here.” It seems only natural, then, that Library & Information Technology host a celebration honoring faculty scholarship in the spring and fall of each year. Co-sponsored by the provost’s office, the event showcases faculty achievement during the year prior to the festivities.

“Bucknell is known for its teacher-scholar model, and this is really a nice way to celebrate scholarly work,” says Param Bedi, Bucknell’s chief information officer. “We have presentations by five faculty members from different disciplines who talk about their research, we set up visual displays in the library lobby area and we create a brochure with the citations that detail their work,” he says. Library & IT also posts information about the reception and the associated scholarship on its website.

During the most recent event, held on March 3, more than 50 faculty members submitted more than 150 examples of their scholarly works. The spring reception featured work done via a variety of media, including published journal articles, faculty-created exhibits, performances, films and artwork. The fall reception, held in September 2009, featured Bucknell authors and recognized University faculty and staff members who had published books over the past two years.

“The spring reception expands the notion of what we celebrate,” Bedi says, adding that scholarship is more than publishing books and articles. It can be the creation of a theatrical performance, movie or musical score.

The events have been widely appreciated, Bedi adds. In fact, they are so successful that in May the library sponsored a student-focused reception the Saturday before Commencement. The celebration featured student honors and graduate theses and five student speakers in a similar format. —Rhonda K. Miller
Commencement 2010
Renowned neurosurgeon encourages altruism.

By Julia Ferrante

Renowned pediatric neurosurgeon Benjamin S. Carson Sr. encouraged a group of graduates, family members and friends during the University’s 160th Commencement to persevere and use their talents to help others. “Lead a clear and honest life,” he said. “Learn from your triumphs and mistakes. . . If somebody is struggling, help them. . . If we were all thinking about others first, what kind of a nation or a world would we be?”

During the ceremony in Bucknell’s Academic Quadrangle, 873 undergraduate degrees and 26 graduate degrees were awarded. Of the undergraduate degrees, 721 were in the arts and sciences, while another 152 received engineering degrees. The graduates represented 37 states, the District of Columbia and the U.S. Virgin Islands, as well as 18 nations. More than 9,000 people attended, and an additional 624 people viewed a live webcast.

Bucknell President Brian C. Mitchell congratulated the Class of 2010 for taking on the challenge of joining an academic institution of high standards and succeeding.

“You have completed a four-year immersion in the liberal arts,” Mitchell said. “It is a learning experience that has influenced the worldview of generations of Bucknellians while simultaneously preparing them to succeed in every facet of modern life. It is an achievement in which you can and should take a great deal of pride, and which we trust you will carry forward with humility and commitment.”

View Commencement videos and photo galleries at www.bucknell.edu/commencement.

Reunion 2010
Nearly 2,000 Bucknell University alumni and families from around the world returned to campus for Reunion in June. The four-day event featured the award-winning Reunion Rally, a performance by the Bucknell Jazz and Rock Ensemble with all 25 original musicians, faculty lectures and a discussion of the campus master plan. Reunion attendees also heard from Bucknell’s new president, John Bravman, who addressed a group about the future of the University.

Alumni gifts, totaling more than $16 million, were announced during the weekend. The Class of 1960 garnered top honors with 71 percent giving participation, $434,078 donated to the Annual Fund and more than $5 million given overall. The Class of 1985 received the Unity Cup for having 367 donors.

The Alumni Association honored four 2010 award recipients at Reunion Rally through a combination video and in-person celebration. Anthony Rinaldo ’60 received the Loyalty to Bucknell Award, David Scadden ’75 received the Award for Outstanding Achievement in a Chosen Profession, Heather McNally ’85 received the Award for Service to Humanity and Joshua Solomon ’95 received the Young Alumni Award.

—Julia Ferrante

For more, see photo galleries and videos at www.b-link.bucknell.edu.
Q & A

Former director of England’s Financial Services Authority, Gay Huey Evans ’76, offers advice to the Class of 2010.

By Gigi Marino

Q: What is the single best piece of advice you can give new graduates entering the workforce to secure their financial future?

A: I have a two-pronged response to this question. First, the phrase, “I can’t do it,” does not exist. You must believe you can do any task, no matter how small or how large. And second, you must also believe that “I can’t do it alone,” meaning that you must always work with others. The lone-wolf model is not a good one.

Q: Do you think Social Security will be in place when our new graduates retire and, if not, how can they best prepare for their retirement now?

A: Social Security will be in place, but not as your parents know it, and it is not sufficient to be dependent upon for your old age. Therefore, steps must be taken to understand the means to save for retirement at a very early age. Do not think you can put it off until later in your life.

Q: After nearly 50 years of feminism, do today’s young women share an equal financial footing with their male counterparts?

A: Women can share an equal financial footing with their male counterparts if they choose to. However, frequently they don’t wish to, as the sacrifices with family and career can be too great.

Q: The Class of 2009 had a 95 percent placement rate. What do you think of this number in the current economy?

A: One can always find a job; therefore, the question is not one of a large percentage for placement, but can one find the right placement, and if not, can you succeed in finding the right employment opportunity soon thereafter? I believe that with a Bucknell education all of our graduates will be well placed.

Gay Huey Evans ’76 is the vice chair of IBIM Sovereign Wealth of Barclays Bank in London, England, and a member of the Bucknell Board of Trustees.

Bucknell in the News

WEBBY WINNER
Bucknell’s virtual tour (http://community.bucknell.edu), winner of a Webby Award from The International Academy of Digital Arts and Sciences, was a Communication Arts web pick of the day. Several other media have highlighted the virtual tour and its Webby Award, including The Chronicle of Higher Education and Higher Ed Assessment.

PATRIOT LEAGUE RETURN
In an Associated Press article, Bill Courtney ’92 discusses how his Bucknell education and time on the Bison basketball team helped prepare him for his new job as Cornell’s head basketball coach. He was the team captain during his junior and senior years. He previously was an assistant basketball coach at Virginia Tech.

PRESIDENTIAL PROPS
Former President Bill Clinton highlighted a Bucknell student initiative to bring clean water to a community in Suriname in an MSNBC broadcast. He noted that there are 1 billion people in the world without access to clean water, saying that Bucknellians developed a sustainable system to catch usable rainwater.

WRITER ON RACE
Visiting Assistant Professor of English Porochista Khakpour was the subject of the March/April issue cover story of Poets & Writers. Khakpour, author of Sons and Other Flammable Objects, discussed race, ethnicity, difficult fathers and fiction versus nonfiction with fellow author Danzy Senna.

(Subscribe at www.bucknell.edu/bitn)

SUMMER 2010 BUCKNELL.EDU
Spring Retirees

2010 retiring faculty members represent 170 years of combined service.

By Gigi Marino

The year Associate Dean of Students Gerry Commerford and Assistant Professor of Education Russell Dennis ’64 started working at Bucknell, the Apollo 11 astronauts walked on the moon, Richard Nixon was elected president and Woodstock rocked the world. Dennis joins four other faculty members who retired from the University this year: Associate Professor of East Asian Studies Jamie Pusey, Assistant Professor of Education Rosaria Gabriele, Professor of Chemical Engineering Michael Hanyak and Professor of Sociology Matthew Silberman.

Dennis is best known for his knowledge of Bucknell history, and the last course he taught on the subject, “Bucknell of Yesteryear and Today,” is available online at www.bucknell.edu/yesteryear. Pusey, an expert on Chinese language and literature, is the author of China and Charles Darwin. Gabriele, a psychologist, recently published a study showing that students who correlate meaning with personal happiness are three times as likely to excel academically. Hanyak, former chair of chemical engineering, advocates for engineering education reform and has received grants from the National Science Foundation for studying this topic. Silberman, who specializes in civil justice, criminal behavior and prison culture, has written several books on these topics, most recently, Violence and Society: A Reader. Together, the service of these five retiring faculty members to Bucknell adds up to 170 years.

In the Eastern Hemisphere

Bucknell alumni club is underway in Bangkok, Thailand.

By Adam Hinshaw ’09

Bucknell has alumni clubs in almost every major city of the United States. It also has a few beyond—Australia, London and China. And on March 20, Bucknellians inaugurated a new club in Bangkok, Thailand, with an afternoon tea that brought together students, parents, alumni and faculty.

Professor of Civil and Environmental Engineering Richard McGinnis ’68 travels often to Thailand for both vacation and to identify opportunities for international education. He noticed a growing Bucknell alumni base in Bangkok. McGinnis worked with Bucknell parent Lon Augustenborg and his daughter, Erika Augustenborg ’06, to organize an alumni gathering. They coordinated the afternoon tea with the help of Tisorn Songsermsawas ’10, a native of Thailand.

David Humphreys ’96 hosted the event at his residence in Bangkok. The tea was a success, revealing the potential for a Bucknell nucleus in a very distinct, and distant, part of the world. Kim Thompson, program director for clubs in the Office of Alumni Relations, contacted Humphreys and asked him to assume the role of president of the newest alumni club, the Bucknell Bangkok Club. Humphreys gladly accepted.

“We are very excited about the emergence of the club and even more excited to have David as its president,” says Thompson. “The alumni clubs are about engagement and providing alums opportunities to come together and reconnect. Bangkok marks a new frontier for the clubs.”
High-Speed Hub

A KEY PLAYER IN STATEWIDE BROADBAND NETWORK.

Bucknell University will serve as a hub for a high-performance, statewide broadband network that will increase the capabilities for data-intensive research and global collaboration by universities and health care researchers across Pennsylvania. It also will connect underserved communities throughout the state to high-speed Internet.

The $99 million grant was awarded to the Keystone Initiative for Network-Based Education and Research, a coalition of Pennsylvania colleges and universities, research and health care organizations and economic development entities that submitted the joint application to construct and manage the Pennsylvania Research and Education Network.

When completed, the fiber-optic cable network will cover nearly 1,700 miles through 39 Pennsylvania counties and provide access to more than 5 million people in approximately 2 million homes and 200,000 businesses. The network and Bucknell’s access as a core node will significantly enhance the University’s capabilities in data-intensive research, high-performance computing, video conferencing, telemedicine, Internet2, collaboration with international students and faculty and real-time access to remote resources.

The network will provide the capability to connect colleges and universities, public libraries, regional networks and last-mile providers across the Commonwealth.

— Tom Evelyn

SMALL SCHOOL, BIG SOUND

Bucknell Opera Company celebrates its 20th anniversary.

By Elizabeth Hulette ’03

For a small school, Bucknell’s opera company has a big voice. It reverberates around the nation’s opera community, where alumni have won roles alongside the graduates of top conservatories. Even for students who don’t become professional singers, the company has kindled passion for the art that lasts long after graduation.

This year, as the Bucknell Opera Company celebrated its 20th year, alumni came back to perform with current students and remember where they first learned to love opera.

“Telling this beautiful story, and the emotion is so over the top that it has to be sung,” says Kierstie Drumm Whitehead ’98. “As a singer, that’s what it all comes down to.”

Director Catherine Payn founded the opera company with a vision: Produce traditional operas while bringing in modern composers to work closely with students.

“The students have an opportunity to experience what is happening with the art form today,” Payn says.

Alumni say that one-on-one attention gave them opportunities to learn and perform that they wouldn’t receive at a major music school. At Bucknell, as Amanda Robie ’03 says, “You’re not always waving a palm frond in the back.”

Robie went on to study performance at the Boston Conservatory. But even company graduates who went into business or engineering say they still listen to opera and, whenever the chance arises, they sing.

“For people who participate, it’s a gift,” says John Caponegro ’94. “And that people are coming back and singing with the company speaks volumes.”
Mifflinburg Middle School science students who released brook trout into Buffalo Creek this spring are encouraging the restoration of life to a section of stream once too acidic, even for insects. The headwaters of the creek had been restored to health just last summer through a stream remediation project completed by the Buffalo Creek Watershed Alliance (BCWA), a part of the Merrill Linn Conservancy.

The volunteer BCWA board responsible for the stream restoration includes Matt McTammanny ’95, assistant professor of biology and environmental studies, and three retired Bucknell faculty members: Owen Anderson (physics), Allan Grundstrom (French and linguistics) and David Pearson (biology). Trout in the Classroom is sponsored by Trout Unlimited, an organization in which Barry Hannigan, professor of music, is active.

The 28-mile Buffalo Creek starts atop Buffalo Mountain and flows eastward through Union County, entering the Susquehanna River on the north end of Lewisburg. The restoration project diverts a section near the headwaters of the stream through two limestone-lined treatment ponds. “The ponds recreate a natural buffering process to restore the pH of the water,” McTammanny explains.

Mifflinburg science teacher Joe Southerton consulted with Linn Conservancy President Wayne McDiffett, retired professor of biology, to find a suitable place to release the trout, which students had raised from eggs in a classroom tank. Approximately three inches in length at release, the trout will grow to be about a foot long.

“The first thing my students would do every day when they came into the classroom was check the fish,” Southerton says. “The act of raising these fish and then letting them go into the wild gives them a different appreciation for the stream and the health of the watershed.”
Defending the Innocent
Brian Dennehy and John Grisham support Jim McCloskey’s prison ministry.

By Brett Tomlinson ’99

Thirty years have passed since Jim McCloskey ’64 left his studies in theology to try to free an innocent prisoner he’d met through his work as a student chaplain. His eventual success in that case led McCloskey to start a nonprofit organization, Centurion Ministries, which has helped to free 44 innocent men and women who served a combined 880 years behind bars.

On April 13, McCloskey and hundreds of his supporters gathered in Princeton, N.J., to celebrate the successes of the last three decades at an event that featured two celebrity advocates: the Tony Award–winning actor Brian Dennehy, who joked that he champions the wrongly convicted as “penance” for movie roles as unscrupulous policemen, and bestselling author John Grisham.

Grisham was the keynote speaker at Centurion’s April event, but the loudest applause went to the people closest to the organization’s mission: 11 of the men and women freed through Centurion’s efforts, including Richard Miles of Dallas, Texas, whose murder conviction was overturned in October 2009. Miles’ mother, Thelma Lloyd, also was in attendance.

“There’s a lot of heartache in this work, a lot of heartache,” McCloskey says. “But there’s a lot of joy, when you bring the Richard Mileses of this world home to their mothers.”

Earning designations of “outstanding winners” and “meritorious winners,” two Bucknell University student teams placed among the winners at the international Mathematical Contest in Modeling. In 96 hours students had to research a problem, develop and implement a mathematical computer model and analyze it within a 20-plus-page paper.

A $10,000 Projects for Peace grant from the Davis Foundation will allow a Bucknell University student group to help provide a South American village with clean drinking water. In January, four seniors and professors Kevin Gilmore and Mike Toole traveled to Suriname to revise their proposal. They returned this summer to develop the sustainable drinking water system.

Within nine months of graduation, 95 percent of Bucknell University’s Class of 2009 was successfully placed either in employment, graduate school or volunteering positions. The survey by the Career Development Center showed that 59 percent were employed and 23 percent were enrolled in graduate or professional school, with an additional 4 percent doing both.
Expansion, Slavery and Colonialism

A trip to the motherland teaches the teacher about France and its Caribbean colonies.

By Gigi Marino

Renée Gosson, associate professor of French and Francophone studies, has built her scholarly oeuvre on the literature and culture of the French Caribbean, particularly in the way that the French West Indies have been assimilated by France in language, culture and landscape. Last year, she served as the professor-in-residence for the Bucknell en France program, which is held at the Université François Rabelais in Tours.

As one whose studies mostly take her to Martinique or Guadeloupe — both former French colonies turned overseas departments — Gosson wanted to take advantage of being in France. “There’s a long colonial history of tension between these two parts of the world,” she says. “I decided to take students to the No. 1 city that had participated in the trans-Atlantic slave trade, Nantes.” Her students learned that France enslaved four times as many Africans as the United States did and kept slavery legal until 1830, much longer than any other European country.

Back in Tours, the students interviewed their host families about their knowledge of the French slave trade. A number of them reported that their host families didn’t know anything about Africans being exported to the Caribbean. And that, Gosson told them, is significant. “France has still not reconciled itself with this slave past,” she says.

This trip to France inspired a book project for Gosson, who is intrigued by the ironies and complexities. She says, “Since 2001, France is the first country that has voted slavery a crime against humanity.” And yet, France suffers a collective amnesia about its own participation. Her book will examine the attempts — or lack thereof — to commemorate the slave trade, slavery and abolition on both sides of the French Atlantic. “Persistent racial tension in France,” says Gosson, “is symptomatic of ‘un passé qui ne passé pas’ — a past that will not pass.” She sees the path towards reconciliation in breaking the silence and educating modern-day French about France’s colonial history.

Faculty Profile

Matthew Heintzelman

Just as some animals hop, while others run, fly or swim, individual cells have different ways of getting around. Sperm cells swim by waving a hair-like flagellum, while amoebas crawl along with a shape-shifting motion. Since the 1700s, people also have observed cells gliding through their environment with no obvious means of propulsion. With the help of modern molecular tools, Associate Professor of Biology Matthew Heintzelman is teasing apart the secret.

The single-celled parasites that cause malaria and toxoplasmosis glide. So do some diatoms, the algae famous for building ornate, microscopic glass shells. Thanks to work by Heintzelman and others, we now know that both groups use actin and myosin, the same molecules responsible for muscle contraction, to glide. Dozens of myosins exist in different cell types; Heintzelman is figuring out those responsible for diatom locomotion.

Thanks to a “gene gun,” students in Heintzelman’s lab have a rich source of diatoms to study. Like a miniature shot gun, the gene gun sprays a dish of diatoms with tiny metal beads coated with DNA. Cells that take a hit incorporate the DNA and pass it along to their offspring, providing Heintzelman with an endless supply of genetically manipulated diatoms.

Beyond the scientific merit of the technique, the satisfying “pop” of shooting the gun is just plain fun. “Everybody wants to use the gene gun,” Heintzelman says. — Barbara Maynard ’88
at the beginning of every season the Bucknell women’s soccer team writes down its goals. But those goals go beyond the Bison performance on the field. “Beating our previous grade-point average is always on that list,” says Christa Matlack ’11, the 2009 Patriot League Offensive Player of the Year.

As a biology major, Matlack earned a 3.52 GPA during the fall semester, in addition to making the National Soccer Coaches Association (NSCAA) second-team All-Mid-Atlantic Region and first-team All-Patriot League. For the same semester, her team maintained a combined 3.54 GPA, the best of any Bucknell varsity team.

During the 10-8-1 overall and 5-2 league season under head coach Ben Landis ’96, 21 of the 26 players on the roster made the Patriot League Academic Honor Roll (3.2 GPA or better) and 25 earned at least a 3.0.

The team credits the enthusiastic involvement of their faculty advisers with its collective performance in the classroom. Peter Brookshank and Mike Toole ’83, a mathematics professor and an associate civil and environmental engineering professor, respectively, are fixtures in the stands at home games and are often joined by mathematics professor George Exner. All have taken an active interest in the success of the Bison on and off the field. “I have been very involved. I don’t miss a home game,” says Toole, who calls the team a model at the school with the right balance of academics and athletics. “Bucknell is a very intense environment academically.” And he wants to be available as a sounding board if any players have questions or concerns about the proper way to maintain that balance.

On the field, the program continues to excel under Landis’ leadership. His women’s soccer teams have won 10 or more games in all five of his seasons at Bucknell and qualified for the postseason every year. The team won the Patriot League Tournament title in his first season in 2005 and captured PL regular-season titles in 2006 and 2007. His .597 career-winning percentage is the best, by far, in school history.

But Landis is even prouder of the team’s priorities. “We have created a culture where having that highest GPA in our athletic department is a goal. It was great to hear that as a goal from the players,” he says. The team looks forward to improving upon both its athletic and academic records next season with the addition of seven promising newcomers and the return of several talented seniors who will continue to set the example on the pitch and in the classroom.
Increasing the Focus

*Bison Spectrum* delves into the international student experience.

*By Adam Hinshaw ’09*

*Bison Spectrum*, a student newsletter from International Student Services, has increased awareness of international students on Bucknell’s campus. It focuses on the University’s international student community and covers topics such as events, projects, alumni news and job opportunities. Many campus organizations provide content and frequent contributors include the Office of Multicultural Student Services, the Women’s Resource Center, the Office of LGBT Awareness and the Career Development Center. Students, both international and domestic, contribute articles and viewpoints.

*Rajaa Qadri ’10*, editor of *Bison Spectrum*, started the newsletter under the guidance of Director of International Student Services Paula Myers in 2007. During Qadri’s watch the newsletter has evolved both in terms of style and content. Most importantly, it has made an impact on campus. “Before *Bison Spectrum*, the international community was kind of closed off from the rest of campus,” Qadri says. “Once the newsletter got going, it really helped to show the rest of the campus that the international student community is accessible. Students have really responded and become involved with it.”

**STUDENT PROFILE**

*Tyler Szwarc ’11*

The study of astronomy is one of humanity’s many attempts to contemplate our place in the universe. “We’re at a time in human existence where we can finally begin to answer the oldest questions people have been asking themselves,” says geology and physics major *Tyler Szwarc ’11*. “Where are we? Where did we come from? What will happen to us in the future? Is Earth a special place in the universe? Because of astronomy, we have been able to scratch the surface of these answers, and we can only hope that the rest of the answers will emerge in time.”

These questions are enough to fuel a lifetime of study, but Szwarc also loves the simplest aspect of this complicated science. “I enjoy looking at the sky and admiring the beauty of it,” says the Hillsborough, N.J., native. “Appreciating the science behind the sky is important to me, but my favorite part of astronomy is embracing the sense of wonder that arises when looking up at the night sky.”

Szwarc started the Astronomy Club to give Bucknellians the chance to see the universe in the same way he does. “I realized Bucknell needed the club when I was working as a teaching assistant for the Astronomy 101 night labs,” he explains. “Students had a real passion for astronomy. They wanted to learn about and enjoy the beauty behind the stars. The Astronomy Club was the best way to create these opportunities for the Bucknell community.”

The club now hosts observing nights at the Observatory once a month for students, faculty and the local community. “It feels great to be able to explore my passion while helping others discover it in themselves,” says Szwarc. “My wish is that the spirit of the Astronomy Club will live on after I graduate, and that everyone at Bucknell who wants to enjoy the night sky will be able to benefit from the club in some way.”

— Heather Peavey Johns
Professor Angèle Kingué and Leanne Freas Trout '50

William R. Gruver has been named Bucknell’s first Howard I. Scott Clinical Professor of Global Commerce, Strategy and Leadership. The endowed position provides instructional, scholarship and mentoring support for students in the College of Arts and Sciences, the College of Engineering and the School of Management. It is funded through the Howard I. Scott Endowment, which was established through the estate of the late Howard I. Scott ’39.

Gruver is a respected educator who brings real-world experience to the classroom, says Provost Mick Smyer. “His expertise bridges disciplines and encourages students to consider global issues from different perspectives and is well-suited to our liberal arts curriculum.”

Gruver joined Bucknell in 1993, when he retired as a general partner from Goldman, Sachs & Co. He teaches courses in investments, investment banking, international relations, strategy and leadership. He received Bucknell’s 2009 Lindback Award for Distinguished Teaching.

Félicitations
Trot Professorship honors outstanding teacher-scholar.
By Christina Masciere Wallace

For Professor Angèle Kingué, the accent is on excellence. She is the inaugural recipient of the David Morton and Leanne Freas Trout Professorship of French and Francophone Studies.

Leanne Freas Trout ’50 made the gift in memory of her late husband, David Trout ’50, who was an emeritus trustee. It is the first endowed faculty position funded by the University’s $400 million comprehensive campaign.

The professorship recognizes academic and teaching excellence and gives the recipient resources to pursue scholarly interest in French. It will also enable French faculty to develop new courses based on scholarly study pursued during year-long sabbaticals.

“We are grateful to Mrs. Trout for this commitment to the core mission of the University,” says President Brian C. Mitchell. “Her gift will benefit the University for generations to come.”

Kingué, a native of Cameroon, joined Bucknell in 1988. Her scholarship and teaching focus on Francophone literature of sub-Saharan Africa. The longtime director of Bucknell en France, she is a world-renowned author who has published novels, short stories and children’s stories. During her professorship, Kingué plans to finish her current novel and embark upon an oral history project in which she will interview members of various Cameroon communities.

Trout, who majored in French, also established two renewable $5,000 scholarships for outstanding students of French. Jillian O’Mara ’12 and Jeffrey Church ’12 are the first recipients.

“These gifts strengthen the entire program,” says Associate Professor Renée Gosson, director of French and Francophone studies. “The professorship will enrich our academic program through the development of new course material grounded in original research, while the scholarships reward student achievement and encourage further excellence in French studies. It is a tremendous opportunity, and we are grateful.”

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He’s Hip to Scholarships

Sampson funding to help more students.

By Christina Masciere Wallace

Kylie Brandt ’10 was a leader for Bucknell Brigade and first-year student orientation, a Reunion ambassador and a student caller. Right now, she’s in Uganda with Bicycles Against Poverty, a humanitarian group she cofounded. This fall, she’ll begin teaching middle-schoolers in the Bronx.

Brandt is one of 21 Bucknellians who have benefitted from the Sampson Family Scholarship Endowment. Now, even more students will be able to attend Bucknell, thanks to Ben Sampson ’69, P’96. He recently committed $5 million in support of the program he started 20 years ago with his late brother, Myles ’67.

“We chose to fund scholarships because they live on through people,” says Sampson, vice-chair of the comprehensive campaign. “We felt strongly that this was the best investment we could make in Bucknell.”

His gift underscores the University’s commitment to academic excellence and accessibility. “Students like Kylie remind us why scholarship support is Bucknell’s top campaign priority,” says President Brian C. Mitchell. “Ben made a difference for her, and she is making a difference in the world.”

For Brandt, the award has meant much more than money. Sampson sets an example of alumni loyalty in several other ways, including his support of the CLIMBucknell outdoor education facility in nearby Cowan.

“Ben taught me the value of giving back to a community that has given me so much,” says Brandt. “I chose to take his attitude of active engagement, which helped me get the most out of my Bucknell experience.”

Scholarship recipient Stephen Wakulchik ’10 recently presented Sampson with a painting that represents his philanthropy. In it, a deeply rooted tree scatters seeds to the wind, spreading new life — a fitting metaphor for the healthy return on his Bucknell investment.

GIFT OF GREEN BOOSTS ENVIRONMENTAL STUDIES

David ’56, P’79 and Patricia Ekedahl P’79 have expanded their support of Bucknell’s Environmental Center by funding an endowed professorship in Environmental Studies. A current faculty member will be selected for the position, which begins in September and will be awarded in terms of up to five years.

In thanking the Ekedahls, President Brian C. Mitchell noted that the gift promotes interdisciplinary learning. “As a liberal arts university, we have an extraordinary opportunity to examine complex issues, like the environment, from many perspectives.”

The David and Patricia Ekedahl Professorship in Environmental Studies is open to any current Bucknell faculty member whose scholarship focuses on the study of human effects on the environment and environmental effects on human life, health, culture, commerce and civilization. The recipient will lead students through teaching and collaborative research and scholarship. He or she also will collaborate with faculty peers and students in both specialized and interdisciplinary study of environmental issues.

David Ekedahl has served on Bucknell’s Board of Trustees since 1993.

— Christina Masciere Wallace
BOOKS

Matthew Stevenson ’76
Remembering the Twentieth Century Limited (Odysseus Books)
Matthew Stevenson’s travels begin at home in Switzerland during evenings spent reading by the fireside. He consumes volumes on a topic of interest, “but until I visit a place,” he says, “I find it an abstraction.” In his latest collection of essays, Remembering the Twentieth Century Limited, he ventures into smoldering flashpoints of modern history, including Armenia, Beirut, Gallipoli, Serbia and Okinawa. After walking the lands and meeting with survivors, descendants and experts, he ends far from his launch point and well beyond common assumptions. Stevenson’s graceful prose is all the more elegant for the personal connections reverberating through his narratives. Whether celebrating Minor League Baseball, sorting out Middle Eastern political history or making a reasoned case for clearing Alger Hiss, he is an engaging guide.

Harold Schweizer
On Waiting (Routledge)
Who has not heard the words, “I hate waiting,” uttered in the cashier line, on the train station platform or in the doctor’s office? Few relish waiting, but Professor of English Harold Schweizer believes this everyday act deserves reconsideration. He plumbs philosophical and literary texts as well as the visual arts to conjure a lively yet profound meditation in a volume in the Routledge series Thinking in Action, intended to bring philosophy to the general public. In an age of instant communication and gratification, Schweizer explores the overlooked virtues of waiting and its connection to time. Critic Robert Eaglestone of the University of London finds that On Waiting “wears this learning so lightly and so charmingly that it is both easy and gripping to read.”

Steven Drobny ’94
The Invisible Hands (Wiley)
Why was “real money,” what the finance world calls unlevered institutional funds such as pensions and endowments, so vulnerable in the crash of 2008? What is the ongoing impact and what are the solutions? Steven Drobny, an international macroeconomist, provides a thoughtful analysis in The Invisible Hands. Losses for a given endowment can be harsh and set back one university’s operations considerably; but in the case of pensions, the damage can wreak catastrophe across the economy. Drobny goes to the experts who successfully rode out the crash for perspective and advice, organizing it in lucid language that is as accessible to the general reader as it is for the professional.

Scott Singer ’87
How To Hit A Curveball (Portfolio/Penguin Group)
In baseball and in life, Scott Singer observes in his new book, skilled curveball hitters are a minority. Reeling from personal challenges that began with September 11, Singer realized it was time to improve his batting skills and sought out individuals who found their grace in adversity, including alumni Ken Langone ’57 and Les Moonves ’71, the author’s brother who was in the World Trade Center on September 11 and actor Michael J. Fox stricken by Parkinson’s disease. Fortunately, he was already at work on How to Hit a Curveball and had internalized his subjects’ wisdom when the recent economic collapse threw him another loop. This time, he was ready to step up. His advice is informed by experience and written with purpose and honesty.
have held human attention for millennia. Elizabeth Capaldi Evans, associate professor of biology, and co-author Carol Butler respond to the public interest with an informative yet entertaining new guide, Why Do Bees Buzz? Presented in a question-and-answer format, the book sifts through reams of research to serve readers of all ages and debunk a few myths. Do killer bees really exist? Do bees sleep? Is beekeeping dangerous? The authors answer more than a hundred questions in a text rooted in science and presented with a storyteller’s panache.

David Kassel ’76
Managing Public Sector Projects (CRC Press)
Public works keep America in roads, schools and other infrastructure taken for granted. Unfortunately, everyone has a story of a project soaring over budget, delivered long after deadline and/or so ineptly conceived it is eventually abandoned. As government downsizing leaves public works increasingly outsourced, projects are all the more vulnerable to design and communication boondoggles. David Kassel, a former analyst with the Massachusetts Attorney General’s office, believes that appropriate management style can insure desirable outcomes. In Managing Public Sector Projects, he outlines principles and strategies that will support a project from conception through closeout. He liberally illustrates the text with case studies and tip lists for successful risk management.

J. Geiling Brady ’60
Silver Step 210 (Eloquent Books)
Supersonic naval flight was in its infancy in the early 1960s when Jim Brady joined Fighter Squadron 62 as a Crusader jet pilot. The Crusader’s inherent instability factor and the ever-present threat of Cold War tensions required a special breed to take off day after day. Close encounters with Soviet MIGS near Key West and planes spinning out of control were just some of the daily realities that required daring feats of ingenuity and courage. In Silver Step 210, named for his plane’s call sign, Brady employs novelistic devices to recount the events and special bonds experienced by the pilots.

Elizabeth Capaldi Evans
Why Do Bees Buzz? (Rutgers University Press)
From their honey and wax production of the daily realities that required daring to the recent threat of extinction, bees experienced by the pilots.

Why Do Bees Buzz?

Gary Sojka H’09
Understanding the Human Factor: Life and Its Impact (The Teaching Company)
Bucknell President Emeritus and Professor Emeritus of Biology Gary Sojka channels all of his life’s interests into his multidisciplinary 24-lecture course recently added to the Great Courses series available on DVD. Understanding the Human Factor revisits Rousseau’s question, has civilization as it evolved truly benefited humankind? Drawing on a breadth of anthropological, archeological, geographical, sociological, historical, economic and philosophical studies as well as the discrete and agricultural sciences, he tracks the domestication of animals and plants. He tackles the difficult issues of contemporary food supply and environmental consequences. Most of all, his engaging lectures are informed by his current vocation as a farmer who raises endangered breeds of sheep and chickens. Students are provided with recommended readings and a detailed course outline.

MUSIC

Al Borelli ’49
Al Borelli Plays Liszt and Chopin (CNR Media Services)
This fall, pianist Al Borelli will release a CD of recordings of solo performances in London and Nuremberg from 1965. Borelli takes the opportunity on the first track to thank his mentors, including the late Bucknell professor William MacRae whom he credits as a lifetime mentor. The remastering of the recordings is skillful and the repertoire of Liszt pieces and Chopin waltzes is pleasing. Borelli’s interpretations are nimble and exercise sensitive control over inflection and volume. Liszt aficionados will especially enjoy his styling of “Gnomenreigen,” the challenging and innovative “Dance of the Gnomes,” from Deux Etudes de Concert.

ART

Makoto Fujimura ’83
Soliloquies (Square Halo Books)
In late 2009, the Dillon Gallery in New York mounted an exhibit of the works of international artist Makoto Fujimura and one of his influences, painter Georges Rouault (1871–1958). Soliloquies is the companion text to the exhibit, a critical assessment by Thomas Hibbs illustrated with color plates. Fujimura also contributes an essay, a “refraction,” that traces Rouault’s legacy in contemporary art. His personal connection with the late modernist is the shared vision of art as an expression of life and faith against a destructive world.

Reviews & Criticism

Claudia Ebeling reviews books, music and video each issue. To submit materials for review, e-mail bmagazine@bucknell.edu.
Animal kingdom

As caretakers and teachers, protectors and researchers, Bucknellians around the world and in their own backyards follow the Call of the Wild.
“These are tool users,” Peter Judge ’77 is saying. “You can see how persistent and manipulative they are.”

I turn to respond, and feel a small hand grab at my shoulder. Nobel, a juvenile capuchin monkey, appears jealous of my attention. I turn toward him again and he rocks back, momentarily content to peer at me through the bars. Soon his confreres gather: Sagan, DaVinci, Smithson, Monet, their round faces appropriately thoughtful. Monet, the alpha, “is a big lug,” Judge says fondly, “but he turns out to be one of our smartest monkeys.”

We’re in Bucknell’s Animal Behavior Lab, a cluster of low buildings on a cul de sac west of Route 15, Judge, director of the University’s highly regarded animal behavior program, is giving me the tour. Beyond the capuchins are fidgety squirrel monkeys, placid baboons and lion-tailed macaques that look as if they were conjured by Dr. Seuss. Bats, too, are somewhere present, and the fenced yard outside holds half a dozen beehives.

It’s an impressive facility to match an impressive program. Started as a collaboration between the biology and psychology departments in 1968, Bucknell animal behavior remains one of the few undergraduate programs of its kind. And largely due to its founder and long-time head, the well-respected psychologist Douglas K. Candland, now retired, its
reputation in the fields of animal behavior, learning and cognition is worldwide.

Not surprisingly, the program has produced its fair share of primatologists who are now scattered at zoos and universities around the U.S. and beyond. “But we’ve also produced a lot of entomologists,” Judge says. “And experimental psychologists. One or two every year go to vet school. Our majors go on to do just about anything.”

Indeed, they do. Along with fellow graduates in biology, environmental science and ecology, animal behavior alumni form an impressive cadre of Bucknellians who are more or less out in the wild, studying, taking care of, protecting and teaching others about the great variety of non-human animals that share our existence on Earth. What follows is a small sampling of their paths and passions.

Judge himself went from Bucknell’s animal behavior program to graduate school in psychology at the University of Georgia and a series of post-docs at the Yerkes National Primate Center in Atlanta with well-known primatologist Frans de Waal. “I went around studying monkey groups, asking whether they are more aggressive under high-density conditions,” he remembers. “The answer is yes—but they are also more friendly. Our assumption was that they learned that in those environments they have to be nicer to one another or they might get beaten up.”

He returned to the University in 2000. Close on his heels came six feisty capuchins from de Waal’s lab at Yerkes, including Monet. Eight more have since been born, for a present colony of 14. Judge uses these and the other primates to study social behavior and cognitive ability. “Specifically, I’m interested in reconciliation behavior — how they make up after fights,” he explains. In a recent study of baboons, he and his students looked at fight bystanders and found that while witnessing violence makes their stress levels rise (“You can tell by the excessive scratching”), their anxiety lessens when combatants make up.

“We let them near the monkeys right away,” Judge says of his students. “There are not many places that do that. The experience helps them not only to get into graduate school, but also to perform well there.”

Of his current position, he says, “It’s a dream job for a primatologist, to have your own private primate center. And because we’re a small, high-quality program we tend to attract some really good students, who come here with great ideas. I get to take advantage of that.”

Alexis Will ’06 had the idea to study seabirds while kayaking with her father. “I grew up in Sitka, Alaska,” she explains, “and we’d go every summer. On one trip, after freshman year, we ran into some people doing field research.” Will has been in the field for at least a part of every year since.

The work — gathering data on population trends, reproductive success and diet — has taken her from the rugged North Slope to the Aleutian Chain, and last winter to Antarctica to track penguins, petrels and skuas. Will hires on where she’s needed, migrating from one study to the next. “The seabird community is small and close-knit,” she says. “Once you get into it, you know everybody.”

An environmental studies major, Will says, “I’m a big-picture person. Seabirds are great indicator species for the health of the world’s oceans. They open up all kinds of questions about the marine ecosystem. And the environments they inhabit are incredible.”

The birds themselves, she adds, “are fun to be around, fun to watch over a whole season. They’re the closest thing to a dinosaur that’s alive, that I can study. I grew up with ‘The Land Before Time,’ and I guess I never really got over that.”

Sarah Bush ’89 also grew up with a keen interest in animals. “Some people would call it an obsession,” she says. Her father happened on Bucknell’s animal behavior program while her older brother was considering the University for engineering. “When I visited,” she remembers, “Doug Candland gave me a tour of the primate colonies. Bucknell was my first choice from that day onward.”

Through Candland, she participated in various research projects and eventually zeroed in on amphibians. He encouraged her to apply for a Marshall Scholarship, and Bush became one of the three Bucknellians ever to win that honor. In England, she studied courtship behavior in the endangered Majorcan midwife toad.

Her return to the States to do a post-doc with Carl Gerhardt, the world’s leading expert on the gray tree frog, led to Bush joining the University of Missouri faculty, where her current research focuses on the evolution of acoustic communication in both frogs and insects. She and collaborator Johannes Schul are approaching the problem via katydids.

“The research is fun and stimulating when it’s going well,” she says. “But on a day-to-day basis the teaching is the more rewarding aspect of my job.” She traces
this preference to Candland and her other professors at Bucknell, “whose dedication to teaching inspired me to want an academic career.”

The classroom experience led Ursula Anderson ’00 in another direction. Her coursework at Bucknell gave her a strong background in animal cognition, and also, she says, in scientific writing — so much so that when she went on to do graduate work at Georgia Tech, “I found that I was more prepared than any of my peers.” She remembers a Candland-led seminar in which “we read and evaluated research papers,” including one by Marc Hauser ’81, Harvard biologist and a leading expert on cognitive evolution. “It sparked my interest in the topic,” she says, and it has guided her research ever since.

A summer undergraduate internship at Zoo Atlanta convinced Anderson of the value of zoo-based research. For her master’s degree, she designed experiments to test the age-related decline of quantitative skills in gorillas and orangutans. (The old gorillas, she reports, held up fine; orangutans, not so much.)

Now a Ph.D. candidate in Georgia Tech’s Center for Conservation and Behavior, Anderson continues to look at numerical cognition. Her current study requires her orangutan subjects to judge whether five triangles, for example, have the same “numerosity” as five squares — a higher-order cognitive skill. In future work, she hopes to continue exploring the comparative evolution of cognition in research with human infants.

Kate Nowak ’01 first went to Tanzania in 2000 for a Bucknell study-abroad program. Two years later she was back as a graduate student at Cambridge University studying the role of behavioral flexibility in the population persistence of primates. “I am interested in how flexible and innovative animals can be in human-dominated areas,” she says.

On Zanzibar Island, Nowak studied a species of red colobus monkeys that, despite being threatened by habitat encroachment, is carving a new niche for itself, changing its diet and even its mode of locomotion to exploit mangrove forest. Now, as a post-doctoral fellow at Princeton, she studies elephants of Tanzania’s Udzungwa Mountains, a population increasingly confined to the montane forest.

Elephants, she says, “are ecosystem engineers.” Their presence profoundly impacts their environment — and human neighbors — in ways that are difficult to predict. “Human–elephant interactions create a complex and politically charged issue.” Recently, she jumped into the thick of the fray, co-authoring an influential article in the journal Science that argued against a temporary lift of the 1989 ban on selling ivory.

This summer, Nowak returns to Tanzania where, with Princeton’s Andrew Dobson, she will look at species interactions in the Udzungwa Mountains. “Forest systems are challenging to understand,” she says. “We are trying to see the forest through the eyes of an elephant.”
Dhaval Vyas ’03 also has felt the call of Tanzania’s elephants. “I’ve always had an interest in sub-Saharan Africa,” he says. “Fortunately, I befriended a Bucknellian who was from Tanzania and who invited me to visit. I spent three weeks there and fell in love with what I saw.”

Vyas has since lived an additional two years in Tanzania, including three months on a Bucknell Undergraduate Research Fellowship. For his master’s thesis at Georgia Southern University, he wrote about chemical signaling between savannah elephants in the foothills of Mount Kilimanjaro.

He has worked as a keeper at the National Zoo in Washington, D.C., and as an ecologist for the Georgia Department of Transportation. After spending a year traveling the world, Vyas recently took a job in animal health at the Centers for Disease Control in Atlanta. “My main duties are to provide environmental enrichment and behavioral training for the CDC’s animals, everything from mice to goats,” he says. “Captive animals can have a difficult time adjusting to a confined space, so it’s rewarding to see that the implementations we provide are helping to alleviate problems.”

Fahey has helped save the gray wolf, the grizzly bear, the lynx and the black-footed ferret, among other species, from the brink of extinction. “Essentially, I do quality control on our endangered species listings, making sure that we’re stating the case as strongly as possible,” she explains.

The endless litigation can be wearisome, she admits. “We’re always in the middle,” she says. “Usually we’re not making anyone happy.” On the other hand, “I’ve been doing this 12 years, and I have never been bored. And I feel like I’m one of the good guys.”

She started as a volunteer with the California Condor Recovery program. “My first job involved putting stillborn calf carcasses on my back and hiking up the mountain so the condors would have something to eat,” she remembers. “It was a wonderful field job. But at some point you figure out that if you want to do more for conservation you might just need to come inside.”

For Bridget Fahey ’93, an endangered species chief for the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, working with wildlife “is almost exclusively a desk job.” Fahey, based in Denver, spends her days implementing the Endangered Species Act. “I knew in the 4th grade I wanted to be a wildlife biologist,” she says. “Basically I have a job the 10-year-old Bridget would’ve dreamed of.”

Page Kannor ’09 has yet to reach that point. Right after graduation last May, she lit out for Hawaii Volcanoes National Park and the Hawksbill Sea Turtle Recovery Project. From June through November, Kannor was a volunteer turtle watcher.

Each night at 7 p.m., she reports, a two-to-three-person crew would commence hourly beach patrols, walking the shore to check for females nesting. “Once they started laying eggs, we monitored the nests” and fended off predators. “When the nest reached 45 days, we would check it every hour, looking for this characteristic divot in the sand that tells you it’s ready to hatch. We would watch to make sure all the hatchlings got to the water, then dig out the pit to make sure there were none stuck.”

This summer she’ll shift gears, moving to Mammoth Lakes, Calif., to assist in a study of social behavior in ground squirrels. “After that,” she says, “I’ll try to figure out some place good to spend the winter — maybe Death Valley.

“I’ve always wanted to work with animals. I just never knew exactly what,” says Kannor. “I’m exploring the variety of things I can do — and there are a lot of options. Right now my plan changes daily.”
Upon graduation, Mandy Revak ’04 wasn’t immediately sure where she was headed, either. Her internship experiences had shown her what she didn’t want to be: a zookeeper or a field researcher. For several months, Revak worked at her local PetSmart. “I just walked in and said I have an animal behavior degree, and I want to be a dog trainer,” she says. “I think that was where I began to realize that I like to teach.”

An ad for a part-time science educator drew her to the Pittsburgh Zoo and PPG Aquarium. Today, she is coordinator of KidScience and Zoo U., the Zoo’s popular programs for middle- and high-school students. “I teach them wildlife conservation, environmental sciences and techniques for animal behavior research,” she reports. “I get to put into practice everything I learned at Bucknell.”

Her students are highly motivated: the tuition-based programs require a two-year commitment. And the science is real. “We teach them how to design a study, how to use sampling techniques,” Revak says. “In the summer every student does an independent research project, and we finish with a poster session.

“I never envisioned myself as a teacher,” she says. “Now I can’t see myself doing anything else.”

Allison Blankenship ’80 never thought she’d be a teacher either, much less a wildlife educator. Yet Blankenship now owns and runs Zooniversity of Dallas, Texas, “the teaching zoo that comes to you.”

After graduating with a double major in biology and art, she says, “I spent 19 years in boardrooms climbing the ranks, and ended up with an executive title, a big salary, a corner office and a job that swallowed me whole.

“To maintain some sense of self,” she says, “I took a weekend position exhibiting animals at a local zoo. In 2001, abruptly laid off after yet another hostile takeover, “I traded the corporate pumps for hiking boots and started Zooniversity.” Nine years later, she delivers more than 700 wildlife shows a year.

Blankenship gets frequent e-mails from college students eager to enter the field. “Expect 16-hour days,” she tells the hopefuls. “Expect no days off. Expect lots of expenses and very little profit. It is not the life most people think we lead when they see us beaming at the microphone.”

As director of the Avian Wildlife Center (AWC), in Wantage, N.J., Giselle Smisko ’79 can relate to 16-hour days. In summer, her busy season, the center typically cares for 200 rescued birds at a time — from hummingbirds to mute swans. “We get everything,” Smisko says. “A lot of them are nestlings. Some of them need food every 20 minutes. My day is pretty much planned out for me.”

A biology major at Bucknell, Smisko and her husband founded the AWC in their home in 1990. “We started with three outdoor aviaries, and have added on every year,” she says. Her family members are all involved in the work — whether they want to be or not,” she quips. “My sons have grown up thinking everyone keeps frozen mice in the freezer.”

As a state and federally licensed rehabilitator, Smisko does everything from routine first aid to assisting surgery, and also gives educational programs at nature clubs and schools. She has witnessed her share of unusual rescues, but it’s the “little stories,” she says, that stick with her: The worried kid who brings in a robin or a sparrow; the hawk badly mangled in a contractor’s ladder, yet somehow recovered and released.

“You can make a difference — in one bird’s life, in an endangered species or in a person’s life,” she says. “When people see the result of their caring for these creatures, they are forever changed for the better. That’s the thing that keeps me coming back.”

David Pacchioli is a freelance writer in State College, Pa.
Originally called war gardens in WWI, victory gardens re-emerged during WWII and inspired a movement of families, neighbors and community members across America to plant plots of vegetables, fruits and herbs to help supplement war-rationed food sources. The large vegetable garden grew in popularity in WWII, and the name took on a patriotic tenor. Victory gardens provided more than simply food to the civilian population. They also cultivated a sense of morale and self-sufficiency, particularly for women left at home and wanting to contribute more to the war effort.

As both a gardener and director of a botanic garden, I am interested in current gardening trends and tracking their development. A return to the family or community vegetable garden is gaining popularity within the “slow foods” movement. More and more people also are interested in the “locavore movement,” buying locally grown produce. And the actual use of the term “victory garden” is making a comeback in the new millennium.

While civilians no longer need to grow their own food to help with the current war effort, many Americans are feeling compelled to contribute to a different battle — not a military war fought among nations, but a social war to reduce greenhouse gases and eliminate fears of food insecurity. Food insecurity focuses on the basic fear of not having sufficient food in the near future or the fear about the safety of the food that we are consuming — the recent Salmonella outbreak in spinach being a prime example.

Increasingly, people are becoming aware that much of our food travels great distances to arrive at our tables, leaving behind a large carbon footprint. Growing our own food in close proximity to our tables greatly reduces that footprint and helps to reduce global warming. Many consumers now question where a product is grown as well as how it is grown. The mere process of growing vegetables in our own yards provides great peace of mind. And while there are several Internet resources for building a victory garden for the 21st century, you need little more than garden tools, seeds and a watering source. The process does not need to be complicated. In fact, the less complicated it is, the more enjoyable it becomes.

The major change that I see from years past is that modern victory gardens, with the addition of flowers and shrubs, are just as attractive as they are utilitarian. They provide food for the soul as well as the body. Today’s victory gardens, whether they are planted in urban lots or rural backyards, reconnect us with the earth. Getting our hands dirty, planting seeds, staking tomatoes — the ordinary tasks required of the gardener — can produce the most extraordinary sense of accomplishment. Working in these splendid, regenerative spaces forces us to put down our cell phones and not only smell the roses, but the sweet peas and spring onions, which is in itself a victory in this overcrowded, fast-paced and technology-driven world.

Bruce Crawford ’80 is the director of the Rutgers Gardens in New Brunswick, N.J.
Each year, the Posse Foundation, one of the most respected college access and youth leadership programs in the country, recognizes individuals who have shown extraordinary leadership in the field of education. In May, at a gala event at Chelsea Piers in New York City, President Brian C. Mitchell was honored as one of the year’s four recipients of the Posse Star award.

When Mitchell began his tenure at Bucknell in 2004, the University’s first Posse class was already in place. After meeting and interacting with the students, Mitchell grew impressed with their intellectual ambitions. By the conclusion of his tenure, he had made sure that Bucknell had become the first liberal arts university to enroll Posses from three different cities — Washington, D.C., Boston and Los Angeles — and its enrolled Posse students has grown tenfold. In the fall, 95 Posse students will be matriculating. “The question is not whether you can afford to support Posse,” he says, “but how can you afford not to support Posse?”

Two years after the implementation of the Posse program, in a call for proposals made to America’s top 126 colleges and universities, Bucknell won a four-year, $890,000 grant from the Jack Kent Cooke Foundation to begin the Bucknell Community College Scholars program. Partnering with five community colleges in Pennsylvania and Maryland, Bucknell has been using the grant to recruit high-achieving transfer students since 2007. Together, these two programs have contributed significantly to strengthening the academic core and enhancing diversity, two goals of the strategic plan for Bucknell that Mitchell began proposing during his first six months on campus.

Says Nadia Sasso ’11, a member of D.C. Posse 3, “President Mitchell’s commitment to diversity is not only illustrated through his support for foundations like Posse or student organizations such as Common Ground and the Black Student Union, but is also highlighted by the level of care and nurturing he extends to their growth. He not only plants the seeds of
Mitchell arrived with a vision for taking Bucknell to the next level and knew that his first year in office would be pivotal. He brought with him the experience of having been the president of Washington & Jefferson College and president of the Association of Independent Colleges and Universities of Pennsylvania. Fourteen months after he became a Bison, and following discussion on campus and among alumni, The Plan for Bucknell was approved by the faculty, Bucknell Student Government and Board of Trustees. When Mitchell stepped down from his six-year presidency last month, he did so knowing that the goals outlined in The Plan had become a part of the institution’s culture.

Says Board of Trustees member C. Alan Walker ’66, “Brian is a true visionary. He laid the groundwork for what the University will become for at least the next 25 years.” Fellow board member Ellen Q. Bush ’79 agrees, “From day one, President Mitchell invested his energies and talents into building The Plan and consensus and support from multiple constituencies for it. Brian’s legacy at Bucknell has many impressive facets, but The Plan is his permanent handprint in the future of Bucknell.”

The Plan is built around the goal of strengthening the academic core, a commitment begun with the promise of reducing the faculty teaching load from six classes each year to five. A five-course teaching load not only makes Bucknell more competitive with peer institutions in attracting the best faculty members, but also allows faculty to spend more time with students and on the scholarship that keeps their teaching cross-cultural communication but, more importantly, he cultivates those seeds until they bloom into flowers that enhance the diversity of thought and conversation on campus.”

Associate Professor of Psychology and Posse mentor Kimberly Daubman adds, “Both the Posse program and the Community College Scholars program have enriched Bucknell tremendously. The students’ varied backgrounds means that more perspectives are brought into class discussions, deepening the experience for everyone.”
cutting-edge. Since 2007, more than 40 new tenure-track faculty positions have been filled to achieve this goal. The student-faculty ratio today stands at 10:1 compared to 12:1 when Mitchell began his presidency.

Says Carmen Gillespie, professor of English and director of the Griot Institute for Africana Studies at Bucknell, “The change in course load preceded my arrival at Bucknell and indicated to me that Bucknell is an institution dedicated to excellence in teaching and scholarship.”

With the academic core as goal number one of The Plan, right behind it was the goal of strengthening the residential learning experience.

Both goals have benefitted from such recent initiatives as creating a more robust career services office for students and alumni alike, integrating the academic and student affairs offices to enhance the holistic learning environment, placing a greater emphasis on service learning, and creating centers of excellence, like the Teaching and Learning Center and Environmental Center.

During Mitchell’s tenure, numerous capital construction projects were completed, including the installation of the NMR and the flume as improvements to the University’s science infrastructure. Rooke Chapel, Gerhard Fieldhouse, Berger Fitness Center, Swartz Hall, Larison Cottage, Smith Library, the Traditional Reading Room and Seventh Street House were renovated.

“In the Elaine Langone Center, we renovated the Terrace Room, the Forum, Bison, Bison Patio and Gallery Theatre,” said Mitchell. “We also renovated the Admissions offices in Freas Hall and several fraternities including Lambda Chi Alpha and Delta Upsilon, and reconstructed the baseball and softball fields. We will soon reconstruct the vacated bookstore space.”

The Plan was only the overarching strategy, though, for a series of initiatives that have followed to make it a reality. In addition to the major achievement of the five-course teaching load, the largest comprehensive fundraising campaign ever at Bucknell is underway, and the first federal grants ever secured by Bucknell became part of the nearly $170 million in private, state and federal support that have been raised since the campaign began in 2007 — all part of the fifth and final goal of The Plan, securing Bucknell’s financial future. Meanwhile, the first comprehensive campus master plan in 80 years, and one modeled on the original Larson Plan that shaped the Bucknell campus we know today, was put in place. The Board of Trustees approved the University’s first comprehensive communications and marketing plan, which has provided clarity and consistency in outreach. A new plan for partnerships with Lewisburg has generated a series of highly promising downtown developments. Wireless Internet has been made available across campus, and Bucknell recently partnered with other Pennsylvania colleges to secure a $128 million federal grant to build a statewide broadband initiative, the largest effort of its kind in the commonwealth’s history.

These latter initiatives are part of goal four, building bridges — bringing Bucknell to the world and the world to Bucknell. Locally, Mitchell has led a team that has built new bridges with the Lewisburg community, contributing to the Lewisburg Community Core Initiative. One of the most high-profile projects has been the Barnes & Noble at Bucknell University Bookstore, which opened downtown on the corner of Market and Fourth streets last month (the grand opening will be Aug. 27). The renovation of the 1900s building that houses the bookstore was done with great care for historical preservation and the building’s place in the Lewisburg landscape.

‘President Mitchell not only plants the seeds of cross-cultural communication but, more importantly, he cultivates those seeds until they bloom into flowers that enhance the diversity of thought and conversation on campus.’
The majority of the funding for the $10 million bookstore project came from state and federal grants and related incentives for small-town economic development projects. Other projects being pursued with the support of the commonwealth include the renovation of the historic Campus Theatre; conversion of the historic Dewitt Building to include retail space and the new Bucknell University Innovation Center; renovation of the federal post office building at Market and Third streets to accommodate offices for Bucknell employees; and a 10-mile rails-to-trails project that will connect Lewisburg and Mifflinburg with a bike and walking path.

About this initiative, Lewisburg town manager Linda Sterling says, “During President Mitchell’s tenure, an improving town-gown relationship solidified into a working partnership — and the fruit of that relationship will help to keep downtown Lewisburg strong for years to come.”

This fall, the University will kick off its third iteration of the Bucknell Forum, a national speaker series that has brought people like Tim Russert, Doris Kearns Goodwin and Robert F. Kennedy Jr. to campus to discuss major topics in the public discourse. The theme of the first Forum was “The Citizen and Politics in America.” The theme for the 2009–10 academic year was “Global Leadership: Questions for the 21st Century.” The next Forum theme is “Creativity: Beyond the Box.” The widely celebrated dancer and choreographer Twyla Tharp will kick off the series with a lecture in the Weis Center for the Performing Arts on Sept. 14. The Forum events are open to the local community, further strengthening town-gown relations.

“Brian Mitchell’s tenure has allowed our students to burst the ‘Bucknell bubble’ by bringing world-class speakers on issues of critical importance to campus through the Bucknell Forum,” says Karen Marosi, assistant dean of engineering.

Both President and Maryjane Mitchell have been actively involved in student life, attending hundreds of cultural, commemorative and campus events. They hosted between 8,000 and 14,000 people at their home and perhaps an equal number beyond Bucknell annually, which is an enormous undertaking largely planned and executed by Maryjane. She also played a major role in developing and managing the Undergraduate Executive Intern Program, which provides for highly motivated students to work in executive internships across campus.

Each semester, the couple opened their home to students, faculty, parents and other visitors. Harry Kastenbaum ’09 remembers an unscheduled event. “During a casual conversation with President and Mrs. Mitchell, I noted that I was not going home for Hanukkah and had to buy candles so I could light my make-shift menorah. Upon hearing this, both quickly responded that I and any friends I wanted to invite could come to their home for the lighting and use the University menorah,” he says. “When we arrived, 30 students were treated to a traditional dinner, complete with potato latkes. In my experience as a student, I always found the Mitchells welcoming, accommodating and supportive.”

“The greatest reward of our experience has been meeting and getting to know the students,” says Mitchell.

“Some are Bucknellians by virtue of their degree, and others, like Maryjane and me, are Bucknellians by choice, a perspective that has only deepened over time,” says Mitchell. “As I said at Commencement, we hope that you will remember us as, we shall always and ever remember each of you.”
Through the Gates

Each year, at the end of Orientation, first-year students officially mark their matriculation by walking through the Christy Mathewson-Memorial Gates. At the end of their Bucknell college careers, they walk back through the gates before proceeding to the Academic Quadrangle for the Commencement ceremony.

Photograph by Timothy Sofranko

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.
We found this photo in University Archives but cannot identify the location or date. But we love invention. The three best captions win a Bucknell T-shirt. E-mail your submission to bmagazine@bucknell.edu.
My 12-year track and field career ended with a historic Patriot League Championship win. While it was an excellent finish to a long and successful career, my real contribution to my team, and other teams at Bucknell, has been my determination to create an atmosphere of acceptance and tolerance for all students and athletes.

I was both a distance runner and hurdler in high school. Early in school, I realized why I had always felt different my whole life, but instead of admitting to myself I was gay, I threw myself entirely into my activities and excelled at nearly everything I did. This came at a price. I was very lonely and went through bouts of depression as I struggled with my sexuality.

I looked at several schools for college but as soon as I visited Bucknell University’s campus, I fell in love and knew that it was where I was going to go.

In August 2006, I entered Bucknell and began my collegiate running career. I made friends with my fellow sprinters and hurdlers and they became my new family. However, at 19, I had started coming to terms with the fact that I am gay. I loved my close group of friends, but I didn’t feel comfortable enough to come out to them, especially not with the homophobic slurs that were playfully used in the locker room. But eventually, with the support of my best friend and fellow hurdler, I decided to tell my other three close friends from the team, my event coach and my parents.

I came back to Bucknell as a sophomore with great enthusiasm. I was now much more comfortable in my skin, having spent the summer being out. However, the team climate was not any easier. Homophobic slurs were still far too common until the day I finally stood up and said, “Enough.” I sat the team captains down and explained that I am gay and that they had to stop using homophobic language. They were very receptive to my words and took them to heart. Pretty soon they were correcting guys for using homophobic slurs and within a month, it had all stopped.

I was inspired by the positive impact I’d had on my team and I wanted to do more. I started attending Bucknell’s Friends of Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual & Transgender (FLAG&BT) club meetings. At these meetings I learned about our school’s “Safe Space” program and I got involved immediately. The concept of a Safe Space is a place where anyone can be fully self-expressed, without fear of being made to feel uncomfortable or unsafe.

With the help of the director of the LGBT Office, I modified the program so that it was geared towards athletic teams. In my senior year, my team, a roster of more than 130 men and women combined, voted unanimously to be a Safe Team and I was thrilled. With this enthusiasm I continued on to present to eight other programs. Finally, I had made a real and significant contribution to athletics at Bucknell.

I was inspired by the positive impact I’d had on my team and wanted to do more.
Congratulations to Professor Kingué, the first recipient of the David Morton and Leanne Freas Trout Professorship in French and Francophone Studies. This endowed academic position will benefit Bucknell for generations. The trust gift plan that made it possible builds the professorship now — and later will provide Mrs. Trout’s family an inheritance free of estate or transfer taxes. Bien joué!

To learn how you can support faculty and meet your estate-planning goals, please contact Kathy Graham, Interim Executive Director of Development and Director of Gift Planning, at 570-577-3607.
Gerry Commerford retires after 41 years. Read more about the spring faculty retirees on p.8.