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A Campus with a View
Bucknell carefully considers the sum of all its parts as it plans for the next 75 years of campus growth and construction.
By Thomas W. Durso
A Crisis and an Opportunity

By Brian C. Mitchell

Across its history, Bucknell has faced difficult, even perilous, times. Today’s economic crisis and this magazine’s focus on the campus master plan bring to mind one especially troubling era. In the early 1930s, America was confronting a financial meltdown. Unemployment reached 25 percent. Banks everywhere were collapsing, and the government was doing little to help. The stock market was in free fall. And on the Bucknell campus, tragedy struck in a definitive way with the burning down of Old Main, the campus’s signature building.

Yet, at that time, the University established the Larson Plan that would guide the physical evolution of the campus into the place we know and love today. In establishing that plan, Bucknell expressed its appreciation that bad times do end, that this institution is built for the long term. Bucknell has never aimed simply to survive. It aims to adapt in a deliberate fashion so that it continues to improve.

Only a few years ago, Bucknell created its strategic plan, The Plan for Bucknell. Likewise, today’s comprehensive campaign is built around a well thought out fundraising strategy. And the campus master plan is designed for key investments that begin now but stretch across 75 years. The clarity that these plans give us matters greatly. Regardless of the economy, they help us protect core ideals, notably the importance of the academic core and access.

The academic core means our investments in faculty, academic programs and the spaces where learning happens. It is the educational experience we promise students. It is what we protect and nurture foremost. Access is our duty to ensure that all outstanding students qualified to attend Bucknell can do so. We must provide the financial aid needed to help our current students and the students that we want to enroll in the months and years ahead.

At the same time, difficult times require special care. Toward that end, we have under review a range of areas, from operational spending and hiring to enrollment trends and financial aid, from construction costs to peer actions. Meanwhile, our Career Development Center is keeping a close eye on the impact of the market turmoil on the recruitment of our senior students and helping alumni affected by the economy’s decline.

As indicated in my recent statements about the economy, www.bucknell.edu/x6196.xml, Bucknell is in a strong financial position for several reasons, including our minimal variable-rate debt, our diversified endowment portfolio and our liquidity.

As we assess the situation looking ahead, we do so strategically — with a realistic, informed understanding of our situation, our challenges and our priorities. Someday soon, I believe, we will stand on the far side of today’s turmoil and see that all the work necessary to do so has, like our campus master plans, made a vital difference in the caliber of Bucknell.
Letters

TEAMMATES TRIUMPH
We certainly enjoyed “New Turf for Two Teammates” [Fall 2008] and must compliment your airbrush team in making two old footballers look, well, less old. We write to let you know that your article was indeed timely. The Federal Circuit handed down its legal decision on Oct. 30, and we’re delighted to report a very big win. The court flat out rejected the “carve-out” approach argued by our opponents and reached a result that will help innovative companies of all stripes—technology, software and financial services. People will no longer be able to string vague concepts together in hopes of getting blocking patents; instead, a premium will be put on systems that are actually built. As a result, innovation will continue to be the lifeblood of our economy, which could use more life and less blood right about now. We’re always happy to report a victory for the Bison, both on and off the field.

John Squires ’84  Tom Biemer ’84
Franklin Lakes, N.J.  Wayne, Pa.

VP POLLOCK
I was deeply saddened to read the tribute to Charlie Pollock ’70, or VP Pollock, as I knew him [Fall 2008]. Beyond being a wise administrator and leader, VP Pollock represented something special and unique about Bucknell. Though he was likely one of the busiest people at Bucknell, he was always personable and approachable to students. Through my work in the Bucknell Student Government, I was blessed to get to know him. He quickly became a father figure in many ways, whether it was listening to what my plans were for after college, giving encouragement about how my classes were going or critically thinking about my opinions. He prioritized relationships and others, taking a few minutes to chat on his way to meetings across campus or while he was getting something to eat in the Terrace Room. Now that I have been working for several years, I appreciate his ability to give his full attention to others and make them feel important when there may have been many pressing things on his to-do list.

I know many other students had a great admiration and respect for VP Pollock, and his legacy is far reaching. While I reminisce about the beautiful landscape and architecture of Bucknell, I’ve discovered that the people at Bucknell are really what made the experience so memorable and life-changing. VP Pollock was one of those individuals.

Katy Timer Norberg ’04
Fort Mill, S.C.

NO PAY ‘RAYS
Your article “Ray from PayScale” [Fall 2008] claiming, “Bucknell graduates have the highest earning potential of all liberal arts college graduates nationally,” is, through no fault of Bucknell, more wishful thinking than actual fact.

The term “starting median salary” is misleading: It does not mean “first job, beginning salary.” The term includes all reported salaries for employees with 5.5 years or less job experience, and the median for “starting median salary” was actually 3 years. In addition, the starting and “mid-career” salaries were self-reported to PayScale, Inc., indicative of only those relatively small numbers who actually reported their, ostensibly true figures.

The most glaring error was to define Bucknell as a “liberal arts college,” which it most certainly is not (we are a university consisting of colleges of engineering and liberal arts which, curiously, offer a bachelor of science in business administration with definitely un-liberal arts majors in accounting and management and courses in marketing, finance, human resources, etc.), while not classifying, for example, Princeton, Notre Dame, Villanova, Georgetown, Duke, etc. in the same fashion. That classification allows Bucknell engineering graduates to be compared to, for example, the graduates of Williams or Hamilton — which have no business or engineering majors but does not allow Carnegie Mellon’s (median starting salary: $61,800 vs. Bucknell’s $54,100), who also are liberal arts, engineering, and business majors, to be included in the data.

Bucknell is a wonderful university, as I’m sure our liberal arts, engineering and business administration graduates will agree, but let’s not try to prove that point by promoting self-serving statistics in a misleading fashion.

James Johnson ’64

Note: PayScale is an internationally recognized market leader of global compensation. The firm used categories specified by the Carnegie Foundation’s classification system, the industry standard since 1973. Carnegie places Bucknell in the Baccalaureate/Arts & Sciences category (which U.S. News and World Report renamed “Liberal Arts Colleges” and which PayScale, like others, then followed). Such institutions must confer at least half of all degrees in arts and sciences fields, and can award no more than 50 master’s degrees. While some schools in this category are exclusively undergraduate and liberal arts, many others have strong pre-professional programs in engineering and/or business, including Lafayette, Smith, Washington and Lee and University of Richmond. Almost all of the other institutions cited above are classified as “Research Universities,” which award at least 20 doctorates per year and have very high research activity. The one exception is Villanova, classified by Carnegie as a “Master’s University” because it awards more than 50 master’s degrees, but fewer than 20 doctorates.

WEB EXCLUSIVES
Go to www.bucknell.edu/bmagazine to check out this issue’s web exclusives:
• Which cover would you choose?
• Photo outtakes.
• Suggest a classic movie to Bill Westenhofer.
• Video: Homecoming and African-American quilting.
“We like to make decisions based on good information,” says Dina El-Mogazi, director of the Campus Greening Initiative and leader of the assessment team. Beyond gathering information, the project also was designed to educate and raise awareness of sustainability issues on campus. “We could have had consultants come in and do all of this, probably quicker and maybe less expensively, but we felt there was so much value to the project just by having people engage in conversations about these issues,” El-Mogazi says. The final report will be released in January.

Among the University’s environmental strengths is a power plant that has been fueled by natural gas since its conversion from coal 10 years ago. The efficient cogeneration plant provides approximately 95 percent of the University’s power, with the remainder purchased as wind power.

As the campus has grown with new construction, it has become more efficient. “Although we’ve built a lot of new buildings in the past 15 years or so, our energy use has stayed about constant, and that’s because we’ve been adopting a lot of energy-reduction strategies in renovations and new buildings,” El-Mogazi says. “The assessment revealed that our energy use per square foot is down 33 percent in the past 15 years.”

Other environmental strengths include a good infrastructure for recycling, an Integrated Pest Management approach to landscaping on the main
campus and a dining services contractor, Parkhurst Dining Services, Inc., dedicated to sustainability issues. For instance, Parkhurst spends 25 percent of its budget on foods produced within 150 miles of campus.

The assessment also revealed a number of opportunities for improvement. Despite the strong infrastructure, only about 18 percent of the campus’ solid waste is recycled. One contributor to the landfills is the Bison Café, which has no dishwashing facilities and uses disposable dishes and serviceware.

Even the management of the University’s endowment contributes to Bucknell’s environmental footprint. “Moving toward socially and environmentally responsible investing is a big challenge for the future,” El-Mogazi says. “This challenge is not unique to us. It’s a challenge for many universities.”

The assessment has led to more than 20 student projects. Alison Schaffer ’08, for example, donned waders to monitor water quality in Miller Run, the creek that runs through campus. The Campus Master Plan calls for the restoration of Miller Run, as well as for the development of a pedestrian and bicycle-friendly campus.

The University’s role as an environmental steward will reach far beyond the campus borders. “Bucknell’s biggest impact is probably not whether we recycle every piece of plastic or every piece of paper on campus, but what we send our students away with,” El-Mogazi says. “We are producing future leaders. If they can take that awareness with them because they’ve seen their university not only teach these principles, but also teach by example, then we really do have quite a potential to make an impact.”

Daniel Wang ’10 and Mark Spiro aloft in one of the largest trees on campus, a copper beech.

Deep Are the Roots
The Bucknell Arboretum provides a living history of the University.

“I imagine,” says Associate Professor of Biology Mark Spiro, “as you walk through the Grove, that you are among many of the same trees where every Bucknellian has walked under since the University’s founding in 1846. That’s really an amazing history.”

This history and tradition depended upon “forward thinking” of the founders, who, says Spiro, had the foresight not only to maintain but also to cultivate Bucknell’s arboreal presence. Many of the trees in the Grove are more than 200 years old.

In 1974, Professor of Biology Wayne Manning conducted the University’s first assessment of this remarkable stand of trees. Last summer, Daniel Wang ’10, following in Manning’s footsteps and working from funding provided by the Wayne E. and Margaret S. Manning Internship in the Biological Sciences, identified more than 1,600 trees. The campus contains more than 80 species, with white oak dominating. Two-thirds of the trees are native to this area. Wang’s summer research laid the foundation for the Bucknell Arboretum, a project that grew out of the Environmental Assessment’s directive to track biodiversity on campus.

Says Spiro, “As we looked closely at the trees, we realized that we have a valuable and important resource that needs to be reported to the public and protected.”

Also working with the Arboretum project is Associate Professor of Geography and biogeographer Duane Griffin, who has directed the process of mapping the trees. Enlisting the help of Mike Weaver from the Department of Library and Information Technology, the team is in the initial stages of building an interactive website that will provide specific information about each tree on campus. Thanks to Google Earth, anyone traversing campus with a smartphone will be able to identify specific trees by their common and taxonomic names, as well as learn the size and approximate age of the trees.

Says Spiro, “The Arboretum will provide educational, botanical and historical benefits, not to mention strengthening a sense of history with our local communities.”

— Gigi Marino
To understand F.W. de Klerk’s place in history, one might envision being in his shoes when he gave the order to free Nelson Mandela, suggests John Doces, assistant professor of political science.

While it may seem a simple choice to free a man imprisoned 27 years for challenging a government built on racism and oppression, de Klerk, as president of South Africa in 1990, also was in the unusual position of destroying the very entity that empowered him.

“If I were to try to put myself in de Klerk’s shoes, I would say it was hugely significant for him and the society,” Doces says. “He would have to have known that by doing that [freedom], he would basically tear down all the institutions that gave him privilege and power.”

De Klerk, who shared the Nobel Peace Prize with Mandela in 1993 for bringing an end to apartheid, will be the inaugural speaker in the new Bucknell Forum series, “Global Leadership: Questions for the 21st Century.” He will give a talk, “Bridging the Gap: Globalization without Isolation,” at 7:30 p.m. Thursday, Feb. 19, at the Weis Center for the Performing Arts. The event will be free and open to the public.

Since his retirement from government in 1997, de Klerk has run The Global Leadership Foundation, a group of former heads-of-state who assist world leaders by offering impartial advice on peace, democracy, economic development and political challenges.

For more information, go to www.bucknell.edu/theforum.

Heart and Soles
Students walk to raise money for Ugandan children.

On a crisp October afternoon, some 150 Bucknellians took to heart the aphorism “walk a mile in my shoes,” symbolically echoing the daily ritual of Ugandan children who walk great distances seeking protection from the Lord’s Resistance Army (LRA). The 1.75-mile loop from campus to Market Street raised $1,800 and contributed to an international effort that has generated more than $1 million in the past three years.

Canadians Adrian Bradbury and Kieran Hayward originated GuluWalk in July 2005 after hearing stories of the “night commuters” of northern Uganda — children who walk from their rural villages into the town of Gulu and other urban centers to avoid abduction by the LRA for use in the country’s 22-year war. In 2007, more than 30,000 people in 100 cities and 16 countries took to the streets to support peace in northern Uganda.

“Students — those fortunate enough to have the opportunity — walk miles to school, while parents struggle to put food on the table for their families,” says Muyambi Muyambi ’11, a Ugandan native who helped organize the Bucknell event.

Sponsoring organizations included Child Soul, Bucknell African Student Association, VoiceDarfur, Students for Fair Trade, the Residence Hall Association and Alpha Phi Omega service fraternity.
RIGHTING WRONGS
In the past two years, seven wrongly-convicted men have been released from jail, thanks to the efforts of Reverend Jim McCloskey ’64. According to The Washington Times, his ministry, Centurion Ministries, has freed 43 inmates since 1983. Cases may take 10 years until freedom is a possibility for inmates. “This makes me feel as if I’m really doing something for someone else.”

BOOKS AND BASKETBALL
The New York Times has chosen Patrick Behan ’10 to guest blog for its college sports blog, “The Quad.” The 6-foot-8 forward will update readers on the life on and off the court for student-athletes. “People always talk about managing the books and basketball … I am an English major, and it’s not a piece of cake by any means,” he said in a recent posting.

GEOGRAPHER’S DVD DEBUT
The DVD film release of Journey to the Center of the Earth features Associate Professor of Geography Duane Griffin as one of the academic experts interviewed in the extras section of the DVD. According to The Hollywood News, Griffin offers his opinions on the development of theories about the nature of the Earth’s center in the featurette “A World Within Our World.”

MAKING ART OF POLITICS
Showcasing famous moments throughout the Bush administration, art professor Xiaoze Xie demonstrated the extent to which news images are staged for the camera in a recent exhibition entitled “Acts and Scenes, 2001-2007” in New York City. According to The New York Times, Xie’s grisaille paintings have been featured four times in the Charles Cowles Gallery.
Nancy Kolb ’62, CEO and president of the newly re-opened Please Touch Museum in Philadelphia, hosted 455 Bucknell alumni, their children and grandchildren, several Bucknell faculty members and 30 students for a Bucknell affinity event co-sponsored by the Departments of Education and Psychology on Nov. 1. Kolb spoke to the private gathering of Bucknellians and their families, sponsored by the Office of Alumni Relations, about the museum’s journey, moving from its original home in Center City to its new location in historic Fairmount Park at Memorial Hall. More than four times the size of the original site, the museum features an impressive Alice in Wonderland area, where children can actually become participants in the classic story.

Attendees — children, their parents and grandparents alike — rode the historic carousel, built airplanes and rockets, played together in a model river, shopped in the grocery store, rode a SEPTA bus and operated in the hospital, which represent just a few of the options available. Says Kolb, “I’m like a kid in a candy store every day. We’ve come such a long way — to see the museum finally open is wonderful.”

Former Students Leave Professor Peterec Speechless

By Julia Fuchs ’09

Seven scholarships in Bucknell’s history have been given in a professor’s name. Each came from an individual donor; none were the result of a dedicated group of students. Until now.

On Nov. 1, more than 120 alumni and friends presented what is Bucknell’s first grassroots-funded endowed scholarship to Richard Peterec, professor emeritus of geography. In an 18-month-long campaign, $150,000 was raised, spurred by former students’ admiration for Peterec. The Richard J. Peterec Endowed Scholarship will be given annually to students with demonstrated financial need who are majoring in geography or international relations.

“This is the first time in my life I’m speechless. I’m flabbergasted,” said Peterec, as he entered the room filled with former students from all four decades of his teaching career.

“I am absolutely thrilled for him,” said Professor of Geography Karin Morin, a former colleague. “He is one of the most charming people I’ve ever met. He had an entourage wherever he went. I don’t know if there is any professor more popular.”

Following the surprise reception, Peterec was shown an alumni-made video tribute titled Dick Peterec at Home and Abroad: Four Decades of Inspiration, followed by several students’ testimonials to his lasting impact on their lives. The evening officially concluded with a dinner, but talk of Peterec and his influence lasted long into the night.

Professor Emeritus of Psychology and longtime friend Doug Candland said, “I took one of his classes once, to see an expert teach, to see how he did his magic. And it was magic. Just look at all these people.”
Wheels, Wheels, Wheels

Three new student projects offer alternative transportation and, in the process, link Bucknellians to the world.

By Julia Fuchs ’09

Myambi Myambi ’11 is the University’s first recipient of the competitive Clinton Global Initiative Grant. His sustainable fund plan to combat poverty in the Ugandan war-stricken district of Gulu by providing bicycles to displaced families has been awarded $5,000. This money will cover the initial cost of 100 bikes, but Myambi hopes that in a few years every family in the district will have its own bike to use for transportation of persons and goods. With a monthly payment of $.50 by each family, the collected money will be used to purchase more bicycles and to make necessary repairs. To help get the project started, a group of students will travel to Uganda this summer.

Says Myambi, “I am from Uganda, and I see how important bicycles are. Bicycles by Ugandan standards are expensive but extremely useful. You can do so much with them. Motorized transport is not only scarce but also unaffordable to the majority of people.”

On campus, Bison Bikes offers unlimited use of bicycles for undergraduate students. Sponsored by Bucknell Student Government (BSG), there are 30 bikes available in two different models that can be picked up at any rack to use as transportation to class or for exercise and then dropped off at any of the other designated racks on campus.

The bicycle initiatives are good for the planet and good for the heart.

“Myambi Myambi ’11 will bring bikes to Uganda.

German Teaching Assistant Juliane Schmid is from University of Heidelberg.

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News&Notes

Wheels, Wheels, Wheels

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The green transportation alternative is part of a growing trend on college campuses across the United States, according to The New York Times. Bucknell’s program is unique because it is funded entirely by student government.

“It’s tempting to use a car, but it’s really not necessary. Our campus is not that big,” says Director of Bison Bikes Kim Reynolds ’09. “Every university has a duty to foster environmentalism, because the tools are in place and the resources are there. College students, on average, do feel people have a role or obligation in terms of protecting the environment — it’s just a matter of giving them the option to do so.”

Giving more options to foreign students is the goal of the new bikes program for the foreign language teaching assistants at Bucknell. With the aid of the President’s office and contributions made by alumni donors to the individual language departments, 11 bikes have been purchased for current and future teaching assistants to use during their time in Lewisburg.

“We want [teaching assistants] to make the most of their time here in the U.S.,” Program Coordinator and Professor of German and Humanities Katie Faull says. “It’s a recognition of the fact that America is a very car-driven culture, so this is bringing a bit of Europe, a bit of home for them, here. It’s bringing the world into Bucknell.”

Providing bicycles to the teaching assistants also aims to raise awareness of the benefits of biking to the greater campus community.

“It increases the visibility of people using bikes on campus to get around. So, you don’t have students automatically thinking it’s fine to drive from downhill to uphill for class. It’s really important to change the campus culture to let students know bikes are available,” Faull says.
Homecoming 2009

Alumni award winners treated to gala celebration.

By Andrew W.M. Beierle

Four of our distinguished alumni were honored at Homecoming 2008 for contributions to the arts, engineering and public service.

During a 10-year career in the Bucknell College of Engineering, Distinguished Engineering Alumni Award winner Edward Staiano ’58, M’60 was instrumental in founding the Computer Center. He later led cellular operations at Motorola, satellite communications at Iridium LCCC and venture capital efforts at the Sorrento Group. He also is a trustee emeritus.

The late Charles Pollock ’70, posthumous Distinguished Citizenship Award recipient, devoted his career to higher education administration. After posts at Juniata, Ohio Wesleyan and Allegheny, Pollock returned to his alma mater in 1998 as assistant to the president and secretary; later serving as interim vice president for student affairs and executive vice president of university relations. He also was president and a board member of the Lewisburg Downtown Partnership. He died in July 2008.

Academy of Artistic Achievement Award winner William Westenhofer ’90 received an Academy Award for his visual effects for 2007’s The Golden Compass, an Oscar nomination for his work on The Chronicles of Narnia: The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe and the 2007 Best Special Visual Effects award from the British Academy of Film and Television Arts.

In 2005, Distinguished Citizenship Young Alumni Award winner Jessica Jackley Flannery ’00, and her husband, Matt, co-founded Kiva, the world’s largest microfinance organization. It has already channeled more than $50 million to entrepreneurs in impoverished communities worldwide. Their efforts have been noted by former President Bill Clinton, The New York Times, Los Angeles Times, Oprah Winfrey Show and Frontline.

To see Homecoming videos and photo galleries, go to www.bucknell.edu/x46080.xml.

SMART MONEY

SmartMoney ranks Bucknell as the fifth best long-term value among liberal arts colleges and universities. The magazine ranked schools based on their “return on tuition,” or the cost of tuition compared with earnings potential. With an alumni median salary of $54,100 three years after graduation and $110,000 after 15 years, Bucknell had an average “payback” of 114 percent, SmartMoney reported.

ALUMNI DONORS

Alumni, parents and friends who made gifts to Bucknell in the 2008 fiscal year have secure online access to the annual Honor Roll of Donors & Volunteers. The new electronic version of this annual publication is searchable — and better for the environment. To check it out, follow the log-in directions at www.bucknell.edu/donorsand-volunteers.

MATT GABLER ’06 was seven years old when his opponent in the 75th District Pennsylvania House of Representatives race was elected to office. But the Republican candidate was undeterred in his effort to unseat the long-standing incumbent and defeated him by 1,500 votes. Gabler, 25, is one of the youngest representatives elected to the House and began his duties on Dec. 1.
**Academic All-America Wall**

The Kenneth Langone Athletics & Recreation Center is practically painted with proof of the athletics program’s success through the years — championship trophies, Patriot League Presidents’ Cups, Bucknell’s ESPY Award.

But the KLARC now enjoys a spectacular new addition, the Lee Idleman ’54 Academic All-America Wall, located along the corridor outside Kinney Natatorium. Erected last spring and formally dedicated with a ribbon-cutting on Nov. 8, the display pays tribute to Bucknell’s 116 (and counting) national honorees in the Academic All-America program.

The scholar-athlete is the foundation of Bison athletics. Perhaps no one believed in that ideal more than the late Idleman, a trustee and chair emeritus and loyal supporter of Bison athletics. The Idleman Academic All-America Wall honors his convictions.

— Jon Terry

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**To the Victor Goes the Lei**

Bucknell seniors compete in triathlon championships.

By Andrew W.M. Beierle

Competing in the Ford Ironman World Championship Triathlon® in Kailua-Kona, Hawaii, is the pinnacle of achievement for triple-threat athletes whose motivation borders on masochism. The grueling “Big Hula” features some 1,700 athletes, sleek and lean like racing whippets in Spandex, swimming 2.4 miles and biking 112 miles before completing a full marathon.

Even getting to the registration desk is no cakewalk. The event is largely invitation-only, based on performance in qualifying meets, with a few slots awarded by lottery and a handful auctioned off on eBay for up to $50,000.

**Jeff Boehmer’09** got his place the old-fashioned way: He earned it. The Bucknell senior from Newark, Del., won his coveted slot at Kona on a blistering June day in Cambridge, Mass., when he competed well in the Eagleman Ironman 70.3®. He ran with his best friend, Kyle Friis ’09, whose time earned him a slot at the Foster Grant Ironman World Championship 70.3® in Clearwater, Fla., on Nov. 8. (Friis ultimately placed 265th in a field of 1,254.)

Before the Oct. 10 race in Kona, Boehmer toured the course with his father, Richard Boehmer ’79 (“It was barren, hot, and windy, just as described”), and went for daily practice swims with his mother, Sara Willert Boehmer ’78.

**To the Victor Goes the Lei**

Bucknell seniors compete in triathlon championships.

By Andrew W.M. Beierle

Jeff Boehmer ’09 finished the triathlon in Kona, Hawaii, in October.

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**Associate Professor of History Ann Tlusty** was awarded a Fulbright scholarship to continue research at the University of Augsburg in Germany, where she co-taught a course on linguistics and history. She is researching the construct of masculinity in German towns of the early modern period through identification with weapons and defense of person, household and community.

**Board of Trustees member Randy MacDonald ‘02** was named the 2008 HR Executive of the Year by HR Executive Magazine. He is director of IBM’s HR department, overseeing 400,000 employees. According to the magazine, he has “relentlessly pushed HR’s contributions, redesigning nearly every major program and reviewing processes worldwide to ensure they deliver on IBM’s business proposition.”

**Bucknell has been awarded a five-year, $400,000 grant for 20 scholarships for women engineers from the Henry Luce Foundation.**

The Office of Admissions will match the grant with $1.2 million in merit scholarships. Bucknell has an exceptional retention rate among women engineering majors, who comprise 27 percent of the college, well over the national average of 17 percent.
Searching for Stellar Nurseries
Bucknell astronomer studies the birthplaces of stars.

By Doug McInnis

Every serious gardener has observed cases where one patch of ground yields a bumper harvest, while another produces next to nothing. Astronomers have found the same phenomenon in galaxies — some parts of a galaxy are loaded with stars; other parts are not.

Astronomers know stars form out of dense clouds of gas and dust. “But there are areas of space that aren’t making stars, even though there’s lots of material,” said Michele Thornley, associate professor of physics and astronomy. “We don’t really understand how a cloud of gas and dust chooses to make a star in a particular location in space.”

To help answer that question, Thornley and two colleagues from the Bordeaux Observatory in France cataloged radiation from new stars in the spiral-shaped galaxy M51, located 25 million light-years from Earth. “Individual stars are impossible to see and count at that distance. So we use the amount of radiation to tell how many new stars there are.”

Using data from the three space- and ground-based telescopes, the team found the most productive star-forming regions were just outside the center of the galaxy. This sector produced 10 times as many stars as the outer sectors, even though both regions had plenty of gas and dust. The census can be used by future researchers to look for factors in each region that may inhibit or spur star formation.

Thornley’s interest in astrophysics began in childhood in rural Oregon, where the absence of bright city lights left the starry night sky starkly visible. Inspired by a middle-school teacher who tied physics and astronomy together, Thornley earned a B.S. in physics from the University of Puget Sound and an M.S. and Ph.D. in astronomy from the University of Maryland.

At Bucknell, much of her research has focused on the still-murky issue of star formation. “We know a lot about how stars evolve once they have formed,” she said. “It’s the initial question of how you make stars in the first place that’s still open.”

FACULTY PROFILE
Jason Leddington

On the age-old question about the tree falling in the forest, Jason Leddington agrees with science: The tree makes a sound, even if no one is there to hear it. But Leddington, assistant professor of philosophy, takes the issue further, examining what it is exactly that we hear.

Leddington, who studies the relationship between perceptual experience and thought, says, “The answer is yes, it makes a sound, and that sound is a property of the event [not intrinsic to the sense that detected it].”

This subtle distinction challenges a basic tenet of philosophy: that what we hear are first sounds and not the events that cause sounds. With this assertion, Leddington disagrees with prominent scholars in his field, including Aristotle.

“Aristotle believed that each sense has its proper object. For sight, it’s color. For hearing, it’s sound,” he explains. “Strictly speaking, this view is false.”

Leddington believes sensory perception is our primary means of learning about and understanding the world. “Part of understanding ourselves is understanding how it is that we acquire knowledge and come to be able to think about the world around us,” he says. “If we get that wrong, then we’ve gotten wrong a critical component of our understanding of ourselves and our position in the world.”

— Julia Ferrante
A New Chapter for Women’s Field Hockey

Bucknell’s head coach takes the team to the Patriot League Championship game.

By Matt Saylor ’08

The year 2008 was historic for the Bucknell field hockey team, under first-year Head Coach Jeremy Cook. The Bison won 11 games and tied for the second most wins in a season in the 36-year history of the program, matching the number achieved by the 1979 and 1984 teams. The team set new single-season records for goals (51) and assists (58), averaging over eight points per game during its 19-game season. Bucknell advanced to the Patriot League Championship game against American—the first time the Bison had played in the game since 2000.

Although the Orange and Blue fell to the Eagles, who have not lost a Patriot League game since 2002, Cook restored confidence in a program that had struggled in recent years.

Cook was drawn to the sport as a young child and played at the Mater Amoris Montessori School in Ashton, Md. He lost touch with field hockey, as there are not many male teams at the high-school level. While a senior in high school, Cook reconnected with the sport and began playing with a club team in Washington, D.C. Eventually, he received the opportunity to work with the Olympic developmental team, while coaching on the side.

“I became a big fish in a small pond pretty quickly,” says Cook. “People who are athletic and love to compete in this sport receive a lot of opportunities. I began getting more and more out of the sport. I had the opportunity to travel internationally and compete against top teams and players.”

As for his work with the Bison, Cook introduced a new system and style of play to the team, with an increased emphasis on conditioning and using a lot of players to obtain maximum effort at all times.

“The team did a phenomenal job of overcoming some early obstacles, and we learned we could compete against some tough competition like [nationally ranked] American and Penn State,” Cook says. “We are going to continue to work hard in the spring and the summer, and over the next few years, the results we want will follow.”
Microfinance Initiative at Bucknell

New student group strives to do big things on the micro level.

By Julia Fuchs ’09

Bucknell’s commitment to establish bridges with the world has taken a turn with the creation of the Microfinance Initiative at Bucknell (MIB). The new student organization was inspired by a thesis pointing out the power of microfinance in developing countries, written by Anastasia Sofianou ’08.

MIB has partnered with Kiva, a microlending organization started by Jessica Jackley Flannery ’00. Interested parties can loan a minimum of $25 to entrepreneurs from the Kiva website (Kiva.org). The money will help them buy supplies to start businesses and get out of poverty. Lenders will receive regular updates of progress made. After a certain period, entrepreneurs will repay the original loan.

“We don’t realize how much $5 over here can mean to someone in Africa. It can actually help someone start a business,” MIB President Jessica Sturzenegger ’10 says. “Every little bit counts. With Bucknell’s support, we can create a sustainable aid to alleviate poverty in the world.”

SYUDENT PROFILE

Jay Soto ’09

“The current economic crisis has unveiled the weaknesses of our economy and shown that the American mentality of greed, overconsumption and overspending does not permit for a stable economy,” says Jay Soto ’09. An economics major and philosophy minor, Soto has a passion for all finance matters and looks beyond the obvious.

“Economics is like a puzzle that continually builds upon itself and keeps me constantly asking myself questions to help piece the larger picture together. It is a powerful tool to understand how society works.”

Soto’s desires to make a difference led to his being chosen as part of the national Management Leadership for Tomorrow (MLT) program. Designed to increase minority representation in leadership positions, this competitive program is currently the number one source of minority students for the top 10 MBA programs in the country. Soto receives monthly assignments, such as spreading the word to other Bucknell students, and he participates in corporate events sponsored by MLT.

“MLT has provided an outstanding opportunity to cluster with some of the brightest and most highly motivated students in the country. No matter what my ultimate decision is after college, MLT has better prepared me.”

Soto’s passion for improving society reaches beyond the paper-money world. For the past four summers, he has worked at a nonprofit organization in New Jersey as a camp counselor, an experience that, he says, motivated him to join Habitat for Humanity on campus.

“I believe in giving back to my community. There is nothing more fulfilling than working toward a positive cause greater than yourself,” he says.

Soto also plays for the men’s varsity soccer team, serves as a teaching assistant for an economics class, is working on his senior thesis and is part of the economics faculty recruitment board.

“I’m kind of in a whirlwind right now,” Soto says. But like the economic crisis, that is what makes life exciting. “I’m ambitious; I like to challenge myself.”

— Julia Fuchs ’09
BOOKS

Philip Roth ’54
*Indignation (Houghton Mifflin)*
In 1951, Marcus Messner is 19 and wrestling demons. A butcher’s son from a Jewish working-class neighborhood in Newark, N.J., he escapes his controlling father’s obsessive fears by transferring to Winesburg College in Ohio. Winesburg is a small liberal arts college where students enjoy a casual social life, oblivious to the outside world. Marcus, the good son who did nothing but study and work long hours in the family business, soon discovers his innocence, intellectuality and work ethic are more suspect than appreciated by a patrician administration that prizes conventional social affiliations and, even for the non-observant, mandatory chapel. Philip Roth infuses *Indignation* with suspense, as he detects the personal and historical land mines lurking beneath an insular community, the greater war-ridden world and the human psyche.

Nancy D. Campbell ’85
*The Narcotic Farm (Abrams)*
Nancy Campbell, a Rensselaer professor specializing in drug policy, culture and science, is co-author of the companion volume to the recent PBS documentary about the first American prison dedicated to addressing the rising problem of drug addiction in the 20th century. Built in 1935 outside of Lexington, Ky., “Narco” was an uneasy hybrid of incarceration, bucolic rehab and research that closed four decades later under a cloud of revelations about the CIA’s LSD experimentation. Campbell and filmmakers J.P. Olsen and Luke Walden accessed a vast archive of evocative photographs, illuminating the changing face of addiction, mores, government policy, medicine, scientific research and therapy. *The Narcotic Farm* is an insightful tour of a secretive place that played a controversial role in recent history.

Marcia Myers Bonta ’62
*Escape to the Mountain: One Family’s Adventures in the Wilderness (Axios Press)*
Fans of Marcia Bonta’s seasonal nature chronicles (*Appalachian Spring*, et seq.) can return with her to her family’s earliest years atop a remote ridge in the expanded reissue of *Escape to the Mountain*. Nearly 40 years ago, the Bontas purchased a long-disused farm several miles south of Penn State, where her husband, Bruce ’63, worked. The joys of life attuned to nature outpaced the challenges of a rough mountain road and blustery winters. There were learning curves, especially when it came to homesteading in the wilderness, but they absorbed them. In a new epilogue, Bonta reports that despite the encroachments of civilization, the solitude of nature continues to enrich their lives on the mountain. For updates, check her blog at www.marcibonta.wordpress.com.

Carol Wayne White
*The Legacy of Anne Conway (1631–1679): Reverberations from a Mystical Naturalism (State University of New York Press)*
Lady Anne Conway was not the typical 17th-century Englishwoman. In a society that legislated against education for females, she became an influential philosopher. She took advantage of her husband’s extended work-related absences to open her home as an intellectual salon. Though she risked public approbation for embracing the Quaker faith, she impressed scholars with studies of mystical religious texts and the metaphysics of Aristotle, as well as criticism of Descartes and Hobbs. Conway’s vision reverberated into the early 20th century but no further. That is a deficit that White, associate professor of reli-
Steve Sugar ’62

Steve Sugar never forgot that his mother predicted he would grow old before he grew up. That may explain why he never stopped playing games. A faculty member at the University of Maryland, he is a widely recognized leader in educational game development, with an emphasis on building professional team performance skills.

Sugar’s latest creation is “Maestro,” a game pack that arrives with an implementation guide, master worksheets, a PowerPoint presentation, batons and bells. In this exercise, each team receives deliberately incomplete information with which to learn a familiar old song, with the goal of identifying the music and performing it properly. Each team is rated on implemented leadership, communication, creative problem solving and planning to overcome its obstacles.
Today’s campus master planners build on the original vision of Jens Frederick Larson, who, early in the 20th century, was already thinking about the 21st.

**A CAMPUS with a VIEW**

Imagine a new academic quad behind Bertrand Library, reflecting the best of the original quad—its open spaces, classic architecture, charming walkways, magnificent views. Imagine residence halls above the southeast hillside, where students stand on their balconies and watch the Susquehanna River drift by below. Instead of a cornfield, imagine a fraternity row and wide open spaces where students congregate, have fun and even enjoy a new dining facility and arts complex set nearby. Imagine all of it designed to keep this lovely property green.
This doorway was the original back entranceway to Bertrand Library and which Jens Larson imagined 75 years ago, would look out onto another academic quad. When the library was expanded in 1985, the architects could not bear to see this classic frame removed, so they installed it on the second floor of the library, where it will one day provide a view of that second academic quad.
Says University Provost Mick Smyer, “Close collaboration between faculty and students requires attention to the ecology of learning and living. The Campus Master Plan uses the careful juxtaposition of classrooms, offices, laboratories and open spaces to build into campus life, literally, opportunities for the types of thoughtful and personal engagement that are so important to Bucknell.”

In August 1932, a large portion of Old Main was destroyed by fire. Two months later, Bucknell’s Board of Trustees retained Larson, the renowned architect who had done work at Dartmouth and Colby. While across the years some have speculated that the board used the damage to Old Main to justify developing Bucknell’s first master plan, no evidence in the historical record suggests that. Perhaps the University hired Larson because it had recently purchased 170 acres of farmland; as Larson sat at his drawing board, only the first wing of the Engineering Building had been raised. “He really had carte blanche in terms of how he could develop the campus,” Dennis says.

“After he created that plan, it’s been pretty well followed, and that has driven everything,” Dennis says. As he planned, Larson did not limit himself to Bucknell’s immediate boundaries. He thought about what would happen should the University come in possession of contiguous property at some point in the future.
“These are things that we’re actively talking about 75 years later,” says James D. Hostetler, the University’s director of construction and design. “It’s extraordinary to me that we’re even still developing along those lines.”

Higher education evolved dramatically in the decades after Larson, but because of the flexibility embedded in his plan, Bucknell was able to keep pace with the changes. Today, the paradigm shift fostered by technology, globalization and diversity demands a new vision, one that prepares the University for the next 75 years while seamlessly recalling its legacy. As administrators and faculty researched what the next master plan should look like, certain facts became clear.

“Students require more space just in their living environment,” Hawley says.

Adds campus planner Laurie Lundquist, “The one thing we have affirmed is that it’s not just classroom learning now; it’s that learning takes place in all aspects of student life.”

Doug Allen, associate professor and associate dean of the School of Management, suggests that the architecture of a building can influence the architecture of the mind — and that the challenges of the 21st century demand it. “What does a classroom look like in an international, globalized world?” he asks. “It has to have certain capabilities of connectivity, not only across campus but also to bring in people from other parts of the world, or other classes, in parallel fashion, who are studying together. At the same time, there’s a real emphasis on not forgetting what is most important to Bucknell, the student-faculty relationship.”

Allen believes that the academy is moving more toward a study of practices rather than rigidly defined majors. For instance, he says, public policy issues span a number of traditional disciplines, as do media studies, popular culture, environmental studies and sustainability. Abe Feuerstein, associate professor of education and associate dean of social sciences, agrees. “We are hoping to create opportunities for interaction and interdisciplinary work,” he says. “When programs are adjacent to one another — like international relations and geography or geography and environmental studies — it facilitates that interdisciplinary approach.”

Additionally, today’s Campus Master Plan must be as far reaching now as Larson’s was. “What you see today and what you might see 50 years from now I think will be different in degree but not in kind,” President Brian C. Mitchell observes. “There will be new technologies and different ways of communicating, but my hope is that the residential liberal arts university will continue to be an important institution...
Before envisioning exactly what would be needed in the decades to come, the University took considerable time to catalog its current space. Lundquist was part of a painstaking effort to review every space on campus, evaluate how those spaces are used and compare the uses to Bucknell’s peer institutions.

“With a database of every single space on the entire campus, we broke it out into percentages — this is academic, this is residence hall space, this is for athletics, this is for the faculty space, admin space and so forth,” she says. “So we had a good idea of where we were and where our deficiencies were.”

Her team also talked with academic and administrative department heads to elicit their visions for their individual areas to ascertain space needs over the coming decades. From these studies, the details of the new plan began to emerge.

This ambitious agenda required the time and commitment of every campus constituency. As a result, developing the new plan took longer than it often does at other institutions, according to Thomas Kearns, a principal at Boston-based Shepley Bulfinch Richardson & Abbott, the architectural and planning firm retained by Bucknell for the project.

“It’s not just adding a building,” Kearns says. “This is really talking fundamentally about changing the way they teach by creating living and learning environments. These are big, bold, strong concepts that will encourage and energize leaders to think differently.

“We have some incredibly bright and visionary people in the campus community,” he adds. “The campus area includes faculty, staff and senior administration, along with the trustees, alumni and parents, so this has been about engaging all those groups in trying to understand what the essence of this institution is.” Additionally, says Hawley, the Alumni Greek Council has participated in planning discussions and will continue to be actively involved in the coming years.

Bill Kenny, associate professor of music and associate dean of the arts and humanities, has been a part of these conversations.

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Moving from an inward look at itself, Bucknell and Shepley Bulfinch then peered outward, to downtown Lewisburg, the Susquehanna River and Union County, to assess regional real estate and economic trends. What emerged from that agenda was an emphasis on better integrating the campus’ academic and nonacademic areas. By envisioning a more holistic campus, one whose functional lines are blurred, planners hope to meet students where they are, encouraging them to play where they learn, to hang out where they study and to appreciate and sustain the natural physical environment that surrounds them.

“We call them hearth spaces throughout the campus, in residence halls as well as the academic buildings,” Lundquist says. “We’ve lost some of that with previous development, and we’re trying to figure out how we can bring some of that back. Maybe it’s thinking about land banking and preserving green space. Maybe it’s little cafés in different areas so that students
on the downhill side of the campus move to the uphill side. You create destination points so that you have a lot more activity and socialization in those different parts of the campus.”

Dean of Students Susan Hopp remarks that the residential experience is at the heart of Bucknell’s educational experience. “A residential campus is more than the sum of all of its parts,” she says. “It becomes home to students. As we imagine the campus of the future, we must be mindful to build places where community is fostered and learning is at the center of the enterprise.”

Among the specifics outlined in the new master plan over the next 75 years are as follows:

- New academic spaces, most notably a new Academic Quad
- An arts complex
- Investments in laboratories
- New and improved student housing, with more flexible student living arrangements, including a new fraternity row
- A new Welcome Center near the Rte. 15 campus entrance
- Greenways, a river walk, reduced surface parking and enhanced green space
- More tangible connections to downtown Lewisburg and the Susquehanna River
- A new inn and business center, something that Larson planned for in 1932 but was never constructed

The plan also includes environmental stewardship and sustainability as major focal points, and outlines ideas for underground parking, the conversion of roadways to walkways, the implementation of riverway access and the creation of bike trails linking the campus to neighboring communities.

Environmental concerns are of particular interest to today’s students, according to environmental studies major Ashley Hanna ’09. Last summer, Hanna and the other students in her program developed a campus sustainability report; she contributed to the Built Environment and Transportation Infrastructure section. In researching the environmental impact of Bucknell's demolition and construction activities, Hanna relied considerably on the new master plan as a source of information. She notes that because future environmental advances are difficult to predict, the plan is vague on how to achieve sustainability goals, but she is glad that University officials are having the conversation.

“Currently, there are very few green features or green technology that is mandatory in any design of a building or any construction,” Hanna says. “It’s important to start making those things mandatory. As a university, we are in a great position to be a leader.”

University officials couldn’t agree more.

“Bucknell has a long and proud history of engagement on environmental issues,” President Mitchell says. “The Campus Master Plan aims to carry forward the best of the University, and that includes the most advanced thinking on sustainability.”

Bucknell’s physical environment has always been an enormously strong selling point, and retaining the campus’ look and feel throughout decades of upgrades remains a priority. Hawley likes to talk of alumni returning to campus after years away, seeing buildings that were constructed since their departure and being unsure whether those structures stood while they were attending classes. And so the new master plan seeks to continue that heritage of timeless charm and grace.

“The plan, I believe, will keep Bucknell looking like Bucknell, so when an alumnus comes back on campus, it still feels like Bucknell,” Hawley says.

There will be other benefits, as well. For example, planning so meticulously will help to keep costs down when changes are made, easing the burden on students, parents and donors. Such advantages can be difficult to see; long-term planning, after all, necessarily involves considering things that do not yet exist.

“Some people think that a long-term plan is just kind of wishing in the fog,” Hawley acknowledges. “Larson’s plan from 1932 — it took 70 years to implement pieces of that, and we’re still implementing some of those pieces. For instance, there used to be a parking lot between Dana Engineering, Olin Science and Carnegie. Larson had that as a green space, and six years ago we finally turned that into a green space.

“We hope that 75 years from now some folks will still be implementing some of the thoughts that were generated here in 2007 and 2008. The vision is important.”

That view from the library is looking more promising all the time.

Tom Durso is a freelance writer who has written for The Scientist, The Philadelphia Inquirer and St. Joseph’s University Magazine.
Keeping Up with Oscar

By Gigi Marino

Animator and Academy Award winner Bill Westenhofer feels a greater sense of responsibility to classic movies now that he has the little golden guy in tow.

As a visual-effects supervisor Bill Westenhofer ’90 came to know movies more through the cathode ray tube rather than a familiarity with celluloid film. Even so, he’s always been drawn to the dramatic arts. At the age of 4, he memorized the words to The Wizard of Oz and happily annoyed all of his neighbors with impromptu recitations. A child of the late ’70s, Westenhofer says his idea of classic film was Star Wars, which he watched at least 30 times when the first movie came out, although his pre-teen interest was more in the movie’s special effects than its narrative quality.

Then, last February, at the 80th Annual Academy Awards, a magical, gold-plated man, standing 13 ½ inches tall and weighing 8 ½ pounds, came into Westenhofer’s life, forever altering his relationship with movies.

Westenhofer, who works at Los Angeles–based Rhythm & Hues Studios, directed the work of 500 digital artists in the making of The Golden Compass and received the award for achievement in visual effects, along with Michael Fink, Ben Morris and Trevor Wood. He’d been nominated the previous year for his work on The Chronicles of Narnia: The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe.

“Oscar is nothing you plan for. I never said to the kids, ‘Gee, I wish I would win an Oscar some day.’ You just don’t work to that end,” says Westenhofer. “When I was nominated for Narnia, I was grateful for the nomination. I knew that King Kong was the favorite that year, but no matter how much you temper yourself, you’re still disappointed.”

The year 2008 was definitely better for Westenhofer, who admits he still gets star struck, not only among the Oscar-rubbing glitterati but also with the actors he works alongside of daily. He recently finished working on a remake of Land of the Lost, which will be released this summer (watch for his computer genius in the rendering of the Sleestak) with Will Ferrell in the lead role of Park Ranger Rick Marshall. “I was tongue tied the first time I talked to Will Ferrell,” he says, “But we ended up becoming good friends — he’s one of the nicest guys in the world.”

Westenhofer himself is one the most affable men you’ll ever meet. He returned to campus in October to receive Bucknell’s annual Achievement in the Arts Award, met with students in computer engineering (his own undergraduate major), lectured on computer-generated imagery (CGI) in the making of The Golden Compass and indulged everyone who wanted to have a photo taken with his Oscar.

Since receiving the Oscar, Westenhofer has installed a home movie theatre and has made a concerted effort to watch and learn more about classic moviemaking. Think of it as Educating Bill, and he’s not shy about it — friends have supplied him with must-see lists. Before leaving L.A. for Pennsylvania, he downloaded Lawrence of Arabia and Ben Hur, which he watched on the flights to and from Harrisburg. Casablanca was waiting for him at home. He says, “I now feel like I have a greater responsibility to the filmmaking process.” He’s gained a new appreciation for classics like Ben Hur; “You couldn’t do those shots today.” And, he says, “While CGI is very good, it’s not on par with reality.” Also, as a “minor history buff,” he’s come to respect the power of narrative and would someday like to direct.

Perhaps another Oscar in a different category in 2018?

To suggest a classic movie for Bill’s queue or see outtakes from our photo session, go to www.bucknell.edu/bmagazine.
In the books that I loved most as a young girl, sewing, especially the making of quilts, was a primary occupation of the main characters. Ironically, Jo in Louisa May Alcott’s *Little Women* and Laura Ingalls Wilder in the *Little House* books all hated sewing and found the work constraining and tedious. But for me, imagining the work of quilting — of making something unique, beautiful and useful from discarded remnants — held a mystical appeal. As an adult, I have only dabbled in the art of quiltmaking, although I remain fascinated with its historical and narrative resonances.

BY CARMEN GILLESPIE
Last summer, I was investigating the Underground Railroad in the Susquehanna Valley and discovered a piece of Bucknell’s history that renewed my fascination with both the literal and the metaphorical meanings that quilts often reveal.

The stable of former Bucknell University President George Bliss (1857–1858 and 1871–1872), located on University Avenue, was an active shelter for African-Americans traveling Pennsylvania’s Underground Railroad. In her diary, Bliss’ daughter, Lucy, recalls “making up beds in this barn for [runaway slaves], with bedding kept for that purpose.” As I drive by the building that once served as the Bliss stable, I like to envision that exchange between two people — one free, the other imperiled — and the bedding, the quilts, that may have provided some solace in the dark of a cold fall night. Those imagined quilts represent a nexus, the point of contact that warms the interaction between two strangers who never spoke each other’s names.

In the decades preceding the Civil War — the time period Bliss refers to in her diary — the practice of piecing together distinct scraps or remnants of fabric to create a new and different whole became a popular activity as a result of the increased accessibility and affordability of manufactured textiles. If the bedding that Lucy Bliss remembered included quilts, the African-Americans who sheltered beneath them may have found a familiar comfort, since one activity shared by antebellum whites and blacks was the often pragmatic, yet intricate, art of quiltmaking.

Theories about the aesthetics, traditions and practices of African-American quilting are widely disputed and are the subject of scholarly controversy. Although not all quilts created by African-Americans employ African practices, some of the earliest surviving African-American quilts show evidence of techniques that seem to derive from African aesthetics.

Scott Heffley ’75 has spent the last 25 years collecting and studying African-American quilts and recently published Bold Improvisation — Searching for African-American Quilts (Kansas City Star Books, 2007), which highlights the presence of improvisational techniques, patterns and designs in his collection. Heffley, who is the senior conservator of paintings at the Nelson Atkins Museum of Art in Kansas City, Mo., finds in the quilts he has collected an “exuberantly experimental” style, which he attributes to an African-American aesthetic that has its roots in African artistic and textile traditions.

Heffley acknowledges that African-American quilters also utilize and synthesize other methodologies and traditions in the creation of their works and often fashion quilts that are not discernibly distinct from their European counterparts. For that reason, it is difficult to define precisely an African-American quilting tradition. So, African-American quilting, like other forms of African-American art, is a synthesis of many different cultures and traditions, a practice that is then uniquely American. Using a variety of patterns, materials and designs, African-American quilters continue to produce traditional quilts as well as experimental works that are sometimes referred to as art quilts.

Quilting reveals the complexities of African-American historical and material cultural phenomena. These stitched works of art also have tremendous metaphorical potential for representing the disparities of African-American experience. Historically, quilting has provided African-American artists a platform on which to express inspiration and inventiveness that may not have had other outlets. As a repository for family histories and narratives of individual lives, the African-American quilt provides a space for telling stories that historically had no alternative forum. As Heffley notes, hearing the otherwise unheard story the quilt murmurs requires the active and imaginative participation of the observer.

One claim about the use of quilts as texts has become a part of American historical mythology. In 1999, Jacqueline L. Tobin and Raymond G. Dobard published Hidden in Plain View: A Secret Story of Quilts and the Underground Railroad. This book is the primary source of the proposition that African-Americans and supporters of the Underground Railroad used quilts as a
secret messaging system, encoding in their various quilt patterns warnings, notations and even maps of potential escape routes that they did not want their masters or potential apprehenders to be able to read or understand. Although the premise that quilt patterns functioned as a type of language has become common currency and is an intriguing possibility, historians such as Giles Wright maintain that, in the absence of substantive documentation, such a thesis is impossible to verify.

Literary works by African-American women have proven a less contentious realm for exploring the figurative possibilities of the quilt. Contemporary writers such as Nikki Giovanni, Alice Walker and Toni Morrison establish the quilt as foundational to their literary representations of African-American experience. Nikki Giovanni’s collection of poetry and prose, *Quilting the Black-eyed Pea*, testifies to the complex realities of American life during the last 40 years. As a quilter of language and history, Giovanni’s refusal to segregate American from African-American life grafts the artificial distinctions between the two. Her work conjoins the narrative threads in the American story that link Sally Hemings, the enslaved mother of several of Thomas Jefferson’s children, to the revelations of Essie Mae Washington-Williams, the black child of Strom Thurmond.

In my work as a literary critic, I am intrigued by the efforts of artists like Giovanni who are compelled to create new narratives drawing from the realities of slavery, the history of segregation and the vagaries of equality in African-American experience. Writers Alice Walker and Toni Morrison represent the complexities of their works in tangible form by strategically utilizing quilting. In Alice Walker’s well-known short story “Everyday Use,” the protagonist negotiates serious questions of value as she returns home and castigates her mother because the woman wants to use family quilts rather than understanding their value as art. The mother’s actions underscore the problems of fetishizing African-American material and psychological cultures.

Like both Giovanni and Walker, Toni Morrison makes use of quilting in her works as both a structural and a thematic construct, perhaps most overtly in her novel *Beloved*. A character in the novel, Baby Suggs, who spent most of her life as a slave, retreats from the world and spends her days contemplating the colors in one of her quilts, the only psychological activity she finds painless and free of the tyranny of memory. The distinctive elements of the memories and experiences of each of the characters in *Beloved* correspond to the squares of a quilt, as the reader functions as the seamstress of these fragments, ordering and patterning these episodes in order to create the narrative.

The practice of quilting brings me back to Lucy Bliss’ account of the African-Americans who sought shelter in her father’s barn. In light of the overlap of some of Morrison’s concerns with her own, Bliss might have been pleased to know that Bucknell, as of July 2008, provides an institutional home to the Toni Morrison Society, a literary organization whose mission is to encourage scholarship on the work of Toni Morrison, the United States’ only living Nobel Laureate in literature.

Experiences with and understandings of the history of African-American quilting in material culture and literature lead to this variegated patchwork of impressions that the texts themselves help to interpret. Morrison’s *Beloved* posits that quilting is not only an art form, but also a pragmatic folk practice and a literary technique — a psychological and fundamentally human act of “gathering the pieces” of our existences and trying as we might to put them “back in all the right order.” The perpetual and illusive exertion Morrison describes offers a helpful and comforting analogy not only for the art of quilting in all of its manifestations, but also for the enduring project we call life.

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**Associate Professor of English Carmen Gillespie is a scholar, poet, director of the Toni Morrison Society and author of A Critical Companion to Toni Morrison. Watch the video of her talking about African-American quilts at [www.bucknell.edu/bmagazine](http://www.bucknell.edu/bmagazine).**

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**By Scott Heffley ’75**

American quiltermaker seems to ride a wild horse of design while using knowing intent and a gentle grip on the reins. Some African-American quilts follow the European-American quilting traditions and are indistinguishable in their carefully repeated quilt blocks and precise stitching. A broader African-American quilting aesthetic jumps the fence and pushes the boundaries of geometry and color. These improvisational quilts can be bold, exciting and unexpected in their design. If there is a rule for this category it is that there are no rules. If a familiar quilt pattern can be recognized, it has often been forcefully reinvented and pushed beyond to create a personal and complex work of art.

I’ve studied different quilt collections from single makers and have often found traditional quilt patterns mixed with the more improvisational examples. Family members recall that the more traditional quilts were often sold for income, and the personal interpretations were kept for the family. These improvisational quilts can be compared to jazz music, where a simple melody is repeated with ever-changing interpretations, creating an evolving syncopation. The vocabulary of this improvisation includes bright colors, clashing prints, balance and imbalance, and — above all — visual motion. All of this relates to the very heart of creativity. Each quilt is an adventure, both for the maker and the viewer.
Snow Moon over Stadler

“At dusk, these hills recede into darkness. First the plum mist of twilight.

Then night settling in ...”

Shara McCallum, director of the Stadler Center for Poetry, from “The Land of Look Behind” (Song of Thieves, University of Pittsburgh Press, 2003).

Photograph by Robert Landry
Did you see in The Scientist that Professor DeeAnn Reeder is among a group of top national scientists researching a mysterious bat die-off?

Did you read in the Los Angeles Times about Professor Xiaoze Xie’s exhibit of striking photographic paintings?

How about the op-ed column by Professor Bill Gruver in The New York Times examining the financial crisis?

Just this fall, Bucknell and its students and faculty have been featured in these top media and others, including USA Today, U.S. News & World Report, BusinessWeek, The Wall Street Journal, National Public Radio, The Chronicle of Higher Education and The Independent.

You can read all the highlights each week in Bucknell in the News, a free e-newsletter produced by the Division of Communications.

Simply e-mail your name with “subscribe” in the subject line to bitn@bucknell.edu.
Last Word

The Eternal Present

An art purchase gives one alumna an insight into the Bucknell she loves.

By Erika Szendrey ’00

When I saw the antique print depicting an aerial view of my beloved Bucknell University online, it was love at first sight. I knew that I had to find a way to make it my own. I had just graduated, and money was tight.

I phoned my parents and mentioned to them how much I liked the print, hoping that they would purchase it for me as a Christmas gift. To my delight, they did.

The hand-colored engraved print that hangs above my couch is signed by Richard Rummell and dated 1907. As a former art history major, I undertook a quest to learn more. In my research, I discovered that Rummell had gone around the country in the early 1900s, creating bird’s-eye views of the nation’s most prestigious schools. Although no one is sure how Rummell captured such perspectives — airplanes had just been invented and were hardly used for commercial flight, much less for artists to capture aerial views — most art historians believe he achieved his vantage point from a hot-air balloon.

The scene in my print is set on a sunny day, perhaps at the end of September, when the leaves are just changing from verdant tones to the warm, golden hues of a Pennsylvania autumn. The print shows a different Bucknell than the one I attended in the late 1990s, but it is my campus all the same. Old Loomis Field occupied the space where my senior-year residence hall, Gateway Malesardi, now stands. The façade of Old Main, now known primarily as Roberts Hall, looks quite different, as this was before the 1932 fire destroyed the building. The old chemistry lab, now the Art Building, sitting alongside the small bridge and winding creek, looked different during my day. I spent so much time there. There’s the Carnegie Library, which, in the 1990s, the art department fought to save because of its historical significance. Some aspects of the campus remain timeless: the distinctive, mixed Queen Anne and Romanesque architecture of Bucknell Hall, Roberts, Trax, Kress and Carnegie Quadrangle; the sloping nature of the campus; and the Susquehanna flowing in the distance.

I live hundreds of miles away from Bucknell now, but this print keeps my college memories always close. The original owner was most likely an alumnus or alumna, someone who, 100 years ago, loved Bucknell as much as I do, someone who shares a kinship with me through our college roots.

On lazy days, I stare at the print, taking in the old-time automobiles and carriages driving along the dirt roads of Victorian Lewisburg and figures playing football or doing calisthenics on Old Loomis Field. Times have changed. The campus continues to evolve as institutions must, to evolve along with the changing world. Through the changes, the basic beauty and spirit of the place remain in the hearts of its alumni and in the distinctive Georgian buildings nestled in the hilly landscape along the rambling Susquehanna — qualities that will always give the University its sense of history and tradition but, even more so, make it my Bucknell.

When not staring at her engraving, Erika Szendrey works as an allocation and planning analyst for Converse in North Andover, Mass.
Sylvia Beauregard Van Cleave '59 wanted to do something special to celebrate her 50th Reunion.

“The successes I’ve had in my life are based on the wonderful, well-rounded education I received at Bucknell,” she says.

She and her husband, Richard, made a planned gift of $2,000,000 — and challenged Sylvia’s classmates to match it dollar-for-dollar.

“This is our class' golden anniversary, and it’s a golden opportunity to give back to Bucknell,” she says. “I hope this challenge inspires each member of the Class of 1959 to make a gift in honor of our Reunion.”

Bucknell thanks the Van Cleaves, and the Class of 1959, for a half-century of loyalty and support.

Members of the Class of 1959 can make a gift of any size to help meet the Van Cleaves’ challenge. To contribute, contact Dan Clark, Assistant Director of Gift Planning, at 570-577-3774 or giftplanning@bucknell.edu.