The First Fifty Years of the
Bucknell Engineering Alumni Association
—The History—

February 2004
The Beginnings

Early in 1954, M.L. Odgers, president of Bucknell University, invited several alumni and trustees of the university to meet and consider ways and means of improving the program of engineering education at Bucknell. One of the outcomes of this process was the hiring of Rear Admiral E.M. Eller, U.S. Navy (Ret.) as the Director of Engineering in 1955. In October of that year, Admiral Eller wrote to the engineering alumni inviting them to attend a special dinner for engineers which had been arranged as part of the November 5 Homecoming activities. He promised “a frank discussion of the engineering situation at Bucknell” and hoped that “a mutual exchange of views will be of great benefit to all of us.”

One hundred thirty alumni and friends attended that dinner. Les Lighton, the chair of the review committee appointed by President Odgers, reported on the problems that had arisen in the development of the engineering programs. A survey of alumni and trustees was reviewed as well as the potential for doing research at Bucknell. Admiral Eller reported on current developments and plans for the future of engineering education at Bucknell.

These discussions were followed by a talk by Cort Williams about the need to organize alumni to gain support from industry in the form of equipment, scholarships, fellowships, grants and “other ways.” He moved that a committee consisting of Les Lighton, Bruce Miller, and Earl Richards be authorized to select a 32-person Executive Committee of Alumni that would in turn establish the details surrounding an organization of Bucknell Engineers. The motion was unanimously approved. And thus an as-yet-nameless, structureless association of Bucknell engineering alumni was born.

The Executive Committee met for the first time on January 3, 1956, at the Engineers Club in New York City. The agenda for that meeting was to define the objectives for the organization, elect officers, determine a name for the organization, develop a long and short range plan of activities, appoint standing committees to carry out these activities, and determine the organization's structure, membership and fees.

Les Lighton was elected President, Harry Nancarrow and Morris Hooven Vice Presidents, Robert Rooke Treasurer and John Miller Secretary. Rather than pick a name, it was suggested that a contest be held to determine the name. Rooke, Richards, Nacarrow and Williams each donated $25 toward a $100 prize that would be given to the winner. Twelve sub-committees were formed reflecting the priorities of the executive committee: facilities and equipment; fellowships; long-range planning; publications and public relations; research; scholarships; secondary school contacts; special projects; membership and alumni contact; improvement of engineering education; industry relations; and finance.

At the September 1956 meeting of the Executive Committee, after a process of repeated ballots, the name “Bucknell Engineering Alumni Association” (submitted by George D. Krotchlo, a former member of the civil engineering staff at Bucknell) was selected from a list of over 25 names that had been submitted. Also at that meeting, the proposed bylaws for the organization were approved by the Executive Committee for presentation to the entire organization at the second annual meeting in October. Finally, it was determined that even
with the by-laws being adopted at the October 1956 meeting of the association, they could not be enacted until the 1957 annual meeting; consequently, the Executive Committee would need to remain in place until that time.

Over the summer of 1956, Admiral Eller was called up to active duty. Rear Admiral Elliot Strauss replaced him as the new Director of Engineering. In his letter to the alumni inviting them to the second annual meeting of the association he noted several ways in which the association had already contributed to the engineering program at Bucknell including: 1) the establishment of a Fund for the Advancement of Teaching; 2) aid in the recruitment of five new engineering instructors; 3) aid in establishing a career seminar for juniors, supported from funds from industry; 4) solicitation of funds exceeding $20,000 for 12 pieces of equipment; 5) expansion of \textit{The Bucknell Engineer} and its acceptance as a member by the Engineering Colleges Magazine Association; and 6) initiation of a summer institute for science teachers and a science fair for high school students.

At the second annual meeting of the Association the proposed by-laws were unanimously approved after a few minor changes and the name Bucknell Engineering Alumni Association was also formally approved. In the by-laws the mission and purpose of the organization was stated as follows:

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\textit{The objects and purpose of the organization is to act as a medium through which its membership, interested friends, and corporations and foundations, Bucknell alumni, Bucknell trustees and faculty, and Bucknell students may support and advance education and research in the engineering school of Bucknell University and in other ways, to the interest and welfare of engineering at Bucknell.}
\end{quote}

Membership in the organization was defined as being open to all persons who had received a Bucknell engineering degree, who were enrolled in an engineering program for one year and separated in good standing, and others as the board of directors may elect.

The officers of the BEAA were defined to be a President, two Vice Presidents, a Secretary and a Treasurer. The board of directors was defined to consist of 22 members: 21 directors elected by the membership and the Director of Engineering ex officio. Directors were to be elected for three-year terms with seven directors being elected each year.

By the fall of 1957 Admiral Strauss had resigned to take a position with the federal government and Captain Eckberg had replaced him as Director of Engineering. At the annual meeting of the BEAA, it was reported that more than $18,000 had been raised for the Special Engineering Fund. The slate of 21 directors prepared by the Executive Committee (seven for a one-year term, seven for a two-year term, and seven for a three-year term) was approved. Dues were also set at $2, $1 for operating expenses and $1 for \textit{The Bucknell Engineer}, the student-run publication about engineering at Bucknell. Immediately following the general meeting, the newly elected members of the board met to elect officers. George W. Hart was elected president, A. F. Jones, First Vice President, M. E. Cook, Second Vice President, and J. B. Miller Secretary/Treasurer.
With that task complete, the Bucknell Engineering Alumni Association had completed the
two-year task of organizing itself, setting its agenda, passing its by-laws and electing its
board of directors and officers, and had a bright future ahead of it.

The Rest of the First Decade

In the spring of 1957 the board of directors wrestled with issues such as who should be
issued membership cards and when should they be issued, who should get *The Bucknell
Engineer* and when the annual meeting should be held. The annual meeting occurred at
Homecoming during the fall of 1958. At the banquet which was attended by 83 members
and guests it was reported that only 300 alums were interested enough in the association to
pay dues. BEAA President Hart requested that every engineering alum 1) take a deeper and
keener interest in the engineering department; 2) respond for the call for specific aid from the
department; 3) provide financial support to the alumni fund; 4) keep Bucknell’s engineering
needs in mind in their everyday contacts; 5) work to guide the best students to Bucknell; and
6) avoid the engineering first and university second mindset.

In the spring of 1959 the BEAA began working on an Engineers Day program which was
first implemented as part of Engineers Week in the spring of 1960. At the fifth annual
meeting of the association Ruth Gemberling, the mechanical engineering secretary for 19
years, was made the first honorary member of the BEAA. Discussion by the board focused
on suggestions for securing high quality students and securing alumni support for the
University’s Dual Development Campaign. In support of that campaign the BEAA agreed to
not solicit funds for the Special Engineering Fund during the campaign. In addition,
University President Odgers requested that BEAA members be on the lookout for any
prospective gifts to the engineering education program at Bucknell.

Over the next four years the board of directors would continue their conversations about
attracting quality students. In 1961, at the request of Captain Eckberg this discussion
branched out into how to prevent students from leaving Bucknell. In 1961 the BEAA
established the Outstanding Senior Engineering Award to recognize the student in the senior
class with the highest academic achievement in engineering. The board also began
sponsoring a series for lectures for students and undertook several discussions concerning the
publication of an engineering alumni directory.

The Second Decade

Over the summer of 1964 Charles Watts became the 11th President of Bucknell. The board
of directors decided to combine the BEAA 10th anniversary celebration with a tribute to
President Watts. The program opened with the National Anthem and closed with the Alma
Mater. In between was a report from the Dean, a report of the President of the BEAA,
election of officers and directors, remarks by Daniel Atkins, Class of 1965, and Fred D.
Pinotti of the Owens-Illinois Glass Company, and the presentation of Dr. Watts to the
association.
At the 1966 annual meeting university trustee Claire Carlson ’49 became the first woman elected a director of the BEAA. She also became the first woman president of the association when the board of directors elected officers at the conclusion of the annual meeting.

Throughout this period the BEAA continued its efforts to attract the best students to Bucknell’s engineering program. In 1966 the Prospective Student Contact program was launched with the goal of having a BEAA member contact every student who inquired about engineering at Bucknell. Later on this effort branched out into contacting high school guidance counselors as well. The BEAA also continued a practice begun at the association's first meeting in 1955 of distributing a list of needed equipment to alumni each year.

At several points the board also discussed the role that financial aid plays in attracting the best students and therefore the need for scholarship monies for the engineering programs. In response to these discussions several directors established scholarship funds and solicited corporations to contribute to them as well.

The early part of this decade in the association’s history saw the board focusing on the impact on the engineering curriculum of the pending change by the university to a two semester four credit academic calendar. The board had several discussions on the American Society for Engineering Education's 1967 report on the *Goals for Engineering Education*. The BEAA also sponsored several regional discussions of this report with alumni on behalf of the university.

To reach out to the general alumni population, in 1968 the board of directors adopted a motion to identify an engineering representative to each alumni club to encourage other engineering alumni to attend these meetings as well as the annual meeting of the BEAA. President Watts also suggested that the BEAA have a liaison to the Bucknell Alumni Association (BAA). This effort would result in the BEAA eventually electing three members of the BAA board. This practice would continue until the early '90s when the composition of the BAA board was reorganized. In 1971 the BEAA and BAA boards participated in a joint leadership conference.

At the BEAA’s 15th anniversary celebration, the association presented founder awards to the original members of the association. Also at that meeting a set of revised by-laws for the association were adopted. These revisions increased the number of vice presidents from two to three—a Vice President for Membership, a Vice President for Operations, and a Vice President for Planning.

The second half of the BEAA’s second decade saw the association take a renewed interest in helping students find summer jobs. With the approval of the January Plan in 1971, identifying worthwhile January experiences for students was added to the agenda. Also in that year the BEAA published an engineering alumni directory which was available to alumni for $2.50 and the board of directors decided to meet three times a year: Homecoming, January and April.
Since the advent of the Dual Development Campaign in the late '50s the BEAA had reduced its fundraising activities to the point where in 1969 the board adopted a motion that “all fundraising should be done within the structure of the Development Office.” Despite the reduced fundraising efforts the Special Engineering Fund had sufficient funds to provide $1,000 of matching funds to an NSF grant acquired by Prof. DeHoff in the mechanical engineering department in 1967, $2,000 to support faculty to work on a five-year plan for the College of Engineering in 1971, and still leave a balance of nearly $3,500 in the BEAA treasury. In 1972 at the request of the Dean, the BEAA appropriated $400 towards the cost of an engineering newsletter, Bucknell Engineering News, and $150 towards a solicitation brochure.

In 1971 Dr. Glenn Keitel replaced Captain Eckberg as Dean of the College of Engineering. At his first meeting with the BEAA in October of 1971, Dean Keitel proposed the establishment of an Engineering Fund. To that end the BEAA board of directors adopted a motion authorizing the membership committee and the Engineering Administration "to send out a notice requesting funds for Bucknell engineering, and to defray cost of the directory, and start developing policies and procedures for the engineering fund." At the conclusion of this planning effort in the spring of 1973, the board adopted a motion "establishing an annual fundraising effort which shall be called the Engineering Fund. Each academic year the Board of Directors shall organize a program to contact alumni and friends of the College to ask that they make gifts which will be used to meet the challenges and opportunities facing the engineering education programs. Funds will be placed in a separate account which the Dean with the advice of the board shall spend to supplement existing university budgets."

In 1973-74 nearly $13,000 was raised for the Engineering Fund including a $5,000 challenge gift to initiate the fund. Also in 1973 BEAA's by-laws were amended, increasing the size of the association’s board of directors from 22 to 31 members.

The Third Decade

The 20th anniversary of the BEAA was celebrated during Homecoming of 1974. The day was marked by a board of directors meeting in the morning, followed by an open house in the Dana Engineering building and the BEAA dinner, which took place in Bostwick Cafeteria. The program included "appropriate after dinner remarks" by University President Watts, presentation of BEAA awards, reports by the Dean on the activities of the College and by the BEAA President on the activities of the association.

In 1975 the annual banquet was replaced with an informal luncheon at a local restaurant, a tradition that would continue with some variations for the next 25 years. Another change that occurred during this decade of the association's history was the source of funding for operating the BEAA. Beginning with the fall of 1974 the Office of Alumni Affairs agreed to budget $1,000 to support the activities of the BEAA and it was agreed that the Division of University Relations would cover all future operating expenses of the association. Later, as the Engineering Fund grew sufficiently large, the Engineering Fund assumed responsibility for supporting the operating costs of the BEAA. Reports of the performance of the
Engineering Fund and the BEAA's charges against that fund became regular agenda items during this period.

In an effort to better connect with young alumni and make them aware of the BEAA, in the spring of 1975 the association decided to hold a reception for graduating seniors on graduation weekend — a practice that would continue for more than 20 years. At the request of the Dean the BEAA also surveyed students who had graduated in the last five years regarding their perceptions of the quality of a Bucknell engineering education.

Throughout this decade of the association's history, its board of directors regularly heard reports from the department chairs concerning the activities of their respective departments. In 1974 they previewed the Engineering Road Show, a presentation about the College of Engineering that was given to alumni groups around the country. The board also instituted joint faculty/BEAA board of directors meeting sessions as well as joint student/BEAA board of directors sessions in 1976.

In 1976 the BEAA added to its Outstanding Alumni and Senior awards an Outstanding Teaching Award. Ben Austin was the first recipient as selected by the students who had graduated in the last five years. The honor came with a $100 prize and plaque which was awarded at the Homecoming luncheon. Initially, it was intended that this award be given annually, which was revised to every three years, but there is no record that subsequent awards were ever given. In addition, the Outstanding Senior Award was moved from the Homecoming activities to the Senior Awards banquet and renamed The Bucknell Engineering Alumni Association Prize.

In January of 1976 Dean Keitel wrote to the officers of the BEAA about his concerns regarding the future directions of the organization. In part he wrote: "The long-standing reasons for the existence of the BEAA — defense of the college and fund raising — no longer apply. We must look to the future, defining the purposes of the BEAA and the planning activities oriented to those purposes. We need to focus on these new purposes and their relationship to the groups the BEAA can serve."

As a result of that communication the board of directors met in March of 1976 to focus on three concerns: 1) How to involve more alumni than just the board; 2) How to support students; and 3) How to support the College. These planning efforts resulted in the eventual reorganization of the board with new bylaws being adopted at the fall meeting of 1977. The purpose of the BEAA was simplified to read: “To promote the interests and welfare of engineering at Bucknell.” The officer structure was also modified to include a President, a President Elect, a Vice President for Alumni Activities, and a Vice President for Student Activities.

The BEAA agenda for the next few years emphasized supporting students, alumni, and the College. The board worked at involving more alumni in the recruitment of students and on providing career counseling for senior students. It restored its previous efforts to use industrial contacts as a source of surplus equipment and it solicited alumni volunteers for a variety of student interactions on campus. It also refocused its energies on identifying
internships and January employment opportunities for students. Finally, the BEAA developed a Distinguished Engineer in Residence program to bring successful engineers to campus to work with students. Victor Stello ’59 was named the first Engineer in Residence in the spring of 1981.

In 1979 Barry Maxwell, a former Secretary of the BEAA, became Dean of the College of Engineering. In large part because of the constituency-focused programs mentioned above, he commented at the April 1981 board meeting that he "had seen more activity among the board members than he had seen in many years, and that a nucleus of a program is developing." In 1982, Maxwell asked for the board's help and suggestions concerning the fundamentals of a comprehensive development program for engineering at Bucknell. In the early '80s the board also considered topics about its own internal functioning, such as whether they met long enough or often enough, what kinds of participation expectations or guidelines should be provided to new board members, and when they should meet.

In the BEAA's continuing efforts to engage more alumni with the College in 1981 it devised and administered an Alumni Resources survey. The survey allowed alumni to indicate how they could help with 28 different types of needs that were identified within the College of Engineering, ranging from alumni advice for students, curriculum review and feedback, Jan Plan placements, equipment, summer employment, guest lectures, etc. The results were forwarded to task forces of the board developed to assist each department in addressing, through alumni involvement, needs it had identified. These task forces would be the basic working groups of the board for much of the next decade.

In May of 1982, the BEAA hosted a dinner honoring the service to engineering education provided by retired faculty members Eckberg, Gardner, Garman, Kindig, and Miller. The highlight of the evening was the reading of a citation written about each faculty member and the presentation of a BEAA Distinguished Service Award to each by the Dean and the BEAA President.

The Fourth Decade

At the October 1983 board meeting it was decided to celebrate the 30th anniversary of the BEAA on a Saturday in December 1984. The day began with an Alumni Career Day followed by a luncheon with students. The actual board meeting and tours of the newly renovated engineering building were scheduled in the afternoon. The evening concluded with the celebration dinner.

At the fall meeting the following year, the BEAA board of directors met for the primary purpose of examining current and future directions of the organization. Several long-standing and newer activities of the board were identified including equipment procurement assistance, student affairs, providing speakers for student organizations, soliciting for corporate funds, providing advice and feedback to the college, providing career advice to students, freshman orientation, assisting in recruiting top quality students, and providing summer and Jan Plan employment opportunities.
An Objectives Team was formed to define further the BEAA's direction and guide its future efforts. In April of 1986, this team proposed the following foci for the board: alumni admissions; summer student employment opportunities; January industrial experiences; alumni awards; and Career Day activities. Those foci along with the continuation of the departmental task forces made up the vast majority of the board's work through 1993.

In the summer of 1986 Tom Rich succeeded Barry Maxwell as Dean of the College. In addressing the board at its fall 1986 meeting the Dean stated that he "views the board as continuing to be an important resource to the College of Engineering." At that same meeting the board pointed to 22 offers of alumni assistance with the Jan Plan program, the identification of 20 summer positions for students, the continued success of the admissions contact program, its growing career development efforts, and the revival of its awards program as examples of the contributions the board was making to the institution.

By 1993 the board once again found itself in the position of needing to reorganize as well as needing to evaluate the membership of the board since the number of active members had fallen to only about half the authorized membership. As part of that process Dean Rich put forth what he thought the criteria could be for selecting members to rebuild the board. "People should be able to contribute varying degrees of wisdom, work and wealth, but all should be able to: 1) attend five of six meetings in a three-year period; 2) participate on one committee per year; 3) make 5-10 calls for the admissions program per year; 4) adopt one or two students per year to mentor; and 5) make a $500 or more contribution to the Engineering Fund each year."

In the fall of 1993 the board had agreed on a new organizational structure consisting of the following committees: Centennial, Potential Student Calling, Spring Senior Luncheon, and Nominations. Also that fall Dean Rich distributed *The Bucknell Plan for Engineering Education* for the board's review.

The BEAA activities in the fall of 1993 focused on the College of Engineering Centennial celebration. Over the summer the BEAA co-sponsored with the College a Centennial Alumni Survey. The survey asked each alum for name, address, class year, major, graduate degrees, and principal activities since graduation. The actual Celebration began with a Kick-Off Ceremony in early fall. The celebration was in full swing on Homecoming weekend. Saturday's activities began with the traditional BEAA board meeting in the morning, and concluded with a banquet in the evening. This dinner was also used to launch the Engineering Centennial Fundraising Campaign.

**The Fifth Decade**

Because of the Centennial celebration the year before and the need for the board to continue its reorganization efforts, a BEAA 40th anniversary celebration did not take place in the fall of 1994. However, at its meeting in the fall of 1994, the board continued its organization efforts. Modifications to the bylaws were adopted, returning the officer structure to
President, Vice President and Secretary/Treasurer. The bylaws were also modified so the association's fall meeting would be held on Homecoming Weekend.

At the 1994 spring meeting a progress report was heard on the Centennial campaign. It was reported that all engineering alumni had been solicited but "that results thus far have been characteristically modest when compared with the whole body of alumni/ae." Dean Rich indicated that he believed that the "cornerstones of the BEAA program are assisting in the student recruitment process and in fundraising for the growth of the College and University."

The primary focus of the board's efforts over the next few years would be the Senior Luncheon held each spring and the "accepted" student calling program. Meetings of the board consisted primarily of remarks from members of the university administration, updates on the college from the Dean and department chairs, and work on the board's activities. In the mid-'90s the board started to work on an alumni database which would make available to students and alumni contact information about alumni, as well as ways in which each alum was willing to help the college or a student. In the late '90s in response to an effort started by the Associate Dean of Engineering to provide a mentoring program for female engineering students, the board began work on a project to provide mentoring opportunities for all engineering students. By the end of the decade only the accepted student calling program was active.

In the spring of 1997 Tom Rich decided to step down as Dean of the College and return to the faculty. He was succeeded that fall by Joseph A.C. Humphrey.

As the BEAA rolled into the 21st century, it faced the dual challenges of needing to increase participation in the Board and needing to reorganize itself. In the fall of 1999 the organization identified the following goals for itself: 1) fully engage BEAA directors; 2) increase the engagement of and involvement by the total engineering alumni population; 3) take advantage of existing university programs and activities; and 4) ensure that engineering alumni are appropriately represented throughout the university volunteer structure. The bylaws were once again revised; most notably, directors and officers would be elected to terms that coincided with the university's fiscal year instead of the October-to-October terms that had been used historically. This was just one of several bylaw changes made to bring the BEAA into conformance with emerging university volunteer practices and policies. The board also adopted a two-day meeting format for its meetings similar to the BAA's and reinstituted the practice of having an Association dinner as part of each meeting.

Over the summer of 2000, Dean Humphrey resigned to take a position at the University of Virginia. Jim Orbison, a member of the civil engineering department (and the second former BEAA secretary to become Dean) was named Interim Dean. After a national search Dr. Orbison was named Dean in the spring of 2002.

At Homecoming 2000 the BEAA held an extremely successful pre-game tailgate in a tent pitched in the grassy area behind Dana where the Breakiron Building is now located. This event was made possible with funds requested by the BEAA from the Bucknell Alumni Association. This collaboration was the beginning of increasingly closer ties to the BAA that
would develop over the next four years, culminating most recently with board Presidents attending portions of the other organization's meetings.

As part of this reorganization effort, the board also put in place a new committee structure. The working committees of the board included: ABET, admissions, affinity building/outreach, career development and development. This committee structure would guide the focus of the Board's work for the next couple of years.

In the spring of 2001 the BEAA sponsored a Cocktails and Contraptions event that was warmly received by engineering and non-engineering alumni alike. That event was later modified to be Connections and Contraptions (the same event without alcohol) and used very successfully as part of the Homecoming activities. Beginning in 2002, the BEAA would also begin sponsoring an Engineering Alumni reception late Saturday afternoon of Homecoming Weekend. In July 2001 the board would return to its historic practice of having one or more of its meetings off campus by having a special summer meeting in Baltimore, MD. The following summer the board met at one of the director's homes in New Jersey. Subsequent to that meeting, the board fixed its meeting to occur on Homecoming, during the week in February that National Engineers week is celebrated on campus, and on Reunion Weekend.

The 2001 fall activities of the BEAA board of directors were focused on an event titled Bucknell Engineering Today. The event was designed to promote the College and kick off a fundraising effort for the proposed new engineering building. At the event's dinner Friday night, Larry Breakiron, the principal benefactor of the expansion project, was presented the inaugural Bucknell Engineering Alumni Association Distinguished Engineering Alumni award by then BEAA President Bob Burnett.

At the board's February meeting in 2002, the directors again took up the topic of how the board should be organized. While the board expressed support for the current structure, a planning sub-committee was appointed to examine the structure of the board and its possible future activities. Also as part of that weekend's activities, the majority of the board members took part in an BEAA/Career Development Center Networking event. This event was highly successful and became a featured part of the February meeting.

At the 2002 Homecoming meeting, the board adopted a board of directors handbook and provisionally ratified modifications to the organization's bylaws to reflect the new organization structure recommended by the planning committee. Final adoption of those bylaws took place at the February 2003 meeting of the board. Those changes established the officers of the board as the President, a Vice President for Activities, a Vice President for Membership, and a Secretary/Treasurer. In the adopted structure, the Secretary/Treasurer chaired the planning committee, the Vice President for Membership chaired the membership and nominations committee, and chairs of the board's five standing committees (Career Development, Development, Affinity/Outreach, Admissions, and ABET) reported to the Vice President for Activities.

The February 2003 meeting of the board saw the return to the long-standing practice of the board issuing an Annual Report. That report highlighted the major accomplishments of the
board and each of its sub-committees. It also reported — to the delight of the outgoing President Bob Burnett — that beginning with the 2003-04 term of the board, the board would have its full complement of directors for the first time in many years.

The board's spring 2004 meeting featured the third annual Career Networking Night. More than 40 alumni spent nearly two hours networking with approximately 200 students from across the college's six programs. The event, which has grown each year, was judged to be an overwhelming success by students and alumni alike. At the Engineering Week dinner, attended by BEAA board members, students, and College of Engineering faculty and staff, Board President Harry Kitch presided over a ceremony welcoming the Classes of 2004 and 2005 into the BEAA. Members of those classes were provided with a pair of small gifts from the BEAA to commemorate the occasion. The board expects to continue this tradition of welcoming the junior engineering class into the BEAA with a ceremony during National Engineers Week each year.

In Summary

Fifty years after its founding, the Bucknell Engineering Alumni Association and its board of directors are still pursuing the original mission set for the organization half a decade ago — supporting and advancing education and engineer research in the engineering school of Bucknell. Over the years the methods have changed and the organization's structure has changed, but the goal has remained constant. In examining the history of the organization, several themes emerge. First, efforts to encourage students of the highest quality to come to Bucknell have been on the agenda throughout the BEAA's history. Second, identifying employment opportunities and internships for students has been another constant in the organization's history. Third, career advising for students has been a major focus of the organization especially in the more recent past. Fourth, the BEAA has had an on-again-off-again role in fundraising directed toward the university's engineering programs. What can be said, though, is that when asked to, especially early on, the BEAA has played a significant role in the engineering programs' fundraising efforts over the years. Fifth, over the years the organization has regularly evaluated its purpose and form and consequently has reinvented itself over a half dozen times. This ability to change and address the issues in front of it has allowed the organization to remain a vital resource to the College of Engineering over the course of the organization's 50-year history. Sixth, over time the BEAA's role in tying the university's engineering programs to industry has declined, especially in the area of securing equipment donations from corporations. Seventh, though over the course of the organization's history the BEAA has been asked to provide feedback on the engineering curriculum, it has understood the curriculum to be the responsibility of the faculty. Finally, over the last half century the BEAA has served the College of Engineering, its students and alumni well. It has supported three directors of engineering and six Deans of Engineering, recognized countless students for academic excellence and more than a dozen of its own as Outstanding or Distinguished Alumni, and has engaged some 150 of its members on the association's board of directors. It is on that 50-year legacy that the BEAA will surely build as it embarks on the organization's second half century.