Joining BACES and being a part of a group of outstanding people has given me the experience of a lifetime. I, along with 27 other Bucknellians, made my way down to Santo Domingo to begin a week of community service. We held a medical drive that offered health services to communities in need, conducted a food drive that provided meals for a neighborhood, and put the finishing touches on a school that was built from the ground up by BACES over the years. In addition to the work we did, we spent a good amount of time meeting and interacting with people. Spending time with the people and culture of the Dominican Republic has eternally left its mark on me and has given me memories that I will always cherish.

The Dominican Republic is more than sandy beaches and beautiful weather. It’s about getting lost in a world where little matters more than having a place to live, food on your plate, and your loved ones around you. The warmth of the Dominican did not come from the sunny skies, but from the love, sincerity, and kind-heartedness of its people. Our work as a team in the DR benefitted people and aided communities, but the impact its people had on me and the rest of our group will never fade away. I will always remember the smile of little Miguelito, the laughter of the schoolchildren as we played caballo, and the happiness that beamed in the face of Abraham as we celebrated his birthday.

As we boarded our flight back to New York, the feeling of leaving such a beautiful place was bittersweet. We met people that we only knew briefly, but that hold a place in our hearts forever. Knowing that I have come back with an extended family of 27 people puts a smile on my face, and allows us to share our memories as we create new ones to look back upon in the future. The seven days we spent in the Dominican Republic felt like seven seconds. It was a week filled with work, sweat, and tears, where a few of us got sunburned and fell victim to the hungry mosquitos. Most of all, it was a week filled with happiness and love.
AN INTERVIEW WITH KATHRYN MAGUET
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF THE WEIS CENTER

Please tell us a bit about yourself and your role here at Bucknell

As the Executive Director of the Weis Center for the Performing Arts, I manage the performing arts venue for Bucknell, as well as curate a presenting program for the campus and the greater community. A large part of my work involves making meaningful connections between the artists and the campus community through residencies and other interactions. I had the great fortune of growing up in an academic community with a world-class performing arts center (Krannert Center for the Performing Arts at the University of Illinois). I was able to explore all kinds of wonderful art – Kabuki Theatre, modern dance, opera, etc. – which greatly shaped my life path. I feel that the university is an ideal place for these kinds of inspired experiences to happen – they were life-changing for me.

What does the Weis Center seek to achieve by hosting a broad variety of artists and performances?

We have a tremendous commitment to present Bucknell with the best possible artists that our resources will support. I spend a lot of time attending performances at nearby venues, as well as in regional metropolitan cities including New York, Philadelphia and D.C. Additionally, I read artist reviews constantly and am always listening to music and watching recordings of prospective artists. I am always on the lookout for artists who may have a certain appeal or who I believe might resonate on this campus.

How do the concerts, artists, and other performers you host contribute towards fostering diversity at Bucknell?

It is imperative that we bring cultural programs that are reflective of the world in which we live to this campus. The Weis Center can play a significant role in fostering cultural awareness and understanding through its programs and presentations.

How would you describe student patronage of Weis Center events?

We would love to see more students at all Weis Center events. The college years are a perfect opportunity for students to take advantage of the great cultural opportunities offered at Bucknell including the Samek Gallery, the Stadler Center and other programs. At no other time in your life will these experiences be as inexpensive and accessible. I encourage students to try as many things as possible!

Any last comments for the Bucknell community, especially students, about the Weis Center, the programming you offer, etc.?

My biggest goal for the Weis Center is to present artists who are testing the boundaries of their art forms, who are true innovators in their fields, and whose work emanates from the widest spectrum of world cultures. We live in an increasing global society and it is important for the Weis Center to bring programs from all around the world to our campus so we can all learn and share.
Name: Mayron Yohannes
Hometown: Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, I live in Arlington, Virginia
Major: Economics
Campus Involvement: Black student Union, Delta Sigma Theta Sorority Inc., Google Student Ambassador, Bucknell’s Africa Student Association (BASA), Middle Eastern Student Association (MESA)
Favorite Bucknell Experience: BACES, The best thing I have done at Bucknell is going on the alternative spring break trip to the Dominican Republic.
Plans after graduation: I will be working at Noblis Inc., in Falls Church, VA.
One important lesson Bucknell has taught you: Take advantage of all the resources available, it can determine your success as well as your network.
Advice for current students: Take advantage of all the alternative spring break trips, they are all life changing. Another advice that I would give is to challenge yourself, and come out of your comfort zone.

Name: Davon E. Bailey
Hometown: Prince George's County, MD
Major: Economics
Campus Involvement: Black Student Union, Bucknell Executive Internship Program, Bucknell Student Government, POSSE Foundation,
Favorite Bucknell Experience: Collaboration in the production of the Annual Bison Stomp Out competition through the Black Student Union. This allowed me the opportunity to work closely with like-minded individuals and observe the synergistic effects of creating this event for the Bucknell Community at large.
Plans after graduation: Bank of America Corp.
Title: Global Compliance Analyst
One important lesson Bucknell has taught you: Stay open minded and always be willing to learn from someone else’s knowledge through experiences.
At this point, confinements to your mental capacity will cease to exist.
Weis Center for the Performing Arts
Bringing the performing arts to Central PA for 25 years

April Events

Hugh Masekela
South African music legend
Tuesday, April 9
7:30 p.m.
Weis Center

Luciana Souza,
“Brazilian Duos”
featuring Romero Lubambo
Brazilian jazz singer and composer, Grammy Award winner
Wednesday,
April 17
7:30 p.m.
Weis Center Lobby
FREE!

Rufus Reid and
Bucknell Jazz Band
“Quiet Pride” Project
Jazz paired with multimedia; honors prominent sculptor Elizabeth Catlett
Friday, April 12
8 p.m.
Weis Center
FREE!

Tia Fuller
Saxophone player for R&B star Beyoncé
Saturday, April 27
7:30 p.m.
Campus Theatre
FREE!
Part of Lewisburg’s Celebration of the Arts and Janet Weis Jazz Series

For more information and tickets, 570-577-1000 or www.Bucknell.edu/WeisCenter
TICKETS ARE NOT REQUIRED FOR FREE EVENTS

International Student Services || Multicultural Student Services
64 Elaine Langone Center, Bucknell University, Lewisburg, PA
phone: 1.570.577.3216
IEA Hours: Monday-Friday, 8:30-4:30

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