Stop the Hate Rally

By Sonam Dolkar

From its beginnings in 1998, the Stop the Hate rally has played a significant role in encouraging Bucknell and the surrounding communities to promote non-violence, acceptance and unity among its diverse members. The rally this year was a huge success with a showing of more than 150 people at Hufnagle Park on October 8th.

Organized by the members of the Social Justice Residential College, members of The Community Zone, and CARE, the rally began with a march from downhill LC to Hufnagle Park. Several student, faculty and community members organized programs, including music, spoken word, and poetry. Student presentations from the ‘This is Me’ project were also presented. Students took this opportunity to express themselves and help members of our community become aware of the hatefulness and unforeseeable injustices within society.

President John Bravman also attended the rally showing his support and shared a few powerful words on taking initiative to believe in the change that we want to see: “I believe that God doesn’t put on our shoulders the need to save the world. He gives us the opportunity to do something in our day, our hour, our moment, our place, so that through the actions of countless numbers of people, most of whom we will never know, collectively we can make a difference.”

Another moving guest speaker this year was one of Lewisburg’s own community member, Tammy Simpson, who is the mother of Brandon Bitner who committed suicide after years of being bullied. She left the people with a profound message: “It starts at home with the parents. We need to teach our children acceptance. But, if you are a student out there, and your parents didn’t teach you that, let it start with you. You be the one to accept others. It is good to be different. Words can hurt and words can kill. I don’t have my son anymore. We need to stop the hate and accept others.”

The rally was brought to a close with the singing of “We shall overcome” by Beyond Unison, joined in by all present at the rally.
Davis Projects for Peace
By Melissa Dunne

Equal Access to Education

It is unfair that not every child around the world has access to an education. Children that do have access are luckier, but some of these educations are minimal quality, at best. There are still children that have to miss school in order to get water for their families. There are still children in schools who can barely read and whose learning needs are not properly addressed. Finding a uniform solution for the many, many problems that plague public schools worldwide will be very difficult. However, if all schools would be able to provide their students with the proper knowledge and tools to express themselves and to succeed, we would be so much closer to providing all students with access to the comprehensive education that they all deserve. I know what the ideal school should look like. School should be about more than just academics. Of course, learning to read, write, spell, do math and science are the main reasons that children attend school, but school should be about molding children into good people as well as good students. Back in the day when America had newly won its independence from Great Britain, Thomas Jefferson had a great vision for public schools. He believed they should act as great equalizers of people, and elevate the masses to be thoughtful and well-informed citizens capable of participating in this new democratic society. Unfortunately, his vision has yet to come to fruition, as there are still vast inequalities between American public schools today, let alone the rest of the world. Creating an education system where there is no question that every child will have the means to success is my dream for the future. The Light the Way Campaign is one wonderful step in this direction. Last summer, armed with a $10,000 grant from Davis Projects for Peace, a group of Bucknell students and other volunteers traveled to rural Yunnan Province in China and distributed solar lamps to impoverished children in boarding schools. Amongst the many obstacles that children face in the way of their education, not having enough light to complete their schoolwork should not be one of them. Students should not have to suffer in school due to circumstances beyond their control, as they do currently. The Light the Way campaign is a beacon of hope for education systems that desperately need help globally. Read more here: http://www.gobeyondclass.com/#!home/mainPage
Meet Some of Bucknell’s Finest Cultural Organizations

**SASA by Mona Mohammed**

The South Asian Student Association aims to increase awareness of Asian and Asian-American heritage. We try to do this through various aspects of the curriculum and social campus-wide functions, such as SASA Annual Dinner, Henna nights, and other events. We also hope to break through myths and stereotypes of Asian students. The second major goal of the organization is to provide a support system for students who can relate to one another in a comfortable and social atmosphere to grow, learn and cooperate. We try to foster this environment through events for the members of the club, such as Indian movie night, study breaks, and attending Bucknell events together.

This helps the students unite and allows the organization to be the voice of the Asian and Asian-American community at Bucknell. Finally, we hope to promote a multicultural education for a multi-ethnic society. We are always eager to have new members join our organization, and the organization is not limited to South Asian students, or Americans with South Asian heritage, but is open to every student on campus interested in the region, and making new friends from all over the globe. Our meetings are decided upon every term based on the student’s classes. This semester we meet every Wednesday from 5:30-6:30 in ELC 045.

**BASA by Caesar Vulley**

While we are principally recognized as a student organization, Bucknell’s Africa Student Association (BASA) identifies itself as a family comprising Africans and individuals interested in Africa. Since its emergence in 2003, BASA has sought to enlighten its members on the diverse cultures of the African continent and hence, prepare them to act as ambassadors on the larger Bucknell campus and beyond. Through our activities and events, we hope to promote diversity and to foster a deeper understanding of African values at Bucknell. Our family holds weekly meetings where we discuss issues pertaining to Africa and share our individual views on how to move Africa forward. We also host the annual BASA Bash where we put on a display of some of Africa’s finest foods, music, dance, and more. Furthermore, our family strongly believes in giving back and as such, raises funds yearly to support philanthropic causes in Africa.

BASA is privileged to have a strong and diverse constituency and welcomes all current and incoming African students, as well as all non-African students, who appreciate the goals of the organization. Our weekly meeting times are on Fridays between 5 and 6pm in ELC 45.

Visit us at [www.thebasa.weebly.com](http://www.thebasa.weebly.com)
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MESA  by Mona Mohammed

Before 2001, Bucknell used to have a number of Middle Eastern students, especially from Turkey and the Gulf countries. However, after 9/11, it became harder to attract students from the Middle East, and increasingly difficult for those students to get U.S. visas. In recent years, this has changed. There are a number of Middle Eastern students from a variety of countries and the numbers continue to increase. From this sprung a need for a Middle Eastern Student Association to act as a forum for students from the region and other interested students.

...everyone a chance to talk about various topics that affect them on campus. We have also sponsored several community events, such as movie nights, and cooking events. This evolved into a chance to unite and collaborate on a number of events that aim at raising awareness across campus on issues related to the Middle East and to dispel many misconceptions and stereotypes that create discrimination against Middle Eastern students. The club has sponsored a number of events, such as panel discussions, campus wide movie screenings, and cultural dinners. The club is open to everyone, Middle Eastern or not. Meetings are held on Wednesdays at 8pm in ELC 045.

OHLAS  by Donald Kaplan

On Saturday, October 19th, the Organization of Hispanic and Latin American Students (OHLAS), held its first annual gala. It was a beautiful event. Each table represented a different Latin American country. The food consisted of Carne Asada (marinated steak), pork chops with a delicious mango Salsa, Pupusa Casserole, and a beautiful Tres Leches cake. The night began with the warm welcome of the hosts, Yessica Martinez and Nigel Robinson, followed with poetry read by Donald Kaplan.

After dinner was served, the Latino Dance Corner presented on the history and importance of Salsa, a form of Latin dance. They then proceeded to demonstrate the dance. After the dance performance, the audience was soothed by Latin jazz music performed by the Bucknell Jazz Experience, led by bassist Alex Horowitz. Yessica and Nigel had a nice skit, in which they acted as newscasters and informed the audience of current events and happenings in Latin America. Donald Kaplan then proceeded to introduce the guest speaker, Professor Leandro Benmergui. The night concluded with closing remarks by Nigel and Yessica.

Overall, this was a wonderful event. All the hard work put in by OHLAS and multiple departments paid off, and OHLAS can’t wait for next year’s Gala.

SAAB  by Chau Tieu

Students for Asian Awareness at Bucknell (SAAB) is a cultural club at Bucknell that seeks to bring Asian awareness to Bucknell through different events and club activities. You do not need to be Asian to join, just have love for the Asian culture! Anyone can be a SAAB member.

This fall semester, SAAB hosted our first ever Made in Asia event where students could come and learn about different Asian languages and learn how to write their names along with other words in different Asian languages such as Chinese, Japanese, Korean, just to name a few. Students also got a taste of some Asian foods for free! In the spring, look forward to SAAB’s annual Asian Gala with Asian performances and dinner!
Engineers for Sustainable Development

By Michaela LaPatin

Bucknell Engineers for Sustainable Development is a student organization dedicated to promoting sustainable initiatives locally and abroad. The organization was founded in the Fall of 2010 by two first year civil engineering students, now in their senior year. Over the past several years, students have been working hard to establish a presence on campus and in the community by taking on a sustainability-themed affinity house, volunteering at Dreamcatcher Farm, working with the Lewisburg Community Garden, and working on various projects with the environmental center. While working on many local projects, ESD has also maintained a commitment to finding and executing a service-learning trip abroad. In January 2014, Engineers for Sustainable Development will take their first trip as a group to Lobitos, Peru. This trip will focus on public health, construction, engineering, and education projects that will contribute to sustainable development in Peru. Working to assist those with few resources, the students have joined a small, non-profit organization called WAVES for Development.

Two projects that the students will work on while in Peru are part of WAVES’s Environmental Health and Community Outreach programs. Specifically, students will prep and pour a concrete floor in a local home. This is very important for the local families because dirt floors lead to terrible respiratory problems in youth and older people. In addition, students will work with a WAVES staff member on a new design for water storage tanks for homes in Lobitos. Currently, most buildings use either ground mounted water tanks (usually garbage cans) or simply concrete holes to store water for later use. In an effort to make this process safer and cleaner, the tanks are being redesigned to be mounted on roofs. The goal is to eliminate exposure to dust and potential contaminants.

Finally, WAVES will host a series of educational sessions for ESD members regarding local economy, regional ecology, and social issues surrounding Lobitos. The sessions will consist of lessons and conversations about the importance of sustainability in a developing community and how to effectively serve others through development work. We hope that these conversations will lead to a continued partnership between WAVES and ESD, with future projects that include engineering design or education projects based on the needs of the Lobitos community.

The students involved in this project are very excited to learn about and experience life in a developing community. To make this possible, the group has been working tirelessly on both logistical planning as well as fundraising. The costs associated with this trip are such that students will not be able to afford it without outside support. Several on campus fundraisers have been planned, and funding request proposals have been sent out.

If you are interested in helping out, please visit our fundraising website! http://www.empowered.org/Bucknell-ESD---WAVES-construction-service-trip.

This page provides more information about the trip. If you would like to learn more or have questions, please contact one of the trip leaders. (Michaela LaPatin at mlio28@bucknell.edu or Maddie Greenlee at mebgoo1@bucknell.edu)

We appreciate everyone’s support!
Upcoming Events

MSS EVENT
Multicultural First Year Club (M1C) end of year celebration!
5pm. December 5, 2013
Vedder Lounge
Delicious holiday snacks provided

Martin Luther King Jr. (MLK) Week
January 19th–24th, 2014
- Interfaith Service, MLK Dinner,” Day of Action”, MLK Reading Group Discussions
More information to come

ISS EVENT
Free Ice skating Trip sponsored by ISS and Residential Colleges
January 18th, 2014
Contact ISS to sign up iss@bucknell.edu

LGBTQ Breakout Groups
Groups include Asexual, Fluid at Bucknell, Coming Out/Questioning, Lesbians, Allies and QPoC.
Contact the Office of LGBTQ Resources or the Gender Sexuality Alliance for more information. ELC 302

Best of luck on Final Exams!!

Professional Staff:
Thomas Alexander (Associate Dean)
Bill McCoy (LGBTQ Resources)
Jennifer Figueroa (ISS)
Tracy Russell (WRC)
Vincent Stephens (MSS)
Padma Ravichandran
(Interpersonal Violence Prevention Coordinator)
Myrna Perkins (Administrative Assistant)
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