A Summer of Research at Bucknell

JUDY ANNE ROMERO'14

This past summer was one of the most interesting summers I have experienced. After being here for a year, the first few weeks of summer felt like I was in a different place.

Under the sponsorship of both Bucknell’s Program for Undergraduate Research (PUR) and the Chemistry Department, I spent 10 weeks researching about fluorescent proteins. During the spring semester, the professors in the chemistry department had an interest meeting for students interested in becoming a part of a research group over the summer or over the course of the semester. I was particularly interested in the work of Professor Selby and had been talking to him during the semester. I decided to do research with him and after applying online, I was approved to stay on campus to do research. The first few weeks of summer at Bucknell were filled with a mix of anxiety and excitement. Anxiety from not knowing what to expect from my research work, from my professor and lab partners, and excited for the experience of being a part of an actual ongoing research.

The close academic mentoring has been very valuable in terms of broadening my knowledge in my field of studies. However, it was truly the relationships that I developed with people that I appreciated the most. Alongside helping each other put together experiments, my lab partners Stefan, Bo and I talked and laughed so much in the lab. Researching was not a task to be completed, it was something I looked forward to doing each day. It was also great to play Rockband with my research professor.

When you do not have back to back classes or the 10 group meetings you have to attend, or the 20 other organizations you signed up for, you get to see Bucknell in a different way. I spent most nights cooking with people and aside from the tasty almost-homemade-food that we made, it was always the conversations and the laughter that made it worthwhile. Even going to parties was a very different feel over the summer. I knew every person in the room and it was very easy to connect to people because of the very tight-knit community that developed over the summer. Also as an international student, I took advantage of the 4th of July celebrations that occurred. There was an impressive fireworks display that my host family, the Gasteigers, took me to. They also held a party at their home where both the internationals and domestic students were present and everyone enjoyed a nice evening.

All in all, I took out so much from those 3 months -it was a great learning experience academically where competent professors patiently work with you side-by-side with the research. At the same time, this summer allowed me to develop important life skills like cooking and the value of being independent.
I usually enjoy telling people about the first time I went abroad. I say that “I just filled out the application and fortunately was accepted into the program...then I eventually thought about what I just got myself into.” It takes a lot to decide to go abroad, which is why it should be more of a spontaneous act. I knew that if I let my mind linger on the thought of going abroad, it would lead to too much doubt having space and not enough of the unparalleled opportunity at hand. This in all brings us to where I am now, a Bucknellian spending her junior year in Germany.

When it was about that time to choose whether or not to study abroad for a year or semester, there was no question in my mind not to go, due to my former experience abroad in Germany for my junior year of high school. I gained so much life experience in that year abroad, which is why I promote going abroad so much. Studying in another country for a semester/year is an opportunity that one has to accept because chances like that come seldom. So after going through the application process and getting accepted into the JYA Smith College in Hamburg program, I was ecstatic to have another chance to spend a year abroad.

Not only did I return to a country I simply appreciate, I also was able to reconnect with former host families and friends gained during my first year I spent abroad. For the most part, though, returning to “Deutschland” gives me the chance to refine my German language skills and having been here only for a few months now I feel myself stepping back into this culture. As an exchange student and a foreigner, I enjoy discovering the ins and outs of this culture along with or will visit. It is a part of a society that makes experiences you learn along the way always be many accomplishments. If something comes off as odd to me that does not make it good or bad, just different. I have learned to appreciate where I come from so much more while also valuing the journey at hand.

For the past few months I have been able to fully get to know the city of Hamburg, gain a variety of new friendships, participate in activities throughout the city, travel to other countries like Spain and Austria, learn about myself, make mistakes, challenge myself, and enjoy the start of the semester. I am living more independently here in Germany and have surprised myself on one or more occasions as to what I can do. It has been a journey trying to fully become thoroughly fluent in the German language and I invite the challenge every day. There is truly no comparison to an experience away from home, your family, and friends because you learn about yourself, that culture, and the world.
ADVICE FROM SOME INTERNATIONAL SENIORS

1. Name: Stefan Ivanovski
   2. Major: International Relations and Spanish
   3. Nationality: World Citizen
   4. Please share 3 amazing things that you highly recommend other Bucknellians to do before they graduate.
      1. Study abroad for at least a semester in a country where you will be learning a new language. The world is multicultural and multilingual. You will benefit immensely from knowing a foreign language.
      2. Do a summer research with a Bucknell faculty member. It is a great opportunity to learn more about a subject of your interest, foster a closer relationship with your professors, as well as learn to live independently.
      3. Service trip - Sign up for one of the Bucknell sponsored trips such as the Katrina Recovery Trip in New Orleans, Civil Rights Trip in Memphis, Nicaragua, etc. I myself did both the Katrina Recovery and Civil Rights trips. Both trips were a wonderful opportunity for me to meet more Bucknell friends, help people in need through volunteering, as well as learn more about the history of the United States.
   5. Can you tell us one or two things that you wish you knew before you came to Bucknell?
      1. I really did not understand the role of clubs and organizations at U.S. universities. It was a foreign concept to me, which I really came to appreciate upon my arrival at Bucknell.

1. Name: Sithandazile Olebogeng Ntuka
   2. Major: Accounting and Women's and Gender Studies
   3. Nationality: Botswana
   4. Please share 3 amazing things that you highly recommend other Bucknellians to do before they graduate.
      1. Memphis Civil Rights Trip, Study hard, start planning for your future early but also remember to have fun. Integrate into the Bucknell community and learn from other people, share your views but also listen to others. Get involved in different aspects of Bucknell life and learn about Bucknell.
      5. Can you tell us one or two things that you wish you knew before you came to Bucknell?
      That every aspect of class counts, and that grades add up. Therefore it is important to focus from the beginning.

1. Name: Akmal Daniyarov
   2. Major: Civil Engineering
   3. Nationality: Uzbekistan
   4. Please share 3 amazing things that you highly recommend other Bucknellians to do before they graduate.
      1. Join the Katrina Recovery Team to go to New Orleans, to help rebuild areas that were hit by the hurricane. It's a great way to meet people who care about community and get acquainted with the joyful and friendly culture of New Orleans.
      2. Become a Reunion Ambassador! Reunion at Bucknell is the most amazing weekend during which the campus becomes once again home for the alumni. The campus atmosphere is filled with delight and love. Meeting Bucknell alumni at this time of the year is the most rewarding part of the experience.
      3. Conduct Summer Research. Summer research allows you to challenge yourself academically and to get to know at least one professor on a personal level. Additionally there is a potential for conference trips trough which you can meet people from your field of interest for networking.
      4. Become and IOA! You know why :) 
      5. Can you tell us one or two things that you wish you knew before you came to Bucknell?
      I wish I knew how awesome the residential colleges program is. I did not do it because, as an engineer I was not required to take any foundation seminars, but I wish I did.
This year Bucknell and the Lewisburg community held the annual Stop the Hate Rally, well attended by enthusiastic Bucknell students committed to spreading tolerance and love as their wonderful signs show on these pictures.

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<th>Monday Nov. 14th</th>
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<td>Opening ceremony.  Terrace Room. 12:15—12:45 pm</td>
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<td>International Trivia night.  Uptown. 7:00—9:00 pm</td>
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| Tuesday, Nov. 15th | MSS International Brown Bag. Vedder Lounge. 2:00—3:00 pm |
|                   | Movie: ‘I am Love’.  Campus Theatre. 7:00—10:00 pm |

| Wednesday, Nov. 16th | Financing Study Abroad. L.C. 217. 4:00—5:00 pm |
|                      | Wacky Wednesday. Vedder Lounge. 10:00 pm—12:00 am |

| Thursday, Nov. 17th | Movie: ‘Vincent Who?’  Gallery Theatre. 6:00—9:00 pm |

| Friday, Nov. 18th  | International Experience Fair. Hunt Hall. 4:00—6:00 pm |
|                    | Afghan Star.  Gallery Theatre. 7:00—9:00 pm |

| Saturday, Nov. 19th | BASA Bash. Terrace room. 12:30—2:30 pm |

| Monday, Nov. 21st | Discussion with Emmanuel Habimana, a genocide survivor from Rwanda. LC Center Room. 7:30 pm |

For those who are staying back on campus for Thanksgiving Break, don’t forget to register with Housing before the due date.