

BUCKKNELL

SPRING 2026

THIS is **80.**



Ironwoman
NATALIE SMITH GRABOW '67
and a new model for aging well



BY WAY OF BUCKNELL

SIGNS OF SPRING

A canopy of cherry blossoms frames
Marts Hall.

photograph by EMILY PAINE

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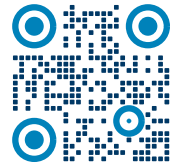
Freeman College of Management professors James and Amber Lawson help students become financially savvy.



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Ultimate
Frisbee is
one way
students find
their people.**



Scan to see our digital edition!

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In October, 80-year-old Natalie Smith Grabow '67 became the oldest woman to complete the 140.6-mile 2025 Ironman World Championship.

Photo courtesy of The IRONMAN Group / Finisherpix.com

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Chad Bown '94 turns complex data into clear insights, guiding policymakers through an unpredictable world.

SOUND BITES



"We try to rescue lost teeth that get knocked out on the ice. However, commonly, players are preoccupied with continuing play, and we just deal with it later."

*Joel Boyd '79, M'80
P. 7*



"I like being disciplined ... Things work out for me if I'm disciplined and do what I need to do."

*Natalie Smith Grabow '67
P. 24*



"AI is revolutionary, but its true value lies in helping people and businesses — much like the internet, which was both a bubble and a breakthrough."

*Yacine Bouabida '24
P. 47*



A Brave New World

I'm usually a skimmer, I confess, but I read the Summer 2025 issue cover to cover! How wonderful, how perfect for young people — and maybe more than a few middle-aged people — to read all these stories of people who changed majors, explored new fields, wound up in jobs that hadn't even been around when they were growing up! This is our brave new world, as I often remind the young people in my life. Outstanding job!
Heather Wilson '20
Pittsburgh



'One Tough Bison'

The article on **Pat Behan '10** ("Still in the Game," Summer 2025) was exquisite. The story and the pictures blended compassion, sympathy, resolve and bravery. Pat is one tough Bison. And Bucknell has a quality journal.
Ronald "Star" Carey '61
Canyon Lake, Texas

A Legacy of Learning

I read with interest the article about the 75th anniversary of the Ellen Clark Bertrand Library ("The Heart of Campus," Fall 2025). As noted, Mrs. Bertrand donated most of the \$800,000 cost to build the library that opened on September 26, 1951. Although not a Bucknell alumna, Mrs. Bertrand later received an honorary degree. Her connection to the University was through her financial adviser, **Joseph Dent, Class of 1920, H'57, P'45**, for whom Dent Drive was named.

The library's main reading room was dedicated to her late husband, Herbert.

Mrs. Bertrand worked with Bucknell's then-president, **Horace Hildreth H'56, P'52, G'79**, who considered Bertrand Library to be the most significant achievement of his tenure. Hildreth served as Bucknell's president until 1953, when President Dwight D. Eisenhower appointed him U.S. ambassador to Pakistan.
Dave Stacy '73
Middletown, Del.



UPDATE

We were delighted to feature **Joya Dass '95** in the Spring 2024 issue of *Bucknell Magazine*, highlighting her coaching work to empower women to build confidence and realize their professional ambitions. Even more rewarding is seeing the connections that the story sparked: **Bridgett Rawlins Strickler '88** and **Janet Kim '88** (left) reached out to Dass after reading it, worked with her over the past year, and ultimately took the stage for a TEDx Talk in New York City in November.

BUCKNELL

magazine

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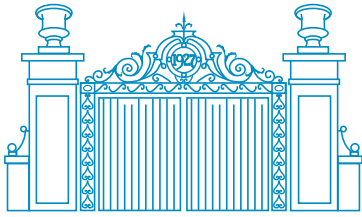
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GATEWAY

NEWS, NOTES & NOTABLES



Professor Sam Gutekunst (left) and Chris Kopac '25 co-authored a study examining the riskiness of investing in a Broadway show.

EXPLORATIONS

Betting on Broadway

Investing in a Broadway musical has always been risky. Bucknell researchers used data science to reveal just how rarely shows succeed.

by KATE WILLIARD // photography by EMILY PAINE

WHEN CHRIS KOPAC '25 began analyzing Broadway musicals as part of a Bucknell research project, he wasn't thinking about theatre marquees or curtain calls. He was thinking about data.

Working with Sam Gutekunst, the John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Professor of Data Science, Kopac set out to answer a question that has long hovered over the theatre industry: How profitable are Broadway musicals, really?





Broadway investing has long been viewed as a high-stakes gamble fueled more by passion than proof. While blockbuster successes capture headlines, the financial realities behind theatrical productions are often opaque, with limited publicly available data about costs, revenues and returns.

That's where Kopac came in. During his junior year at Bucknell, the business analytics major partnered with Gutekunst and Allan S. Detsky of the University of Toronto to analyze every Broadway musical that opened between 2008 and 2017. Using public records, the team compiled data on weekly



Chris Kopac '25 shares a full-circle moment with cast members of *Operation Minceat* after his research on Broadway profitability became a magazine cover story.

ticket grosses, reported capitalization costs and other financial indicators to determine which productions ultimately recouped their investments.

Their findings were compelling enough to become the cover story of *Significance*, an internationally respected outlet focused on statistical analysis and published by Oxford University Press. Drawing on data from 129 Broadway productions, the research offers one of the most comprehensive quantitative looks at the industry to date.

The results confirmed what insiders suspected but rarely had the numbers to prove: Broadway is an extraordinarily risky business. Only about 21 to 25.6% of the musicals studied ultimately returned their full investment.

The project also stood out for its transparency. By mining public information and releasing their dataset, the researchers created a resource that others can use to better understand the economics of theatrical production.

“Partnering with Allan on this project gave Chris the perfect opportunity to practice the rapid transferability of data science skills,” Gutekunst says. “With a solid foundation and creativity, those skills can be applied across an incredible range of questions.”

For Kopac, the project was a chance to put that versatility into practice. “This work allowed me to apply technical knowledge to a complex dataset and find objective, evidence-based insights,” says Kopac, who now works as a digital assurance and transparency associate at PwC. “I use that foundational knowledge and the skills I learned in this project in my job nearly every day.”

The research also produced one unexpected bonus. Because Detsky is not only an academic but also a Broadway producer, he invited Kopac and Gutekunst to Manhattan in August to see one of his productions: *Operation Minceat* at the Golden Theatre.

Before the performance, Gutekunst handed Kopac a copy of the *Significance* issue featuring their work — a fitting reminder of how far the project had come since it began as a research question.

After the show, Kopac stepped onto the Broadway stage to meet the cast and share the article examining the economics of their industry. What began in spreadsheets and public records had found its way into a glitzy Broadway finale.

IN THE KNOW

PROUDLY ENGAGED

Bucknell University has earned a Carnegie Community Engagement Classification, a national designation recognizing its commitment to meaningful, mutually beneficial partnerships with communities. Awarded by the Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching and the American Council on Education, the classification places Bucknell among a select group of institutions nationwide recognized for integrating community engagement across teaching, research and service.

BEST MIDSIZE EMPLOYER

Bucknell has been named to *Forbes'* “America’s Best Midsize Employers 2026” list, earning recognition among organizations with 1,000–5,000 employees. Among colleges and universities, Bucknell ranks No. 1 in Pennsylvania and No. 12 overall. It was also ranked No. 89 among all midsize employers nationwide, highlighting its commitment to a supportive and engaging workplace.

▶
Joel Boyd '79, M'80
is the first Black
team physician in
NHL history.

IN CONVERSATION WITH ...

Hockey's Mr. Fix-it

Joel Boyd '79, M'80 keeps NHL players and Olympians in check

by KATIE NEITZ

FOR MORE THAN two decades, **Joel Boyd '79, M'80** has been a fixture in hockey health. As a longtime team physician for the NHL's Minnesota Wild, Boyd has kept some of the sport's toughest athletes on their skates. In February, he served as physician for the gold medal-winning U.S. men's hockey team at the Milan Cortina Winter Olympics.



On Winning Gold

"It's the greatest sports honor I can think of. It was surreal. Getting to know the women's team physician and staff, living next to each other in dorms inside the Olympic Village took me back to my days at Bucknell."

From the Gridiron to the Lab

"I considered pre-med, but my adviser thought it would be too much on top of football. So I majored in biology. Not being pre-med enabled me to settle in at a little bit of a slower pace. It was a smart decision."

Mentors Who Mattered

"Sally Nyquist, a biology professor, was incredibly influential. Her encouragement convinced me to get my master's at Bucknell and then pursue medical school. **John Bergfeld P'60, P'86** took me under his wing at the Cleveland Clinic. I did my residency there, and we became really close. People there called him Big JB and me Little JB."

Hockey Introduction

"I grew up in Washington, D.C. When the Washington Capitals joined the NHL in 1974, they drafted Mike Marson — the second African American NHL player. My friends and I would go to games just to see him."

History Lesson

"While coaching football at the University of Western Ontario during a medical fellowship, I traveled across Canada and was stunned to learn that ice hockey's history includes African Canadian church leagues in Halifax, Nova Scotia, in the late 1800s. Hockey's history is more layered than people realize."

'Hockey Is King'

"Minnesota is the most Canadian state in the U.S. — hockey is king here. There are ice rinks in every community; hockey is in the blood. It's where I became immersed in the sport and eventually became the head physician for the state high school league."

On Choosing Bucknell

"I was recruited to play football. I came for a visit and just fell in love with the setting. The whole atmosphere around Bucknell felt right."

Danger Zone

"The most common injuries are lacerations — from skates, pucks or fights. Skates are razor sharp; I've seen skates to the neck. Pucks fly everywhere — often into some really painfully sensitive spots. Those players are like small cars out there, moving at 40 miles an hour with pucks flying at 90 miles an hour."

Family Ties

"My daughter is vice president of the Seattle Kraken; one of my sons is director of community outreach for the Kraken; and my other son coaches youth hockey in Seattle. So yeah, they are all into hockey, which is great. Except when the Wild play the Kraken. Then it gets a little chippy."





FROM LESOTHO TO BUCKNELL

by KATIE NEITZ

photograph by EMILY PAINE

Monwabisi Qeki '28 grew up in the mountain kingdom of Lesotho in southern Africa, where limited access to health care shaped daily life. He remembers neighbors waiting hours — sometimes days — for basic treatment, an experience that fueled his determination to make a difference.

That resolve brought him to Bucknell, where he is majoring in neuroscience with the goal of returning home to transform care for underserved patients.

Last summer, Qeki put his vision into action during an internship with the Free Clinic of Central Virginia through the Shepherd Higher Education Consortium on Poverty. Working in medical and dental clinics, he supported uninsured patients. “It opened my eyes to the fact that poverty looks different in every country, but it still traps people in the same way,” he says.

On campus, he is gaining research experience in Professor Mizuki Takahashi’s animal behavior lab, which complements his long-term plan to return to Lesotho and establish a community clinic that integrates clinical care, neuroscience-informed mental health support, and culturally grounded research and outreach. “I want to dedicate my life to equitable health care,” he says.

Monwabisi Qeki '28 plans to use what he learns at Bucknell to improve health care in his home country.

Photo: James T. Giffen



Freeman Returns to Bucknell as Commencement Speaker

A familiar and influential name at Bucknell will return to campus this spring. **Ken Freeman '72** — nationally respected executive, academic leader and the namesake of Bucknell’s Kenneth W. Freeman College of Management — will deliver the address at Bucknell’s 176th Commencement Sunday, May 17.

Freeman has built a distinguished career at the intersection of business and higher education. He led the transformation of Quest Diagnostics as chairman and CEO before becoming a partner at global investment

firm Kohlberg Kravis Roberts & Co. *Harvard Business Review* recognized him as one of the world’s 100 Best-Performing CEOs in both 2010 and 2013.

Freeman is dean emeritus and former interim president of Boston University and has long been a devoted leader at Bucknell, serving three terms as a trustee, including nine years as chair of the Board of Trustees. His career reflects Bucknell’s enduring commitment to principled leadership, innovation and meaningful impact.

HONORING A CHAMPION OF ACCESS

Bucknell has awarded **Andrew '71, P'00**, and **Janet Bauer Hartman P'00** its inaugural Luminary Medal. The Hartmans have long championed access to Bucknell in the Baltimore area, establishing the Bauer Scholars Program at Bucknell in 2007, through which more than 40 Bauer Scholars have graduated. Andrew also helped establish the Andrew Hartman '71 & Joseph Fama '71 Executive Director of the Center for Access & Success, a role dedicated to supporting first-generation and low-income students. The Luminary Medal recognizes alumni who are committed to dismantling barriers and promoting opportunity. The Hartmans accepted the award during Scholarship Day April 11; they will also be acknowledged at Reunion in May.



ASK THE EXPERTS

Together, They Balance

When tax knowledge
meets auditing savvy,
your finances click

by KATIE NEITZ

TALKING ABOUT MONEY can be stressful, even for married couples. Amber and James Lawson, both professors in Bucknell's Freeman College of Management, spend their days helping students navigate financial decisions with clarity and confidence. With expertise in auditing (Amber) and taxation (James), the married professors offer practical advice that works well beyond the classroom.

What's one financial habit everyone should adopt?

AMBER: Accurate record-keeping. Keep track of what you have, what you spend and how that changes over time. That documentation can help you understand your current financial position, see patterns and make better decisions.

JAMES: There's never been a better time to get financially organized. Podcasts, YouTube, apps and blogs put guidance at your fingertips. Pick two or three trusted sources and commit time to learning.

What's a money myth you wish people would stop believing?

JAMES: The idea that finances are too complicated for the average person. Anyone can make smart financial decisions.

AMBER: The idea that "everything will just work out." I see many people avoid planning because they assume things will work out fine. In auditing, we assess risks and make informed decisions

based on that analysis. Individuals can do the same: think ahead, plan for what they want to achieve and understand the risks they want to avoid.

What have you learned from each other?

JAMES: From Amber, I've learned how important it is to understand how a business fully integrates and really fits together. Auditors must understand how every piece interacts to assess risk. Having that deep understanding of a subject is something I admire.

AMBER: From James, I've learned that financial decisions are multidimensional. I used to consider only the immediate accounting impact of a decision, but he has made me realize there is always a tax side, too — an incentive or cost that can change how you think about things. It's broadened the way I evaluate financial risks.

What advice would you offer small-business owners?

AMBER: Small businesses don't always need an audit, but I recommend acting as if you might be audited. Maintain

accurate records and consider hiring a firm to conduct a financial review or provide consulting services on your processes and procedures. Their insight can help you identify risks and opportunities that you might overlook.

JAMES: It's always better to be proactive than reactive. Taxes operate on a calendar year. Once the year ends, you can't change your decisions. Plan ahead while you can, and you'll save yourself stress later.

What skills do you most want Bucknell students to graduate with?

JAMES: The power of compound interest — small savings today can grow exceptionally over time. Start early, and future you will be grateful.

AMBER: For me, it's about having a clear line of reasoning for financial decisions. In auditing, that means backing up every conclusion with evidence. In life, that means thinking critically about how you spend or invest money. That kind of critical thinking — what a Bucknell education is all about — applies far beyond the classroom.

'BURG AND BEYOND

'It Made Me a Better Person and Student'

How Lexi Rhoads '26 turned a semester abroad into a lasting educational experience

by KATIE NEITZ

When **Lexi Rhoads '26** decided to study abroad, she wanted more than a travel experience. She wanted to serve a community. "I wanted to understand another culture and do something that mattered," she says.

Rhoads, a double-major in economics and political science, found that Bucknell in Ghana offered the kind of immersive, challenging experience she was looking for. She took the extra step of securing an internship with the Larabanga Project, an initiative launched by Professor Nina Banks, economics, that focuses on expanding educational resources in Ghana. The project was funded through Bucknell's Campus-Community Collaborative Engaged Research Grant and involves a partnership with the Larabanga Women and Children Empowerment Association.

Building Community

Before arriving, she researched the local school system, organized a book drive on campus and in her hometown of Reading, Pa., and purchased additional books to ensure that reading materials were culturally relevant. Rhoads also created a database of potential donors and partner universities to help sustain the project.



One of Rhoads' most meaningful moments came when she handed a teacher a stack of textbooks. "She almost cried with emotion," Rhoads says.

A New Perspective

The experience reshaped how she learns. "I think more critically now," she says. "I think about whose voices are missing and what perspectives aren't being represented. Ghana showed me that change doesn't have to wait until you have a degree. You can make an impact now."

▲
Lexi Rhoads '26 (left) with Ibraim Fatawu, head coordinator of the Larabanga Learning Center in Ghana.

CONTINUING THE WORK

Two Bucknell engineering students, **Alessia Cusick '26** and **Rhodenischelah Limage '26**, who were also part of the Bucknell in Ghana spring 2025 cohort, were inspired by their visit to Larabanga and are now designing a clean water system for the community as part of their Senior Design project. The hope is that future Bucknell students in disciplines such as marketing, education, economics and sociology will be able to participate in study abroad programs in Larabanga, continuing the cycle of learning and service. Learn more at bucknell.edu/bucknell-seniors-engineer-solutions-critical-water-needs

RHOADS' LIBRARY DRIVE

150+	60+
BOOKS COLLECTED	CLASSROOM TEXTBOOKS DONATED

Photo: James T. Giffen (inset); Brooke Corpuz '26

LEADING THE HERD

In the Zone on the Green

After a standout rookie season, Sophia Bardunias '28 heads into her second year with poise and a steady swing

by BRYAN WENDELL | photography by JAMES T. GIFFEN



ON THE FINAL hole at the 2025 Patriot League Golf Championship, **Sophia Bardunias '28** faced a long, curling putt as teammates and families circled the green. It capped a historic fall 2025 season for the Bucknell women's golf team, with three tournament victories. A mishit earlier had left her in a tough spot — now everything depended on this one shot. “They couldn't see the hole, so nobody reacted until I walked up and picked the ball out,” she says. “Then the cheering started.”

That moment captures Bardunias' first year at Bucknell: calm and composed, even when things didn't go perfectly. A few weeks earlier, she tied for first at the Intercollegiate at Prospect Bay — while playing with a sprained wrist. “Finishing well with an injury reinstalled my confidence,” she says. By season's end, the San Ramon, Calif., native earned First Team All-Patriot League honors.

Bardunias credits perspective for her poise. “I pray on the course. Golf isn't the end-all, be-all.” Her pre-shot routine is simple: get the distance, take two practice swings, pick a spot a few feet ahead, step in and commit. “I tell myself, ‘Straight,

fairway; straight, fairway.’ Into greens, it's ‘Green, pin, straight.’ Then I swing.”

Her path into golf began at age 6, when she tried her dad's club. She honed her game with PGA Tour Champions pro David Frost at the PURE Insurance Open, making her first hole-in-one at Pebble Beach. In high school, she earned first-team all-league honors twice while leading an unbeaten team to the state tournament for the first time in 16 years.

Bardunias calls women's golf “the most low-key team on campus” — small, tight and supportive. Early lifts end at Starbucks, van rides include “rose and thorn” debriefs and a contest for the weekend's worst shot, a light-hearted way to move past mistakes.

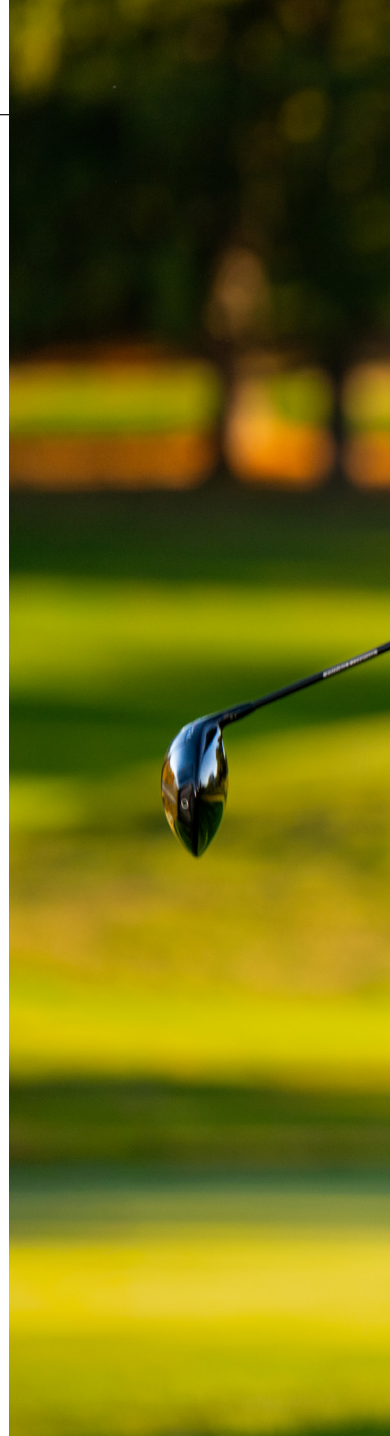
A business analytics major with a minor in markets, innovation & design, Bardunias works in the Freeman College of Management's Experiential Learning office and is studying for the Securities Industry Essentials exam. Her favorite course, Management 101, partners with a local nonprofit. “I'm vice president of communications, making sure a 130-page deliverable comes together on time,” she says.

On and off the green, that composure under pressure fuels her success.



Sophia Bardunias '28, a business analytics major, values the practical skills she has learned in Management 101.

Sophia Bardunias '28 was named a Patriot League First Team All-League member during her first season at Bucknell.





BISON EXCELLENCE

Academic honors, conference recognition and a standout runner-up finish highlighted the Bison's 2024–25 season

11

student-athletes earned Academic All-Patriot League honors in the fall

25

student-athletes were selected to All-Conference teams across fall sports

PATRIOT LEAGUE PLAYERS OF THE YEAR



Kira Leclercq '26 was named Field Hockey Defensive Player of the Year for the second year in a row



Drew Roskos '28 was named Men's Soccer Offensive Player of the Year



Jackson Sullivan '26 was named Men's Soccer Defensive Player of the Year



Women's cross-country finished as Patriot League runner-up, the program's best result since 2019

Shaelan McNally '28 placed second individually at the Patriot League Championship

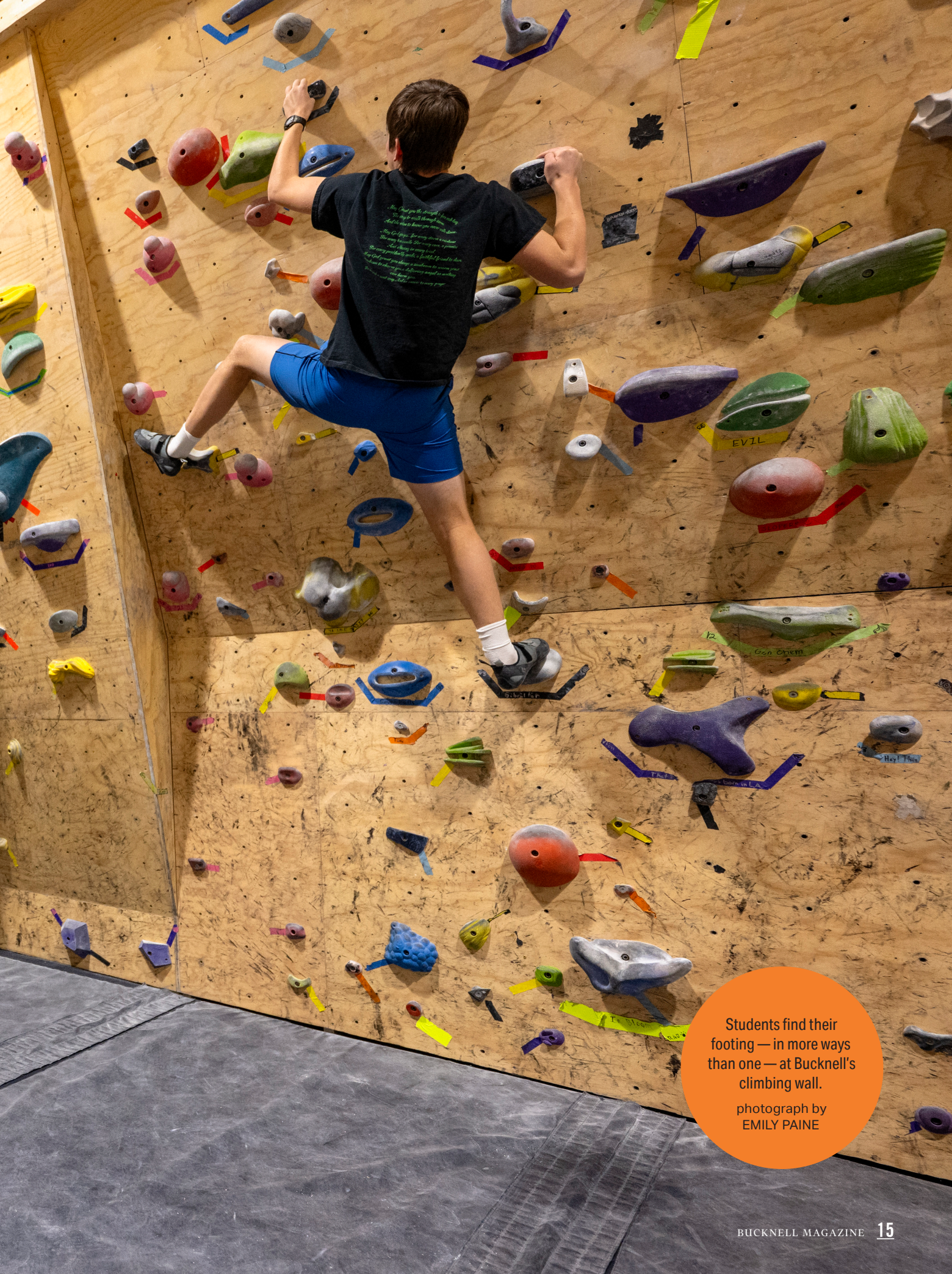
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*After, Climb you the strength of the hand
To try to reach through the
And to know you are not alone
The Climb you the strength of the hand
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And to know you are not alone
The Climb you the strength of the hand
To try to reach through the
And to know you are not alone*

Students find their footing — in more ways than one — at Bucknell's climbing wall.
photograph by EMILY PAINE

NAVIGATING ECONOMIC *Shockwaves*

When global crises threaten to upend the economy, **CHAD BOWN '94** helps the world understand what comes next

by DAN DUPONT
photography by SAM LEVITAN PHOTOGRAPHY



Chad Bown '94 has spent his career helping policymakers understand how global crises ripple through trade and supply chains.

S

hortly after March 11, 2011, as Japan's Fukushima nuclear disaster unfolded, **Chad Bown '94** was ushered into the White House Situation Room. The question on the table wasn't whether the crisis would spread, but how — and how far.

Bown's task was to run the numbers — to diagnose how a meltdown half a world away might move through global supply chains and affect the U.S. economy. With the country just emerging from a financial crisis, the stakes were high.

"This was really the first 'big one' that kind of put the idea on the map that something really far away could feed through supply chains and end up hurting the United States," he says.

Since then, Bown has become one of the nation's most trusted experts on international trade, supply chains and economic policy, called upon by presidents, policymakers and the media. Known for a data-driven, nonpartisan approach, he has shaped how the U.S. understands global economic shocks, from financial crises and trade wars to pandemics and chip shortages. At the core of it all is a Bucknell-trained instinct not just to analyze the world, but to explain it.

A CRASH COURSE IN ECONOMICS

When Bown arrived in Lewisburg in fall 1990, he didn't know what a tariff was. A year abroad as a young teen had triggered an interest in international affairs, but his path wasn't clear. It was Bucknell's Residential College program that began to define it. After participating in the living-learning community as a first-year student, the international relations and economics double-major returned as a junior fellow in what was then known as the International College (where he also met **Rebecca Ross-Bown '95**, whom he later married in Rooke Chapel).

"That was a huge part of my Bucknell experience," he says. "We organized events to help people understand exciting, real-world events happening at the time. It became my community. And because of my professors, I knew I wanted to get a Ph.D. in economics and be just like them."

After a junior year abroad, with stints in France and England, Bown returned to campus, graduated and earned a doctorate in international trade from the University of Wisconsin—Madison.

He began what he thought would be a lifelong career, joining the faculty at Brandeis University to



Chad Bown '94 addresses global leaders at the World Economic Forum in 2024.

teach economics. A fellowship year at the Brookings Institution opened his eyes to policy work in Washington, D.C., followed by a sabbatical at the World Trade Organization in Geneva. He also consulted with the World Bank, working with his students to create a first-of-its-kind database of trade policy moves made by countries around the world.

The World Bank asked him to update the database once, then again, then every quarter amid a global financial crisis that began in 2008. Worldwide trade had collapsed, and no one was quite sure why.

At that "scary time," Bown said, he made a monumental decision to give up tenure at Brandeis, uproot his family and head to Washington, D.C.

"Rebecca was amazing," he says. "She's a lawyer, and our twins were three at the time. She is adventurous, but even she must have been thinking, 'This could really go wrong.'"

Her support made it possible to press ahead. "I thought, 'This is what I spent my whole career preparing for,'" he says. "If I could be useful, I want to be useful. So I went to the World Bank."

Before long, the White House came calling.

GLOBAL SHAKEUPS

In the days following the Fukushima nuclear disaster, Bown — then a senior economist for the Council of Economic Advisers, on loan from the World Bank — was called into the Situation Room. It was the kind

of out-of-the-box scenario that many people believed couldn't happen. But in Bown's career, he learned to expect the unexpected.

In 2016, Bown joined the Peterson Institute for International Economics, a think tank, and turned his attention to another improbable event: Brexit. As the United Kingdom voted to leave the European Union, he became one of the most sought-after American experts on something he and many others thought would never occur.

But another 2016 shock forced Bown to push even Brexit aside: the election of Donald Trump, which brought a monumental shift in trade policy. He analyzed and sought to explain the new president's tariffs, trade war with China and novel approach to trade negotiations. He also co-founded the weekly economics podcast *Trade Talks*.

The final year of Trump's first term began with the U.S. and China signing what the president called a "historical trade deal," committing China to dramatically increase purchases of U.S. exports, including agricultural products. As a self-proclaimed "nerd who likes to work with data" and a firm believer in government transparency, Bown set out to track whether those obligations were being met. "I think it's important to hold political leaders accountable," he explains. "We had an election coming up, and I wanted to make sure that there was an independent assessment of how close China was to meeting its purchase commitments."

As the results trickled in, Bown saw that China was falling short of its targets. He published the findings using publicly available government data. While some administration officials questioned the results, journalists and researchers took notice.

"People came to rely on our numbers and said, 'We'll trust you; you're transparent,'" he says. For Bown, it was simply a matter of following the data.

LESSONS IN TRADE

When Bown arrived at the State Department in January 2024 as chief economist, he saw his role as an extension of his life's work: studying international trade and helping others understand why it matters. "I felt like my job at the State Department was to teach," he says. He thought many of the Biden

administration's policies "made a lot of sense," but "they were not being explained very well in terms of the underlying economics."

That clarity mattered as the State Department engaged with the post-pandemic world. He stepped in to educate foreign counterparts about how the world's largest economy was adapting. "I took that on as a challenge — to contribute, to help," he says. "Other countries may disagree with what you're doing, but at least you want to have the conversation about what it is that we're actually doing."

As questions about international trade abound in the second Trump administration, Bown remains focused on tracking and explaining it. He's laying out what he's

"I didn't come to Lewisburg thinking I wanted to be a teacher. But seeing my professors bring big, complex ideas to life — and make their students care about them — made me realize I wanted to do the same."

learned in a new book, *How to Win a Trade War*, set for release in May by Simon & Schuster, co-written with *Financial Times* columnist and economist Soumaya Keynes, his former podcast co-host.

The title, he notes, is "very tongue-in-cheek" for two economists who believe "nobody wins from a trade war." The authors seek to "explain how we got here to a lay audience, not experts, and we really want people to have fun with it."

In a way, he's still teaching. He hopes readers will "come out the other side feeling smarter about understanding what it is that's going on."

And for Bown, it all traces back to Bucknell.

"I didn't come to Lewisburg thinking I wanted to be a teacher," he says, "but seeing my professors bring big, complex ideas to life — and make their students care about them — made me realize I wanted to do the same." ■

Defining the Economy

As terms like "inflation," "recession" and "trade war" dominate headlines, the language of economics has become part of everyday life. Professor Matías Vernengo, economics, director of the Bucknell Institute for Public Policy, is helping shape how that language is understood. Vernengo serves as co-editor-in-chief of the forthcoming edition of *The New Palgrave Dictionary of Economics*, a leading global reference work cataloging centuries of economic thought. The new edition will be published in 2027. — Mike Ferlazzo



THE LONG GAME

Longevity is dictated by more than luck or genes. Bucknellians are demonstrating how the ways we live, move and connect with each other shape health and vitality long before old age arrives.

by MATT JONES

Natalie Smith Grabow '67 is a master of the long game. She didn't begin competing in triathlons until age 59 — and at 80, she became the oldest woman ever to finish the grueling, 140.6-mile Ironman World Championship triathlon.

Photo: The IRONMAN Group / Finisherpix.com





Like most clichés, there’s a sliver of truth to the claim that age is just a number — or more precisely, that chronological age is. It reveals how long you have been alive. It says nothing of the health of your cells at the molecular level, nor does it capture how old you feel — not your biological machinery, but the unquantifiable vibe that undergirds your perception of self.

In the United States, we can drive at 16, vote at 18 and retire in our 60s — but these markers don’t capture the true variability of aging. A 2025 study even redefined adolescence as ages 9–32 and adulthood as 32–66, underscoring that chronological age is an imperfect measure of life stage.

There is no single, comprehensive measure of age — and that uncertainty is precisely where new thinking about longevity begins.

Aging is often framed as a decline. However, Bucknellian researchers, policymakers and practitioners are reframing it as something else: a lifelong process shaped as much by mindset, environment and social structures as by biology.

From seabirds whose cells seem to resist aging to human communities navigating inequality, caregiving and dementia, their work suggests that longevity isn’t about luck or genetics alone. It’s shaped by choices and conditions that begin long before old age.



AGING IS FOR THE BIRDS

On a chain of islands in the North Atlantic, there lives a bird that doesn't age. Well, this is only true in a highly technical sense. Because the bird isn't immortal. It doesn't live forever. It, as with all things on this earth — excepting, perhaps, some jellyfish species — eventually dies. What is perhaps more accurate to say is that this particular bird defies conventional scientific wisdom about the process of aging.

"I've spent my career studying a seabird called the Leach's storm-petrel," says Mark Haussmann, the Russell-Childers Professor in the Laboratory Sciences and professor of biology. "What's interesting about these little birds is that they're about the size of a mouse, but whereas a mouse might only live one year in the wild, these birds can live up to 40 years."

Haussmann's work with the storm-petrels began with measuring the birds' telomeres, regions of repetitive DNA sequences at the ends of chromosomes that he likens to aglets at the ends of a shoelace. "Those plastic caps on the end of your shoelaces keep your shoelaces from unraveling. Telomeres basically do the same thing for our DNA. They stabilize it. They protect it."

Each time a cell divides, telomeres shorten slightly. Eventually, the telomeres become so short that the cell can no longer divide safely, leading to a change in the cell's behavior and, eventually, its death. This

In pursuit of answers about human aging, Bucknell students are studying a small seabird with an extraordinary lifespan.

process, known as cellular senescence, occurs in humans, mice, goats, dolphins and elephants alike. For this reason, telomere length has long been regarded as a reliable biomarker of aging.

"One thing that I discovered during my Ph.D. is that short-lived species, whether that be a mouse, lizard or bird, will have rapid telomere shortening," says Haussmann. "But long-lived species do a better job maintaining their telomeres. And some species, like these storm-petrels, actually appear to have telomeres that lengthen over time."

In a world decidedly simpler than the one we inhabit, you might infer that within the microscopic cells of these seemingly insignificant birds lies the fountain of youth — and you wouldn't be alone. "One of the things I learned right away about going to aging conferences as a graduate student is that they are not only attended by scientists," says Haussmann. "There are also businesses and startups looking to turn these research findings into regenerative medicines."

However, what's good for the goose is not necessarily good for the gander. Or rather, what is true for slight, pelagic seabirds is not true for the person who studies them. In humans, telomeres that don't shorten fast enough are actually commonly associated with a range of benign and malignant tumors. As it turns out, cancer cells also rely on maintaining telomeres to sustain cellular division.

Of course, telomere length is but one indicator of biological age. While it is a given that telomeres



THE PRIME OF HER LIFE

More than 1,600 women competed in the 2025 Ironman World Championship in Kona, Hawaii, though only a single female competitor entered the 80–84 age category.

“There are very few women in the world racing at my age,” says Natalie Smith Grabow ’67, whose participation marked her 16th time competing in an event composed of a 2.4-mile swim, a 112-mile bike ride and a 26.2-mile run.

Grabow has been active throughout her adult life, often playing tennis and running in her spare time, but her introduction to triathlons came at 59.

“My daughter and I signed up for a short sprint triathlon together, and she did the swim portion because I still didn’t know how to swim. I did the bike and the run,” Grabow says. “I immediately loved all of the people and the energy and everything about it.”

Once she learned to swim, it wasn’t long before she graduated to Olympic triathlons and, eventually, Half Ironmans, which total 70.3 miles in distance.

At 80, Grabow is focused on balancing her training volume with staying injury free. Her bike workouts are done indoors on a trainer, and almost all her runs are on the soft surface of the local track, ranging from 30 minutes to over two hours. Her swimming venue of choice is her local YMCA in northern New Jersey.

For her, triathlon competitions have less to do with winning and more with nurturing her sense of well-being.

“If you keep physically strong and active, I think it helps with your mental state and your spirit,” she says. “I also



Natalie Smith Grabow '67 during the marathon of the 2025 Ironman World Championship in Hawaii.

think it’s good for kids to see that somebody their grandmother’s age can do this, and they can aspire to do things now and long into the future.” — Matt Jones

shorten over time, the rate at which that happens depends on a variety of factors, some in and some out of our control. The lesson of the storm-petrel is not that humans can outsmart aging at the cellular level. It’s that aging is far more complex — and context-dependent — than once believed.

HOW TO MEASURE A LIFE

The human lifespan, which is the maximum time a member of a population has been documented to survive between birth and death, is pegged at around 120 years. This is because of a woman named Jeanne Louise Calment, who was an infant when Alexander Graham Bell invented a prototype of the telephone and who survived into the age of the internet, a 122-year span.

Human life expectancy is something different altogether. It can’t be encapsulated in a single figure; instead, it depends on factors such as gender, lifestyle choices, socioeconomic background, and when and where you were born.

“There’s a study that Allegheny County performed a couple of years ago, and it found that there is a 24-year difference in life expectancy from one census tract to another,” says **Ray Prushnok ’01**, executive director for the University of Pittsburgh Medical Center’s (UPMC) Center for Social Impact. “That makes you wonder what is driving these differences.”

Prushnok, who majored in economics and international relations at Bucknell, built a career in community organizing and public policy, including serving as deputy secretary and acting secretary for the Pennsylvania Department of Aging, before joining UPMC in 2011.

“One of the big ways that my thinking and learning really evolved is in realizing that aging is something that starts before you’re even born,” he says. “Everything from prenatal nutrition and maternal health can have lifelong impacts.”

Prushnok’s work with the Center for Social Impact focuses primarily on social determinants of health, or non-medical factors. These include economic stability and access to food and housing, as well as educational background, community relationships and the physical environment. Growing up in a neighborhood with high levels of air or water pollution, the stress of poverty or demanding labor, lacking access to a nutritious diet — these are “the slings and arrows of outrageous fortune” that compound over time to whittle away at a life.

In the same way it is impossible for an individual to casually observe the length of their own telomeres, so too is it challenging to quantify and measure how our everyday environment, behaviors and beliefs about aging are either prolonging or contracting our own lives.

AGE LIVES IN THE BODY — AND THE MIND

If there's one thing Professor Lisa Stone-Bury, psychology, has learned over the course of her career, it's that there are a lot of fears and misconceptions about what it means to get older. "Aging stereotypes are pretty pervasive, and they tend to take hold at a very young age," she says.

Stone-Bury, who runs the Aging, Personality and Psychopathology Lab on campus, specializes in geropsychology, which applies the principles and methods of psychology to older adults. Her research focuses broadly on how biological, psychological and social conditions intermingle to affect mental health challenges in an aging population. However, it's her work in the classroom that involves unpacking these stereotypes, where they come from and their tangible effects on our lives.



"On average, the perception of aging in American culture is quite negative," Stone-Bury says.

She notes it's shaped by cultural norms and media portrayals that depict older adults as isolated or debilitated. The phrase "over the hill" suggests a lifespan in the shape of a bell curve: a youthful ascent, a peak in the middle and a rapid decline toward the finish line.

"These beliefs about aging can have some really negative consequences," says Stone-Bury, citing a landmark study from 2002. "In a large, national probability sample, research showed that on average, if folks are endorsing more negative beliefs about aging earlier in their lives, then they die seven and a half years earlier than those who endorse more positive conceptions of aging."

Positive beliefs about aging don't act as a talisman that wards off disease, injury and loss, but negative expectations can discourage people from being proactive about their health.

Aging brings challenges, and the booming \$50 billion anti-aging market reflects a desire to slow or reverse it. But lifestyle interventions — while helpful — cannot fully prevent the natural effects of getting older.

OLD AGE, WITHOUT STIGMA

When it comes to living a long and healthy life, it is worth noting that individual choices are only a part of a somewhat mystifying equation. Sometimes, we face obstacles beyond our control.



Professor Lisa Stone-Bury (far right) and students analyze aging messages — from birthday cards to media.



For Susan Hamilton McFadden '70, M'73, meaningful aging means creating spaces where people can thrive socially and creatively.



“It’s certainly possible to live a healthy life into older adulthood,” says **Susan Hamilton McFadden ’70, M’73**, professor emerita of psychology at the University of Wisconsin-Oshkosh and co-founder of Fox Valley Memory Project (FVMP). “But there is also the possibility of developing some type of dementia. Even then, my argument is that life can still be meaningful and full of joy.”

McFadden built her career in academic gerontology. It was upon nearing retirement in 2011 that she shifted her focus to dementia.

After hearing about memory cafes started by British Rotary Clubs, she and her husband, **John ’70**, drove nearly 900 miles across England visiting church basements and senior centers to learn more about how memory cafes operated. “The idea is that they provide a space for people with memory loss and their care partners to gather with others who understand what they’re going through.”

The experience wasn’t just eye-opening. McFadden saw in England’s memory cafes something she wanted to replicate back home. So, in 2012, she co-founded FVMP, a nonprofit that

offers programs and services for people living with dementia in northeast Wisconsin. FVMP offers 13 memory cafes across a four-county area, each providing two hours of creative programming and social interaction once or twice per month.

“We don’t just sit there talking about dementia,” she says. “We sing, we do poetry, we do art.”

One of the overarching goals of memory cafes is to function as a stigma-free space.

“There’s an idea out there that if you’re not running and active and having parties, then you’re somehow failing at aging,” says McFadden. “And that can create a stigma that leads to loneliness, isolation and withdrawal from friends and society so as not to be a burden.”

No one is immune to the risks of dementia, and no current medical treatment ensures its prevention. Of course, medical science is always advancing. Pharmaceutical trials and scientific breakthroughs offer hope for the future.

But aging itself is universal.

Old age comes for us all eventually – and if we’re fortunate, it brings the opportunity to keep finding meaning, connection and joy along the way. ■

John McFadden '70 and his wife, Susan '70, M'73, give their time to Fox Valley Memory Project, supporting seniors with memory loss.



Photos: Jeff Miller

The Sweet

Founded in 1896 as *The Orange and Blue*, Bucknell's student-run newspaper became *The Bucknellian* in 1915.



Spots



Research shows students thrive in ‘third places’ — hubs where connection and community fuel well-being, academic engagement and a stronger sense of purpose. At Bucknell, several spaces across campus have become just that.

by **KATIE NEITZ**

photography by
EMILY PAINE and JAMES T. GIFFEN



‘THE BUCKNELLIAN’

Where stories — and friendships — take shape

The second-floor newsroom of Stuck House carries a quiet momentum as *The Bucknellian* editors and writers settle in to shape the next issue.

It’s Wednesday night — production night. Keyboards clatter and conversations murmur, forming a steady rhythm as drafts are read and layouts refined.

“Having a cohesive production night, where everyone works together, means we can all support each other,” says Editor-in-Chief and News Editor **Lindsay Beier ’27**, a double-major in linguistics and psychology.

Nights stretch late, sometimes into the early hours of Thursday, alive with a mix of focused quiet, bursts of laughter and lively debates over Oxford commas and em-dashes.

Students from all majors find their way here. “When I was a first-year student, this is where I met upperclassmen who helped me find my footing. It made campus feel smaller, friendlier,” says Special Features Editor **Hayley Leopold ’26**, a double-major in economics and psychology.

“Writing can be isolating,” says Print Managing Editor **Esther Zhao ’27**, a double-major in English — creative writing and Spanish. “But here, you’re surrounded by people who care about words, and each other.”



OUTDOOR EDUCATION & LEADERSHIP

Seeking adventure, together

On any given weekend, students head off campus to camp, boulder or paddle, guided by Outdoor Education & Leadership (OEL) guides who create an environment where everyone feels welcome. For those seeking adventure closer to home, OEL runs a climbing wall in Gerhard Fieldhouse, offering an easy way to build skills and community.

"We don't want there to be any barriers," says **Elio Dzhurbiy '28**, a history and German double-major, who had little outdoor experience when he first came to Bucknell. Now he's all in. "You don't need any experience. We'll teach you. Everyone should feel comfortable joining. No one will judge you here."

That sense of welcome begins at OEL Basecamp, housed inside Tustin Hall. Here, student leaders plan trips, loan out

equipment and socialize. Couches invite conversation, shelves are stocked with gear, a Keurig buzzes in the corner and the snack shelf never seems to run empty.

The program supplies everything — from rain jackets to camp stoves to sleeping bags — so no one is left behind. The result is a group as varied as the terrain they explore.

Off campus and often off the grid, OEL trips foster a rare togetherness. Without cellphones or earbuds, conversations flow as students navigate trails, build campfires or celebrate a birthday under the stars.

"OEL is such a good social outlet," Dzhurbiy says. "It's nice to take a break from homework and connect with others while connecting with nature."



Bucknell's climbing wall averages 100 student visits each week and is expected to reach 2,000 visits by the end of the academic year.



During the 2025-26 academic year, both OEL's Rental and Outfitting Center and the Bison Bikes program saw strong use, with more than 100 gear rentals and more than 300 bike rentals, respectively.





Founded in 1974, Bucknell's Mudsharks practice twice a week and compete on weekends year-round.





ULTIMATE FRISBEE

Mud, momentum and making the catch

When a new Mudshark makes their first full dive, the field erupts.

"Everybody gets so excited, especially if you do it in the end zone," says **Leah Carlson '27**, a mathematics major. There's always a moment of hesitation before that first leap — but once the disc lands in your hands, "you get hooked."

For Carlson and **Aiden Kamm '26**, co-captains of the Mudsharks, Bucknell's ultimate Frisbee team, that rush is only part of what keeps them coming back. Both arrived on campus with athletics backgrounds but weren't looking for the intensity of Division I sports. What they hoped for was camaraderie and competition — and they found both in the Mudsharks.

"We play year-round, so it's a really consistent part of our life here," says Kamm, an economics and political science double-major.

The team, once mostly male, is now a strong coed group, and this year, a women's-only squad — the Peacefrogs — returned after a post-pandemic pause.

No experience is required. "The first few weeks, we spend a lot of time helping people learn to throw," Kamm says. By season's end, those beginners often become standout players, diving with the same enthusiasm as seasoned veterans.

Weekend tournaments deepen those bonds. Early-morning drives to other schools, coffee in hand, collective exhaustion and easy laughter — the connections forged on the field spill quickly into everyday life.

Many teammates end up living together, and ultimate often becomes the center of their Bucknell social world. Long after the mud washes off, the connections stay.





BUCKNELL THEATRE AND DANCE

Where students share the spotlight

Sometimes, students wander by Harvey M. Powers Theatre and pause at the sound of '80s classics spilling into the hallway. They peek in, and Mark "Hutch" Hutchinson, technical coordinator and theatre co-director, greets them warmly: "Want a job?" And just like that, they find their way into Bucknell's theatre program.

Here, every student can belong — performing on stage, crafting sets in the workshop, designing costumes or supporting productions behind the scenes. Experience is optional; enthusiasm counts.

"He'll find a role for anyone," says **Brenna Eckhart '27**, a mechanical engineering major and theatre design & technology minor. "He made me feel welcome from day one."

The theatre's green room serves as both prep space and hangout, where students eat lunch, enjoy Hutch's home-baked bread or even take a nap.

▲ Mark "Hutch" Hutchinson (right) makes sure every student who's interested finds a place in Bucknell theatre.

Roman Neidinger '29 discovered theatre unexpectedly. The biology major joined at the urging of hallmates who needed backstage help. "It immediately eased my worry about finding friends," he says. The positive experience inspired Neidinger to audition for his first show, something he never expected to do.

Traditions like "bucket speeches," where seniors stand on a paint bucket and reflect on their years in theatre, offer newcomers a glimpse of how deeply this community shapes the people in it.

Productions such as *Sense and Sensibility*, with intricate sets on wheels and layered technical details, showcase the collaborative effort: student directors, stage managers and crew working alongside faculty to bring a vision to life. Theatre's social club, Cap and Dagger, organizes events — apple picking, pumpkin carving, fire pits — that extend the bonds formed on stage into everyday life.

Teamwork takes center stage for every theatre performance, including the fall 2025 production of *Sense and Sensibility*.





SUSTAINABLE ENERGY TRANSITION AND DECARBONIZATION LAB

A hub for learning and belonging

In Professor Jude Okolie's chemical engineering lab, students tackle complex sustainability challenges that demand creativity, precision and problem-solving. Projects range from optimizing biofuel yield and quality with AI to developing methods for upcycling lithium batteries. Each project tackles critical questions in energy and sustainability.

Yet the lab is more than a place for experimentation. With as many as 14 students working on distinct but interconnected projects, it has become a space where mentorship and teamwork help students navigate the demands of research.

Weekly Friday gatherings — where students share updates on their projects — and occasional group dinners extend that sense of community beyond the lab bench.

For **My Ly '27**, a mechanical engineering major who transferred to Bucknell as a Community College Scholar in 2025, that environment made a big difference.

"Although I was coming to Bucknell with a lot of positive energy, I knew that I'd need a community to feel integrated,"

she says. "Being part of this lab opened my eyes to how much engineering really is teamwork ... Little things like that make me feel like, 'OK, I'm not in this alone.' It's collaborative."

Priyanka Poplai '29, a cell biology/biochemistry major, echoes that sentiment.

"When I joined the lab, I was an incoming first-year student with zero lab experience," she says. "But everyone was incredibly welcoming. I had a great peer mentor, and Professor Okolie guided me every step of the way. It helped me see that research is something I can really do."

The lab culture strikes a balance between high expectations and genuine warmth.

"It's definitely productive and fast-paced, but also fun and lighthearted," Poplai says. "We laugh a lot and help each other out."

That environment eases the transition to college and helps students build confidence as both scientists and collaborators.



My Ly '27 (far left) celebrates with her labmates after receiving a national research award.



DANA'S 'FISH BOWL'

A window into a campus community

On the third floor of Dana Engineering is a glass-walled space informally known as the "Fish Bowl." It's a bright, open room where students settle in with laptops, meet for quick problem-solving sessions or pause during a packed day of classes.

"Every time I go in there, there's someone to talk to," says **Leo Menimen '26**, a computer science major. For McMenimen, the Fish Bowl has become a reliable touchpoint — a place for a 10-minute chat or a study session. A steady supply of coffee, tea and protein bars — courtesy of Autumn Wehry, academic assistant for the computer science department — adds to its appeal.

Because it sits just steps from faculty offices, the Fish Bowl naturally encourages informal check-ins with professors, making academic support feel accessible and low pressure. "It creates a real sense of community," says **Ibrahim Tahir '26**, a computer science major.

For first-year students, that sense of belonging can be a turning point. "My first semester was hard," McMenimen says. "Once I started spending time here, it made such a difference. There are people here to help and say, 'It's going to be OK.'" ■



In December, faculty hosted "Pancakes with the Profs" in the Fish Bowl, giving students a tasty study break ahead of finals.

'ray

BUCKNELL

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Students competed to see who could keep their hand on the bison the longest during a Student Affairs-organized Charter Day event on Feb. 5. Temperatures topped out at 29°F.

photograph by
EMILY PAINE





Division I, the Bucknell Way



COLLEGE ATHLETICS looks very different today than it did just a few years ago, as even those who don't closely follow sports are likely aware. Name, image and likeness (NIL) opportunities, revenue sharing, the transfer portal and a series of court decisions have changed the way Division I sports operate.

Universities across the country are working through what those changes will mean for their programs and their student-athletes. At Bucknell, our direction remains steady: We will continue to compete in Division I and uphold the scholar-athlete model that defines our university.

Athletics is a meaningful part of the Bucknell experience. Today, roughly one in five Bucknell students competes in one of our 27 Division I varsity programs — an extraordinary level of participation that reflects the importance of athletics in campus life. Our student-athletes pursue demanding academic programs while competing at the highest level of collegiate sport. That balance — serious academics alongside serious competition — is a defining feature of Bucknell and of our Patriot League peers.

Participation in Division I athletics offers lessons beyond the playing field. Our student-athletes develop discipline, resilience and the ability to pursue long-term goals. They learn teamwork, leadership and persistence. These qualities become part of their Bucknell education and remain with graduates long after their playing days. So many alumni who competed as Bison say those lessons shaped their careers and lives.

Athletics also plays an important role in connecting the University community. Our teams add energy to campus and give Bucknellians a reason to come together — whether in the stands or years later when alumni recall the games they once watched or played. Support from alumni and other donors helps ensure those opportunities continue by funding the scholarships, facilities, coaching and resources that allow our teams to compete and our student-athletes to thrive.

At the same time, the broader environment of Division I athletics has shifted dramatically. In just a few years, NIL deals, the transfer portal and major NCAA court rulings have changed the way college sports operate. At some schools, the money involved — and the way teams are funded — now look much more like professional sports than the traditional college model.

From my vantage point, including my recent service representing the Patriot League on the NCAA Division I Board, I have seen how quickly this environment is evolving. Many questions about the future structure of Division I athletics remain unresolved. What is clear is that institutions like Bucknell operate in a different environment from some of the larger athletics programs in the country. That reality does not diminish Bucknell athletics; rather, it clarifies what makes our approach distinctive.

Our response is not to attempt to replicate those models. Instead, Bucknell and our Patriot League peers remain committed to a model that places education at the center of the student-athlete experience. While our students may pursue NIL opportunities through partnerships and other ventures, we continue to focus on providing student-athletes with a rigorous education and the opportunity to grow as leaders.

That does not mean we lack competitive ambition. Our teams work to succeed in the Patriot League and represent Bucknell with pride. Importantly, we measure success not only by wins, but also by the character, achievements and lifelong impact of our alumni.

As Division I athletics continues to evolve, Bucknell will adapt where necessary, as we always have, but our direction remains clear. We will continue to compete at the highest level, support our student-athletes as scholars and leaders, and do so in a way that reflects University values. Our commitment to excellence in academics and athletics will remain central to our future.

John C. Bravman, President

STAY INFORMED. STAY CONNECTED. 'RAY BUCKNELL!



LISTEN TO THIS

A Podcast Milestone

One insider conversation you won't want to miss

BUCKNELL'S COLLEGE ADMISSIONS INSIDER podcast was launched in 2020 as a collaboration between the admissions and marketing & communications teams to provide prospective students and families with expert, behind-the-scenes insight into the college admissions process.

The podcast reached a major milestone in 2026 with its 100th episode, featuring Bucknell President John Bravman. A first-generation college graduate, Bravman shares his personal story and candid reflections on higher education today. Listen on all major podcast platforms.

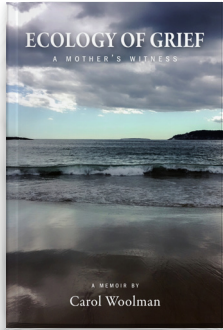
Becca Haupt Aldredge (left), and Brooke Thames co-host Bucknell's College Admissions Insider podcast.



Scan to listen!

The podcast has generated 102,593 downloads as of March 23, 2026, with listeners in 171 countries and territories.

Photo: Emily Paine



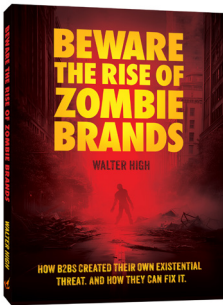
READ THIS

CAROL WOOLMAN '65

Ecology of Grief: A Mother's Witness

Woolman shares the memoir she wishes she had during her own journey through devastating loss. After the death of her 25-year-old son, Woolman — a longtime psychotherapist — began writing as a way to

navigate grief. The result is a deeply compassionate and reflective book that offers comfort, connection and meaning for those experiencing profound sorrow. (Maine Authors Publishing, 2025)

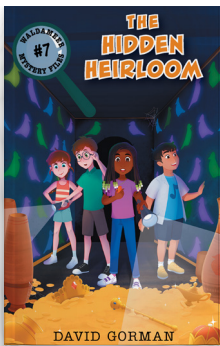


WALTER HIGH '79

Beware the Rise of Zombie Brands

Using zombies as a metaphor and comic book illustrations, this business marketing book explores how B2Bs risk becoming indistinguishable "zombie" brands, ignoring marketing at their peril. It's a fresh take on a critical business

topic. High, who double-majored in economics and studio art, is the founder and chief creative officer of OpticsMarketing.biz, a creative marketing agency. (High Impact Publishing, 2025)

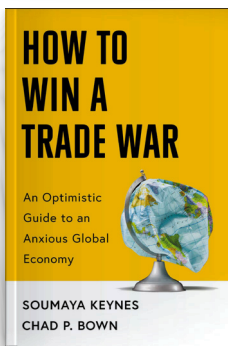


DAVID GORMAN '13

The Hidden Heirloom and The Ferris Wheel Fright

Gorman continues his popular middle-grade mystery series with the publication of the seventh and eighth installments in Waldameer Mystery Files. Inspired by Gorman's life growing up at his family's

amusement park, the series follows a group of young detectives as they solve spooky mysteries. Gorman is a middle school counselor who majored in English — creative writing. (FriesenPress, 2025 & 2026)



CHAD BOWN '94

How to Win a Trade War

Written for a general audience, this accessible and engaging book blends economic insight with a playful, approachable tone. Co-written with *Financial Times* columnist Soumaya Keynes, it draws on Bown's

background (see P. 16) and takes a tongue-in-cheek approach rooted in the belief that trade wars have no winners. (Simon & Schuster, 2026)



**EDGAR SHIELDS,
CLASS OF 1901**

Witness to Revolution

This documentary, available on Amazon Prime and Tubi, explores Shields' photographs from the 1911-12 Chinese Revolution, which were featured in the Summer 2019 *Bucknell Magazine* story "A Lens on China." The physician served as a medical missionary from 1909 to 1915, during which time he captured daily life and historic culture.

**BUCKNELL'S NEW
YOUTUBE SERIES**

Bucknell Breakdowns: Professors React

Bucknell has launched a new YouTube series in which faculty weigh in on pop culture moments, using their academic expertise to separate fact from fiction. The first two episodes explore the science behind two unlikely topics: the botanical possibilities of magical plants in the Harry Potter universe and the chemistry behind Walter White's coffee brewing in *Breaking Bad*. A third examines the math of baseball strategy, inspired by *Moneyball*. The videos are available on Bucknell's YouTube channel.



Scan to watch!

SHARE YOUR WORK WITH US

Bucknellians, have you recently published a book, launched a podcast, released a film or developed an app? We'd love to hear about it! Send your news to bmagazine@bucknell.edu



“SOJKA PAVILION. I LOVED PLAYING FLUTE IN THE BISON BAND AT SOJKA DURING ALL OF THE HOME BASKETBALL GAMES AND CHEERING ON OUR GREAT TEAM WITH MY FELLOW BUCKNELL MUSICIANS. GO BISON!”

MORGAN THOMAS '23



The **Bertrand Library** is iconic in my memories. Scoring one of the few tables on the first floor right behind the floating staircase where you could see who was entering the library and then watching who was going upstairs was the best place to be on a Monday–Thursday evening, well before 'Reality TV' was a thing. There was very little studying that happened at those tables but so much fun socializing!”

JENNIFER LEITH '94



CROWDSOURCED

WHICH BUCKNELL BUILDING HOLDS YOUR FAVORITE MEMORY?



“Undoubtedly, our beloved **DANA ENGINEERING BUILDING** was our second home during our studies — and many times even our first! So many sweet and diverse memories, enriching discussions and deep learnings.”

ALBERT PALOMAR MEDARDE M'06



Tustin! I had the opportunity to take a variety of dance classes in the dance studio: Jazz, Modern, Ballet, Chinese Watersleeves, Advanced Technique & Training, Dance Composition, Rehearsal & Performance — taught by fellow students, faculty and guest artists! I also spent countless hours in the studio and the black box rehearsing and performing for the Dance Showcase. This was probably the building I spent the most time in during my four years at Bucknell and made so many wonderful memories that I hold close to me, even 10 years later!”

STACEY CARPENY '16

ANSWER THIS

If your college years were a movie, what would the title be — and why?

Join our LinkedIn community to stay in touch, share feedback and respond to future prompts:
[linkedin.com/school/bucknell-university](https://www.linkedin.com/school/bucknell-university)



Recognize yourself or the Bucknellians in this photo? We'd love to hear from you. Share your nostalgic story with us at bmagazine@bucknell.edu

CAPTION CONTEST

**Compose a clever caption.
Our favorites will win a cool
Bucknell T-shirt.**

BMAGAZINE@BUCKNELL.EDU

**SUBMIT
A PHOTO**

Have a vintage Bucknell image that deserves captioning? Send high-resolution images to bmagazine@bucknell.edu for consideration.

**Update
Your
Email**



As part of ongoing efforts to strengthen cybersecurity, Bucknell will retire all alumni Bmail accounts and associated Google services effective July 1. Alumni are encouraged to transition any important emails or files to a personal account before the change takes effect.

WITTY WINNERS

Here are our favorite caption submissions from the fall issue:

"1, 2, 3, 4, 5...SIX-SEVEN!
SIX-SEVVVVEN!
GET IT? GET IT, GUYS?"

Jen Winhofer Green '00

"It's a little-known fact that Bucknell students invented the game of rock-paper-scissors."

Lawrence Diehl '71

"Thrilled to learn about their long life-lines in the new palm reading class."

Jaclyn Turner '05

"The fortune teller says that this line means I'm going to be rich!"

Mary Comly '82

"HEY! I KNOW THESE RULES LIKE THE 'BACK' OF MY HAND!"

Amy Gamache-Wilson '83

"ON THE FIRST HUT, RUN THE SCATTER PATTERN!"

Howard Kendall '69



MARK YOUR CALENDAR

Reunion Weekend is May 29-31

Make new memories while reliving the old

REUNION WEEKEND IS a cherished Bucknell tradition, bringing alumni home to celebrate together. Join us for a weekend filled with reconnecting with classmates, engaging with students and faculty, attending educational sessions and participating in recreational activities.

Classes ending in 1 or 6 are invited back to Bucknell's campus May 29-31, and emeritus classes — those who graduated more than 50 years ago — celebrate annually.

Registration is now open: bucknell.edu/reunion

ALUMNI HONOREES

The Bucknell University Alumni Association Awards reception and ceremony will take place at 1 p.m. May 30 in Holmes Hall's Lobby. This year's award recipients are:

Loyalty to Bucknell Award

Barbara Gasper '76
Gasper built a 21-year corporate career from steel mill supervisor to corporate treasurer. She then served Bucknell as an alumni board officer while also endowing the Gasper/

Peterec Study Abroad Scholarship.

Service to Humanity Award

John C. Uhler '66

Uhler spent 56 years in public service as U.S. attorney, district attorney and common pleas judge, founding the award-winning JUMP Wellness Court for juveniles and a statewide model truancy program.

Outstanding Achievement in a Chosen Profession

Christine Peterjohn Richards '76

Richards clerked for a

U.S. Magistrate before joining FedEx, where she rose to executive vice president and general counsel overseeing global legal and compliance operations.

Young Alumni Award

Richie Hyden '11

After playing professional water polo in Spain and Australia, Hyden co-founded IRIS.TV, a video ad-tech company acquired by Viant Technology in 2024, where he now leads connected TV and streaming audio.



An Engineer With an Ear for Music

by SARAH DOWNEY '25

→ **Stephen Leslie '18** is making his mark both as a biomedical engineer and as a musical artist and producer who performs under the name Steven Thad. His latest single, "Smile," was released Feb. 28, 2025, and he's currently working with Grammy-nominated producer Dana Soréy to finish a soul album.

By day, Leslie works as a senior device design engineer in Germantown, Md., where he develops and designs auto-injector medication delivery systems, a role that requires precision and attention to detail. Those qualities are carried into his music.

Leslie's love for music was formed by being part of a musical family and growing up singing gospel music in church.

"Singing is in my bloodline," the R&B artist says. He carried that passion with him to Bucknell, where he sang in an a cappella group, Two Past Midnight, while studying biomedical engineering.

Leslie's music reflects a blend of pop, gospel, a cappella and soul — but also the technical precision of an engineer.



"Engineers really go through and analyze as many scenarios as possible," he says. "That meticulous, detailed engineering mentality makes me ask questions like 'How much do I want to compress my vocals?' 'How loud do I want the lead vocal to be relative to background vocals?' 'How far do I want to pan the bass?' I feel like I can easily navigate this because I was managing similar scenarios studying engineering at Bucknell."

Still, while he says he wants listeners to appreciate that technical precision, his ultimate goal is for them to bring their own emotional interpretation to his work.

"If you were able to be taken out of reality and immersed in a different experience when listening to my music, I think I did my job," he says. "That means I captivated you enough to dream and to imagine when you listen, and I think that's probably the ultimate reward for being an artist."

▲ **Stephen Leslie '18** is channeling his training as an engineer into a musical career.



NOMINATIONS ARE OPEN
Class Acts (here and on P. 48-49) are just a few of Bucknell's **30 Under 30** honorees for 2025. Who will make the 2026 list? go.bucknell.edu/30under30

Making Big Tech Smarter

by SARAH DOWNEY '25

→ **Yacine Bouabida '24** is tackling some of the most complex problems in technology at Espresso.AI, a tech startup focused on reducing cloud computing costs. He develops strategies to scale the business and bring its solutions to market, helping companies save millions on data storage while freeing resources to invest in innovation.

"The work we do is essentially solving impactful problems," Bouabida says. "It's exciting to see theoretical concepts I learned in school applied to the real world."

That foundation was laid during his time at Bucknell, where the economics and computer science and double-major worked on the Traveling Salesman Problem as part of a summer research project. The problem seems simple: Given a list of cities and distances, what is the shortest route that visits each city and returns to the start? In reality, it becomes exponentially harder as the number of cities increases — and the problem applies in fields ranging from logistics and transportation to circuit board manufacturing and DNA sequencing.



◀ **Yacine Bouabida '24** is using his Bucknell education to tackle complex tech problems.

▶ **Juliet King '18** (left) reunited with her mentor, Professor Julie Gates, during Homecoming Weekend in October.



Bridging the Genetic Gap

by SARAH DOWNEY '25

→ When mutated, more than 200 genes can cause cleft palate in humans, making it one of the most common birth defects worldwide. Although scientists understand which genetic mutations in the skin cause cleft palate, what's occurring on a cellular level is unclear. **Juliet King '18** is in the final year of her doctoral studies in cell biology and physiology at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, where her research aims to uncover that missing link — knowledge that could lead to a therapeutic solution.

King enjoyed science classes in high school and felt drawn to medicine after watching her brother undergo cancer treatment. But her path took a different trajectory at Bucknell, where she was encouraged to participate in biomedical research.

King joined Professor Julie Gates' biology lab, where she studied the Ras protein in fruit flies. "It's one of the most commonly mutated proteins in human cancer. So it felt like I was contributing in a small way toward something larger," she says. Over time, King's research evolved toward developmental biology. Today, she studies the periderm — a tissue layer of the developing skin — to understand how it contributes to birth defects, such as cleft palate.

"As a developmental biologist, I'm bridging the gap between genetics and how our bodies are ultimately put together," she says. Her work won a National Institutes of Health National Research Service Award Fellowship.

Once an undergraduate reading researchers' papers online, King now finds herself "fangirling" when those same scientists stop by her conference presentations. "I think the most exciting thing about being at the end of my graduate training is I'm approaching other researchers as an expert in what I've studied for the past five and a half years," she says. "It's amazing to be in conversation with the people I once learned from."



The Art of Teaching Under Pressure

by SARAH DOWNEY '25



Chris Gregory '18 will tell you he didn't always thrive in the classroom. But his early challenges are what shaped him into an outstanding teacher.

"I was diagnosed with a learning disability in second grade, so I understand what it's like to struggle in school," he says. That propelled him to find his own measure of success outside grades: learning.

Now an instructor of prehospital emergency medicine in the San Francisco Bay Area, Gregory focuses on teaching in a way that prioritizes students' needs, ensuring they truly understand the material rather than merely memorizing it. After all, he says, there's no room for learning gaps in emergency medicine.

During his tenure at Westmed Ambulance, Gregory has taught more than 900 students. "Every single one of them is going to go off and treat more patients,"

he says. "They're making a difference for thousands more patients than I could alone."

Gregory has also contributed to policy improvements that enhance ambulance operations and patient care. He's currently pursuing a medical degree at Touro College of Osteopathic Medicine, with plans to pursue pediatric emergency medicine.

But Gregory's path didn't begin in medicine, education, or even policy. It started in theatre. "I chose Bucknell because I thought it was the school where I could do the most theatre while getting a liberal arts education," he says. He fully embraced the opportunity, triple-majoring in theatre, animal behavior and French, while also minoring in dance.

Even today, his theatre background informs his work as an EMT instructor. "Theatre is about presenting people with a thought-provoking idea and convincing them it is true — same with teaching," he says.

The mindset he developed through theatre — that there are no problems, only creative solutions — continues to guide him.

"I really learned from all my involvement in school what I am capable of and how to work through challenges," he says. "One of my primary focuses is teaching resilience to patients and students, something I wouldn't have built without my experience at Bucknell."

▲
Aspiring physician Chris Gregory '18 helps EMT students develop life-saving skills.

Cultivating a Startup Mindset

by SARAH DOWNEY '25

→ By the time **Colleen Kazanjian '25** entered the tech startup world, she had already built a habit of spotting problems and solving them — an instinct that now shapes her work in go-to-market operations at Volca, an AI-powered performance pay and payroll company.

She landed the role after launching her own software company, OttoPilot, which helps job seekers build networks through targeted LinkedIn outreach.

Before Bucknell, Kazanjian won her high school's business pitch competition. She carried on that success by winning Bucknell's BizPitch competition in 2024 with Face Guard, a product designed to protect skin from irritation while wearing a helmet that was inspired by her role as a goalie on the women's lacrosse team.

Kazanjian partnered with her brother to build the software that became OttoPilot. She later expanded OttoPilot to include more than 500 Bucknell students and alumni, aiming to make startup pathways more accessible. "It can be really hard to break into startups if you don't have a connection in the space," she says. "Bucknell has an amazing alumni network of people who are willing to help."



▲ BizPitch 2024 winner Colleen Kazanjian '25 helps build the networks that power startups.

▶ Morgan McAlister '18 strives to create meaningful connections between brands and consumers.



Driving Brands Forward

by SARAH DOWNEY '25

→ **Morgan McAlister '18** has always balanced a creative side with an analytical one — a combination she honed as a major in markets, innovation & design. That balance has served her well in her career as a strategic marketing director, where she has developed campaigns for brands including Coca-Cola, Salesforce and Volvo Cars.

At Bucknell, she took a marketing class in which she and her team created and launched a concept for a children's toy. The students' final projects were judged in part by the professor's daughter, a member of the intended audience. "Creating something that resonated with a real audience had a lasting impact on me and really made me fall in love with creating human connection through this work," McAlister says.

After graduation, McAlister found her niche in marketing communications strategy, where she assesses cultural and category opportunities to determine a brand's target audience and positioning and leads campaigns that foster brand loyalty. In her work with Initiative, a media agency based in New York City, she identifies where and how brands show up across platforms to reach emerging audiences.

McAlister's creativity has been recognized with multiple Ad Age, Festival of Media and Effie honors. Most recently, her media concept for Ovarian Cancer Action earned her a Silver Lion at the Cannes Lions International Festival of Creativity.

She is currently working on campaigns for Volvo, known its focus on driver safety. "It's important to me to help grow brands with values I align with and feel good about supporting," she says.

Class Notes

Please see P. 66 for a list of our Class Reporters.

EMERITI

Elise Miller Schnure '45 passed away Sept. 4 at age 102. She was married to **Frederick Schnure '42** for 63 years until he passed in 2010 and later partnered with **George Akerhielm '50**. A mother of four, including **Christine Schnure Dotterer '70** and **Dotty Schnure '75**, she is also survived by her four children's spouses, nine grandchildren and 16 great-grandchildren. Her legacy includes civil rights advocacy, volunteerism and post-war work in Belgium helping rebuild the steel industry, capped by throwing the first pitch at a minor league baseball game on her 100th birthday.

Martha Coats Van Hise '72 shared the passing of her mother, **Margaret "Margy" Hughes Coats '48**, Aug. 3 in Newtown, Pa. Margy attended one year at Bucknell University Junior College in Wilkes-Barre, Pa., and transferred to Bucknell's main campus for her sophomore year. She lived in Hunt Hall, joined Kappa Delta sorority and

earned a degree in elementary education. Two weeks after graduation, she married the love of her life, the Rev. Walter R. Coats. They were married 62 years until his death in 2010. Margy was known for her sparkling personality, her interest in others and her delightful laugh. She spent the month prior to her passing at her lake house in Nuangola, Pa., surrounded by friends and family.

In 2023, Margy visited Bucknell to celebrate her 75th Reunion. She was amazed at the new buildings but also loved how the Quad and Rooke Chapel looked the same as when she attended. She is survived by her five children, including Martha, 14 grandchildren, including **Jonathan Van Hise '01**, and 12 great-grandchildren. — *Nicole Connor Taylor '01 and Amy Medell Poe '89*

1953

Our Class of 1953 cheerleader and Reunion organizer, **Walt McConnell**, died Sept. 11. He received his M.D. at

Thomas Jefferson University, served in the Navy during the Korean War and was an emergency room physician in New Jersey. In 1989, Walt became the oldest person ever to reach 27,000 feet on Mount Everest. His accomplishment was celebrated in an interview on *Good Morning America* and commercials for Alka-Seltzer. He was a climber, runner, biker and world traveler. His relentless pursuit of challenge drove him to compete in nearly 40 marathons and races across the world and to undertake several bicycle trips to summit the highest peaks in Africa, Asia, North and South America and Europe. Walt served on Bucknell's Alumni Board of Trustees and was recognized with the Alumni Award for Loyalty to Bucknell for his extraordinary service to the University. His wife, **Isabel "Izzy" Beers McConnell**, died in 2019.

They had four children, including **Jeff '81**, seven grandchildren, including **Cameron '13**, and six great-grandchildren.

Don and Doris

McCroddan Soule moved into a retirement community at Paine Estate in Wayland, Mass. Still driving and independent, they appreciate the community's tiered services. Newly moved in, they said it will be a little while before they can call it home.

Ellen Herte Schick lives alone in the same house rebuilt after the 2003 San Diego firestorm. She has family close by and visits often with her son in Hawaii. Ellen and her children traveled to West Point in June for the 70th reunion of her late husband, John's, class. Sixteen of John's classmates attended the reunion, including his roommate and a friend who, coincidentally, Ellen had attended high school with in Munich from 1946–48.

Bill Durland wrote that last year was highlighted by the 100th anniversary in August of Trinidad State College in Colorado, near where he and wife Genie live. He taught philosophy, political science, history and sociology at the college and was influenced by what he'd learned in his Bucknell classes from professors Hollister, Gathings, Zeller and Jones. Bill continues to write essays about our troubled times with Genie's editing. — *Christine Hill Killough and John Manbeck*

1955

Bonnie Mackie Aspinwall '54, fellow Class Notes writer for over 30 years, passed on Dec. 1 and shall be missed. I was lucky to have her as my sister; side by side, we faced happy and sad times together. **Nancy Beasten Speer '56** passed away Sept. 18. Both women were elegant

ladies, in command of any situation and will be missed.

Roy Gavert, who was a leader on campus and in Pittsburgh, has passed, too. We are now the first page of Class Notes and a rare species.

Ken Tashjy reported that he spent 20 years at The Villages, Fla., and after his wife passed away, he moved to Gloucester, Mass., to be near son Kenneth and his wife, Stephanie. Ken writes "that our walk through 'memory lane' created photos in my mind that I had forgotten and how just four years at Bucknell influenced my entire life. I can only hope that current Bucknellians receive the Bucknell experience with gratitude. To all my classmates of 1954–56, please know we share beautiful memories of our days in Lewisburg."

Write and tell me what adventures and contributions you have made. — *Elinor Mackie Pigman*

Dick Shand reported his wife, **Gail Rothenberger Shand P'81, P'87, P'90, G'12, G'25**, died July 25.

1956

I had a nice chat with **Bette Skow Kenzie** after she'd played a round of golf. She manages to keep busy, spending her free time playing canasta and "hand and foot." She lamented the fact that she has no great-grandchildren but does have a grandson, who was to be married soon. — *Joseph Eberhart*

1957

I'm writing this in January, reflecting on what 2025 turned out to be. It was the year that most of us hit 90 — and I, for one, am surprised to find myself still alive and kicking, although admittedly not kicking as hard as I once did. So many of the Class of '57 are no longer with us, but if you're out there, send me news.

I've not had a book published in 10 years, but I did turn to a new career as a performer and storyteller. I've just finished a rough draft of a memoir I'm titling *The Old White Lady Tells It*, which draws on material I used in my three solo shows. Of course, there's quite a bit about Bucknell. Remembering the late philosophy professor David Martin sitting cross-legged on his desk and challenging our ideas (my parents were not thrilled when I informed them that I was now an existentialist). And remembering the late Professor C.W. Smith on the last world lit class before Christmas, reciting A.A. Milne's poem, "King John's Christmas."

If you've got some memories of those days, please share them. — *Carolyn "Callie" Meyer*

1958

It was wonderful hearing from **Bill Scott**, who had

a busy year of travel: "I spent the winter months of 2024 in my house near Naples, Fla. [**Phyllis "Phiddy" Gillman Scott**] and I went there for 31 years before her death in 2022. I came home in May and went to France in June with the choir of Bryn Mawr Presbyterian Church. We sang at five cathedrals in four French cities, with our last concert in Paris. In late July, almost my entire family — 14 of us — flew to Alaska to spend nine days traveling around the Anchorage area. Our main reason was to see Phiddy's sister, who was celebrating her 85th birthday. We spent four nights in Girdwood, a little town 45 minutes south of Anchorage, and the last five in Talkeetna, about two hours north of Anchorage, which is a staging town for the climbers who attempt to climb Denali, the highest peak in North America, at 20,310 feet, and it is an amazing sight to see."

I was very fortunate to travel this year, including a cruise in the Maine area, a trip to the Great Lakes and one to Alaska. I must say that both the Great Lakes and Alaska were amazing experiences. Happily, our Kappa ladies were able to cruise to Bermuda, a beautiful island. We are so grateful that we are still able to travel together and plan to go to Cape May, N.J., next year.

Cathy Hoffman

Doremus moved from New Jersey to South Dakota to be closer to her family. It's a big change, but knowing Cathy, she'll thrive.

I am so blessed to have not only seven grandchildren but nine great-grandchildren — a joy I never thought I'd live long enough to experience.

Alright, you 1958 graduates, please send me news. We all want to know what's happening in your lives. — *Roberta Bayer Schlacks*

Edge Deuel writes, "I'm still in contact with several of **Lorian [Rodi Deuel]**'s Phi Mu ladies, but without her here, life is not as much fun.

However, her legacy of four daughters gives me lots of time to enjoy our family. I still get to New York City and expect to meet up with several of my Sammie friends. I do travel some to attend grandchildren's graduations and events. I'm proud that Lorian and I were able to take all 11 of our grandchildren to Europe before they were 12 — just we two. I enjoy reading Class Notes. What a great experience Bucknell gave us all."

1961

I received word from Elsa Dempsey, daughter of **Constance "Connie" Cruickshank Waymer**, that her mother passed away from leukemia July 28. Elsa writes, "Up until

she was 85, Connie was active and vibrant, living in Sarasota, Fla., where she and Dad moved in 1992. She was talented in flower arranging and provided large arrangements for church services each week for years during her 80s. She also had over 100 orchids that she tended carefully, so there were beautiful blooms around her at all times. She lived very independently and was at peace with her time having arrived."

Connie's husband, **Sam '60**, passed away in 2011. They had three children, Elsa, Doug and Jim, as well as twin granddaughters, Laura and Erica. — *Jan Powers*

1965

Barry Straus went on a Bucknell-sponsored trip to Iceland with his son in June. They flew to Reykjavik and then sailed for eight days aboard the World Traveler. "Each day we stopped in another Icelandic town and experienced the people, their culture and their land of 'fire and ice.' We walked the towns, went into their shops and ate in their cafes. Everybody speaks English (thank goodness).

"The brochure went to colleges and universities across the country. So collectively, this was a college cruise (but without wild partying). Other colleges represented

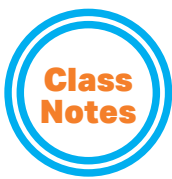
included Duke, Caltech, UCLA, Purdue and Alabama. Two other Bucknellians were on the trip, **Carol Endriss West '70** and **Frances Campo '85**.

"I hope to make an emeritus Reunion one of these days. I keep working on my Sig Ep brothers to come."

I [**Jackie**] also took a Bucknell-sponsored trip this summer to Yellowstone and Teton national parks. Like Barry, I found the trip to be very interesting and well planned. While I saw lots of bison, I was the only Bucknellian on the bus.

Speaking of Bison, **Don Niddrie** had the great idea of organizing a pop-up reunion to attend the Bucknell-Fordham football game. He contacted the 26 Bucknellians from the classes of '64-'66 in the New York City area. While he received many "maybes," in the end, only Don, **Jay Giardina** (who came from New Jersey) and **Toby Decker** (who came from outside Boston) showed up.

Toby reports that the no-shows really missed out because, "We had a great time; the weather was spring-like. It was interesting to meet parents of the Bucknell players at the game. Many were wearing customized T-shirts with their respective son's picture/name/uniform number. It was fun chatting with them and learning about their



athletes. We capped the glorious day with a delicious dinner at San Genaro's on Arthur Avenue, which is a version of Little Italy in the Bronx."

Jay adds, "There was a lot of reminiscing about our shared Bucknell experiences and a bit of pondering over some of the unresolved mysteries of the SAE house from years gone by, including the answer to the question of how **Jim Murphy's** pet skunk exited a box in his second-floor room and fell from the window to the ground at about 5 a.m. — leaving behind an indescribable scent that woke everyone in the sleeping porch.

"And who was responsible for

silencing **Don Hoage's** morning trumpet playing by placing that trumpet on the nearby railroad tracks one night before returning it to Don's room in a rather damaged condition — never to be played again? We also recalled that frightful time when one of the brothers discharged his shotgun in Toby's room, shattering the wall separating the room from the stairwell and nearly hitting Toby, who was ascending the stairs to his room.

"Next time we get together, we will look to have background music blaring a playlist of frat music of the 1960s, including songs like 'Shout' by the Isley Brothers, 'Do You Love Me' by the Contours,

'Woolly Bully' by Sam the Sham and the Pharaohs and 'Louie Louie by the Kingsmen, among others."

My husband, **Jean Paul '61**, died two years ago, and this summer, when I started to feel lonely, friends arranged a blind date with **Richard Hirsch**. We quickly realized we were classmates, and while no romance developed, a great friendship has grown. We encourage each other in our searches for new partners. Richard is looking at golf courses in New York and Florida. I'm trying my luck online. Dating in your 80s is sure different from the old days on campus. Are any other classmates doing this? Please write to me about your dating

adventures. — *Jackie Hornor Plumez*

1966

Roberta Myles King remembers, "I am sorry to pass on to you that we have lost another member of the Class of '66. My dear friend, **Mary Kay Daniels Ganning**, passed away in August after a battle with cancer. She was president of Delta Zeta sorority, a Synchronette and a member of Sigma Tau Delta. Graduating with a degree in English, she continued her education by achieving a master's in library science at Rutgers University and had a 36-year career at the Library of Congress. Upon retiring, Mary Kay volunteered at her church as a computer specialist. She leaves behind her son, Brendan, and two grandsons.

"On a lighter side, my husband, Paul, and I are still kicking after 56 years of marriage. We live in Colleyville, Texas. Since one of our three children has moved to a ranch in Montana, we have enjoyed many times under those 'Big Skies.' We keep up with **Karen Reuter**, who continues her work as a radiologist. She and her husband, John, reside in Wellesley, Mass. Another good friend, **Mary Brecht McGready '65**, and her husband, Tom, celebrated their 60th wedding anniversary in October. They reside in Lansdale,

Pa. Mary keeps up with some of her Delta Zeta sisters on Zoom."

Dick Pace had no particular symptoms except being a bit tired, but it turned out that he had major arterial blockages and needed quadruple bypass heart surgery. He wants all of us to know that these situations can hit silently and suddenly, and he warns us to pay attention. Dick fared well with the surgery and is back out doing most of his crazy things once more, but he feels he came dangerously close to having a massive heart attack, so take heed of his warning.

Bucknell, with **Larry Klock '69**, hosted an evening at Grey Oaks Country Club in Naples, Fla., for the Bucknell basketball team during a preseason tournament. Coach **John Griffin III '08** spoke of his team's camaraderie, introduced each player by name and hometown without notes and discussed the challenges of recruiting when few players are inclined to stay at one university for four years. John's family lives in Naples and was in attendance, including his lively and delightful 100-year-old grandmother. John was pretty lively as well, wearing an orange sports coat that he said had been a gift from Larry. Those of our era in attendance, in addition to Larry, were **Norm '63**, **M'64** and **Mary Lou Roppel Garrity '64**,

Bucknell UNIVERSITY

30 UNDER 30

Whether they're artistic visionaries, changemakers, entrepreneurial innovators or industry standouts, young alumni are making their mark on the world in big ways. Let us know who shines the brightest! Help us build our annual class of 30 Under 30.

Learn more and make a nomination by May 15 at go.bucknell.edu/30Under30

Michael Moore '64, Scott Nichols '70, Jack Phillips '68, Flossie Graber Watt and me.

Sadly, **Carolyn Morton Moore '65**, Michael's wife, passed away after a lengthy illness. Carolyn was Phi Beta Kappa at Bucknell and a member of Delta Zeta sorority. After graduating, she worked in research and development at Bell Labs and later at IBM before raising two sons, Mick and Peter. The Moore family owns the Turtle Club in Naples, an acclaimed restaurant, and has hosted Bucknell alumni gatherings there. **Karen Abel Jones '64** and I were able to attend Carolyn's funeral, held in Naples on Nov. 11.

As our numbers continue to dwindle, be appreciative of all the decades we have experienced in reaching our 80s (my friends and I call them the Gr80s) and of the moments, large and small, that bring gratitude and remind us to cherish our remaining days. Surprise an old friend with a phone call this week or, better yet, plan a visit. Carpe diem! — *Jackie Pearson Weidenfeller*

1967

Hank Bray returned to Reunion in Lewisburg in May to see fraternity brothers who graduated in other years. Hank has lived in Kingwood, Texas, for 40 years, is retired and keeps busy with his children, grandchildren

and his church. His son is a minister in Virginia, so I'm hopeful that when he visits his son, we can meet for a while.

Lynn DePrince Hough lives in a Detroit suburb, so she was putting up with the Michigan weather when she wrote. She lost her husband three years ago due to complications of COVID-19. She was a biology major, and her first job was in oceanography in Maryland. She met her husband there, and they moved to Michigan, where she has remained. She received her master's in counseling from Wayne State and worked as a counselor until her husband retired, after which they traveled widely. She has two sons. Lynn said the late **Jack Wheatcroft '49** was her favorite professor, and organic chemistry, taught by the late Harold Heine, was her favorite course. She would like to hear from her friends, **Penny Glass Wendleken** and **Jeanne Van Dolah Cohen** or any other of KD's friends.

Stan Bortner of Middletown, Pa., spent his career in state accounting systems and is now retired, staying busy with gym visits and his grandchildren, who live nearby. Stan worked for the state throughout his career. He attended a gathering and met **Lee Ober '66**. Stan was a drummer in the marching band and a member of Phi Lambda Theta. He

told me an interesting story about the formation of his fraternity: In the '40s, three Bucknellians formed a new fraternity that included a Protestant, a Jew and a Catholic. The bylaws required that each of these religions be at least 25% of each pledge class, and that continues to be the case.

Jimmy States lives an interesting life. He gave a talk to a group of neurosurgeons on endurance, having climbed Mt. Everest more than once. He teaches a course on disaster preparation and another on wet-day fires. He retired from his practice but hasn't slowed down. He works with public health, the homeless and methadone clinics. We discussed these issues at length, as I also volunteer in a medical clinic for the homeless. He recommended a movie entitled *Seattle is Dying* as a representation of the drug addiction and homelessness situation in that city.

Dick Baxter, retired from his law practice, lives near New Haven, Conn., with his wife, Alice, and enjoys Yale's community offerings. He was captain of the swim team at Bucknell, and exercise remains important to him. He cycled until 2024 and now works out in his home gym. They have two daughters — a lawyer in Houston and a physician in Seattle. He

visits friends in D.C. regularly, and we have agreed to meet up when he gets close to Virginia. — *Chuck Gilliland*

1968

This summer, I had a lovely lunch with **Bob "Half Beer" Brush**. He and Karen were in Vermont on their way to Maine and Nova Scotia, Canada.

During the summer, **Lynne Huntsberger Killheffer** visited us in Vermont for a few days. We had a grand time, touring and sightseeing, including visiting a few of the state's waterfalls, crossing the floating bridge and taking in the countryside. Immediately after visiting us, she was headed to Croatia on one of the University-sponsored trips. Lynne is a dear friend and an ambitious and impressive traveler. It was great to spend a few days together.

Friend and fellow Vermonter **Tom Wells '74** wrote *Naked on the Highway: A Memoir*. It's an engaging and revealing book and worth reading. It's available on Amazon or at Recycled Reading of Vermont.

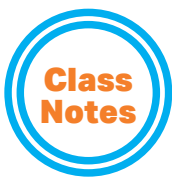
I got a nice email from **Andy Hartman '71**, where he reminisced about growing up in what was then rural New Jersey. Andy and I are probably the only two people from Farmingdale, N.J., to attend Bucknell.

Fredric "Ric" Byrnes

passed away Nov. 16. Ric stayed close to his SAE brothers, including **Rick Ryder** and **Bob Davis**, with whom he shared an apartment on Buffalo Road. Other classmates in that building included **Keith Brown, Mark Lankford, Dave McCorkle, Bruce Wray** and adopted SAE brother **Vinnie McCann '67**. Rumor has it that Buffalo Road was an impressive party destination. Ric was a management consultant, ultimately establishing his own niche company specializing in workers' compensation. At Bucknell, he was a competitive swimmer and enjoyed hiking and tennis. He is survived by his wife, Lynn, two children and two grandchildren.

I had to call on **Brenda Crouthamel Adams** for some advice after encountering a pesky porcupine in my orchard. She came through with a tutorial on porcupine invaders. As a result, I was able to hustle the pest away. You might remember that as part of her second career, Brenda became a garden designer and author, including *There's a Moose in My Garden* and *Cool Plants for Cold Climates*. She is prospering in Homer, Alaska.

Stephen Yeatman, my former roommate and travel companion, came east from Berkeley, Calif., this summer and spent a few days with me. Good friends are hard to find,



and good old friends are even harder. We have shared many adventures, including two trips driving cross-country and hikes in and out of the Grand Canyon. It's a joy to spend time with him.

It's an ongoing pleasure to be in touch with former classmates and fraternity brothers; it is one of the perks of this job. In addition to those mentioned above, I have been in touch with **Jim Reese '69** and **Bob Martuza '69** as well as **Kip Lewis '67**, **Bob Haas '67**, **Patti Burke Kuhn**, **Ward Anderson**, **Bob Bartunek**, **Pete D'Orsi '69**, **Bob "Ralph" Rovegno** and **Marilyn Olson Parks**. "And the seasons they go round and round."
— *George Vince*

1970

Doug Crawford, in "retirement," has begun a new career as an author of fiction and nonfiction with the help of artificial intelligence. He has nine titles on Amazon; visit DougCrawfordBooks.com.

Since the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic, **Carolyn Familetti Mayer**, **Leslie Hart**, **Marilyn**

Kviljord Jones and **Karen van Es** have been Zooming every week. They look forward to catching up on grand-children, travels, books, cultural experiences and physical challenges. They also endeavor to get together in person when Marilyn travels to the States each year from her home in Wales.

Arlo Greiss's son challenged him to make some wooden toys for his two young sons. Arlo decided to give 3D printing a try and now has two printers, making all sorts of items. "As a senior citizen, I find this hobby challenges my creativity, mechanical/electrical abilities, computer skills and especially patience, thereby exercising my gray matter."

Arlo retired in 2015 after a career in the automation industry, specializing in the sale of process control instrumentation. Since then, he and his wife have taken 37 trips, the most memorable being a two-week cultural immersion tour of Croatia.

Finally, on a sad note, I report the passing of my

good friend **Kathleen Cook Luke** May 10 during a routine procedure. Kathy had worked in special education in the Fairfax County, Virginia, public schools. In retirement, she and husband Jordan traveled the world, hiking and biking. — *Lydia Haller Dodd*

1971

Class Reporter **Lou Kissling** here again, asking classmates to please send me updates. I need more input, or I will have to continue to regale you with my own exploits.

My longtime girlfriend and I went on a two-week African safari in Kenya and Tanzania last August/September. We got lucky as to weather, travel plans, animal sightings, health, etc. We saw the "big five" most people talk about: lions, elephants, African or Cape buffalo (not the Bucknell Bison), leopard and rhino. But we got much more, including giraffes, zebras (pronounced "zeb-bras" in Kenya), warthogs, cheetahs, gazelles, antelopes, wildebeests, hippos, hyenas and vultures. It seemed that every turn in the Land Cruiser, every view and every day, there were more and more animals.

Certainly, a unique view was a lion pride feasting on a dead hippo — that was a large buffet.

One of the funniest

moments happened at one of the airstrips we landed at. These are not airports — no terminal, no seats, maybe a tree here and there, possibly a bathroom/outhouse and no control tower — just a dirt runway and a motorcycle rider. His job was simple. As our plane began its downwind approach to the airstrip, he fired up the motor-bike, went out onto the runway to the far end where the plane would touch down, then began his cruise down the runway, leading the plane in. Ceremonial? Not at all. He was clearing the runway of wildebeests and zebras that could cause a major conflict with the incoming plane.

How do you think he lists that career on his resume? Travel agent? Transportation expeditor?

A trip to Africa is obviously long (almost 30 hours of total travel time with layovers), so we decided to break up the trip home with a week in Ireland (Dublin, Kinsale, Old Head, Killarney, etc.). We had never been there before. Some roads in southern Ireland are so narrow that I would call them not two-lane roads but 1.5-lane roads. Scary. Uber works beautifully in Dublin for airport-to-and-from travel.

We're back in Phoenix for the winter, and I'm really starting to believe in global warming. Historical highs in December are in the mid- to high 60s, perfect

for shorts and golf shirts. We were approaching the high 70s when I wrote this. This bodes badly for next summer and our 115-plus/minus temps. — *Lou Kissling*

1972

Starting with a sad note: **Charles "Chuck" Resnick** passed away in September. A proud Sigma Phi Epsilon, Chuck was engaged in all things Bucknell, from organizing Fossil Golf "tournaments" to supporting the Freeman School of Management and chairing our 50th Reunion Committee. With all of this, he also seemed to have time to show support for his high school and the Rutgers School of Law. And lest you think his interests were primarily academic, he also sponsored a friendly betting pool each year during the NCAA Basketball Tournament. There are so many who will remember his friendship and good humor — the world is a quieter place without him.

On a happier note: A great group of friends gathered in Mantoloking, N.J., in September at the home of **Dotty Fries Johnson**. Dotty, **Lorrie Cangelosi Zorbo**, **Pam Dingwall Herring**, **Barb Faust McAllister**, **Cindy Bland Lesker**, **Helly Schwalm Bullwinkel**, **Judy DiSerafino Huey**, **Pam Silkworth Finn** and I were in residence for four

"I, FOR ONE, AM SURPRISED TO FIND MYSELF ALIVE AND KICKING, ALTHOUGH ADMITTEDLY NOT KICKING AS HARD AS I ONCE DID."

Carolyn Meyer '57

THE ELLEN CLARKE BERTRAND SOCIETY

Bucknell appreciates the alumni, parents, friends and staff who have included the University in their estate, tax or financial planning. Gifts from Bertrand Society members strengthen every facet of the University.

We welcome the following new members this year:

Beth Hopper Allgaier '85, P'17
 Peter Balakian '73, P'10
 Steve '72 and Susan Boyer
 Chris P'20, P'22 and Sarah Brice P'20, P'22
 Stuart '78, P'07, P'08, P'12 and
 Denise Cubbon P'07, P'08, P'12
 Don '72 and Pam Schwartz Dickson '72
 Gale Duque
 JoAnn Patrick-Ezzell '75
 Karen Simpson Fulton '74
 Raymond Gray
 Doug Hitchner '83
 Rick '74 and Susie Wagner Kleinert '75
 Mark '68 and Susan Dellheim Kolman
 Kurt Landefeld '76
 George Lane '72, P'14

Bill '74, P'99, P'01, P'06 and Dee Trout
 Ledgerwood '74, P'99, P'01, P'06
 Jon '88 and Heather McBride Leef '88
 Scott Lillis '88
 Mike '92 and Rhonda Buford MacKay '92
 Ed Motter '75
 Gary Ober '73
 Greg Reilly '19
 Bob '75 and Su Benson Robotti
 Susan Mitchell Scott '68
 Julia Smith
 Alan Solomon '53
 Wendy Quest Trevisani '92, P'26
 Three anonymous members

We celebrate the legacy gifts made by members no longer with us:

Barbara Beck

Chuck Berger '75, P'04
 Pris Teleky Davis '61
 Josephine "Dodie" Hildreth Detmer '52, P'79
 Dottie DiOrio '54
 Patty Ekedahl P'79
 Joanne Gehas '85
 Bill Graham '62
 Molly Wolford Hamilton '59
 David Lee
 William Martens '56, P'79, G'11
 Marion Mayfield-Johnson '49
 John McKee '56, P'86
 Ruth Melberger G'14
 Richard Miller '61
 Helmar Nielsen '59
 Paul Pearson '61, P'89
 Drew Seibert '52, P'91, G'20
 Lorraine Soresi Tweed '56
 Sallie Zoerb '44

If you have a plan that qualifies you for membership or would like information about the Bertrand Society, please contact the Office of Gift Planning at 570-577-3271 or giftplanning@bucknell.edu.

days, enjoying the ocean views. **Steve and Sue Martell Baird** and **Alan Sharpe** joined us for a part of the festivities, and it was non-stop laughter. Helly's daughter, Amanda, joined us for a day, and we had an outing to an intimate solo concert by Adam Weiner, the lead singer of Low Cut Connie. Amanda has been touring with the group for the past couple of years, and a few of us have seen them in concert. There were long walks on the beach, great dinners out, Barb's amazing smooth-

ies and lots of discussions of families and travel filled the days. We'll be back in 2026.

For your calendar, the classes of 1971, 1972, 1973 and 1974 will have a combined Reunion at Bucknell May 29-31. Please plan to attend.
 — *Anne Smith Benbow*

1973

Cynthia Jackson Prather, along with 36 other seniors, was honored by the Seabury Resources for Aging in May for dedicated service to God, family and community. The service was held at

the National Cathedral in Washington, D.C. Cynthia is at scsprather@aol.com.

Tom Radko writes, "After graduation, I traded a picturesque rural campus for a Gothic urban one by attending the University of Chicago for graduate studies in English language and literature. Chicago is also where I began a publishing career that spanned 42 years, working primarily within the university press arena: Chicago, Rutgers, Oklahoma, Nevada and Wesleyan (serving as director at

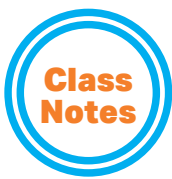
the last two). I strayed into the commercial book publishing arena twice, first with Humanities Press and then Alyson Publications, where I served as publisher. In 2004, I migrated into magazine publishing, working 12 years at *Choice Magazine*, where I retired in 2016 as editorial director. The journey feels epic, putting me in contact with a fascinating array of characters and intellectual challenges.

"As a retiree, I have plenty of time to reflect from my homes in Florida

(Vero Beach) and Chicago (Hyde Park). I've often wondered what happened to fellow classmates **Jeanette 'Jenny' Chen McIntosh**, **Scott Eavenson**, **Howie Lay** and **Raphael 'Ray' Schlesinger**, among others. I can be reached at trradko@gmail.com. Peace and health to all."
 — *Susan Latimer Curlett*

1974

Tom M. Wells checked off an unusual item that's not on everyone's bucket list: He wrote a book. As he described, it's 368 pages of



biography, stories and opinions, with a provocative title: *Naked on the Highway: A Memoir*. It is available at local bookstores and on Amazon. — *Norbert W. Church Jr.*

REUNION 2026

1976

With daughter Emily at the University of Vermont and son Patrick working in Philadelphia, **Bob Mulderig** and wife Karen have had road trips that allowed for visits with **Annamarie Andrews** and **Art Wood**, **Kristin Walker Borcherd-ing** and husband Breck, **Frank** and **Peggy Stearns Damiano**, **Trice Ingrassia** and **Judy Ellicott Rader**. A Chicago trip in October 2024 allowed for a visit with **Cathy Shiel-Reardon**. Bob and Karen occasionally cross paths with **Dan '77** and **Nancy Boecker Oates '77** when travel dates between Florida and D.C. align.

Bob is looking forward to seeing all members of the Class of 1976 at Reunion.

Barbara Dixon Ryan reported she's come full circle, having married in Charlottesville, Va., where she lived for 13 years, then in Dallas for 26 years, then in Arlington, Va., for 7 years, and just this Christmas returning to Charlottesville with her husband, Skip. "Every place I've lived has been my favorite place, although Dallas could use some air condition-

ing — and a mountain or two. What drew us back to Charlottesville was many 'first friends' as a couple, plus the fact that our three grandchildren and adult special-needs daughter are either here or nearby. Most of us have put our children through school and are enjoying freedom, or our freedom is eclipsed by the grands. But if you are coming to the 'Ville' and want someone to walk you around, let me know: barbryn54@gmail.com. Incredibly, this is our 50th year since graduation. I had a marvelous time at our 45th (or was it our 40th?), but do put May 29–May 31 in your planner."

Mary Lou Kupfer and **Gail Waterbury Ferri** are also looking forward to seeing all members of the Class of 1976 at our 50th Reunion. We encourage all of our classmates to come — it's a big one! — *Mary Lou Kupfer and Gail Waterbury Ferri*

1977

Pete Dipasquale retired, moving from his suburban Cincinnati home of almost 40 years to The Cliffs at Glassy in the mountains of western South Carolina, close to Greenville. He splits his time between mountain golfing and a beach home on Kiawah Island, S.C. He will be walking his oldest daughter down the aisle at her October wedding. "I returned to campus

in September 2024 for the first of the 50-year reunion celebrations. [This time] celebrating the 1970s Soccer Era of Excellence, spotlighted by recognizing Bucknell's greatest NCAA, Penn State-conquering soccer team of 1974, our sophomore year. The Class of '77 50-year Reunion is next in one and a half years. We hope our class is well represented and that many of you attend and reconnect to celebrate our half-century mark. It is hard to believe it has been that long.

Pete invited classmates to "stop in for some incredible golf and dining." He is at dipasquale.pm@outlook.com.

Please continue to share your updates, recognitions, travel adventures, volunteer work, stories of children and grandchildren attending Bucknell and more with us. — *Susan Hunsicker and Brian Knapp*

1978

I received an update from **Marvin Pritts**, who wrote that he received two awards in 2025: the State University of New York Chancellor's Award for Excellence in Teaching and Outstanding Undergraduate Educator from the American Society of Horticultural Science. Both awards are a "great way to begin my phased retirement at Cornell. I'll

be keeping some of my favorite classes but giving up the research and extension component of the job. One of the classes I enjoy most is a plant-focused January travel course. Two years ago, we went to Costa Rica to visit farms and natural areas, and this past January, we spent two weeks in the Amazon, learning about medicinal plants. This January, we plan to go to New Zealand. All good reasons to continue to be engaged with students."

I also received the following from **Gerry Kowalski M'80**. "In October, Bucknellians who served as RDs and spouses had a mini-reunion to celebrate the 45th anniversary of us (most) obtaining a master's degree. Attendees included Kurt (former Bucknell vice president) and **Laura Hathaway Thiede M'80**, **Bob** and **Tory Luce Kallin '83**, **Ed '72** and **JoAnne Konkoly Woehling M'80**, **George Coe M'80**, **Barb Campbell Lofink M'80**, **Maggie Wetmore Chappen '79**, **Lisa Russell-Mina** [who served as an RD but did not receive a Bucknell degree] and **Gina** and **Gerry**. In absentia were **Beth Hoffman Onofri M'80** and **Bernie Berninger '73, M'81**.

"And, man, do we miss **Ted Chappen**, whose passing still saddens us, but memories of his effervescent smile and wit still gladden us.

"We enjoyed several fun and hilarious meals together, a tour of campus, golf for some and endless stories of reminiscence. The time and distance paled in comparison to connections made at formative times in our lives/ careers. These bonds are treasured, and we look forward to the next time.

"We'd love to hear from **Frank Carroll '75**, **Jim** and **Connie Brennan** [who served as RDs in the Mods], **Joel Boyd '79, M'80** and **George Buckheit '79.**"

Please send updates. I know retirement is looming for many, and I'd love to hear your plans. — *Kathy McDonald Adelberger*

1979

Several classmates reached out to give me news. **Jim Schott** wished me a speedy recovery from my spinal tumor surgery, which was performed this past April. Thank you, Jim. I'm progressing and have an excellent physiotherapist guiding me toward recovery. Jim wrote from Menlo Park, Calif., that he has met with **Joe Fantuzzi '80**, who lives in his area. Jim retired and has filled his time with traveling and occasional freelance work.

Former class reporter **Mark Marron** lives in Central New Jersey. Last year, like so many of the Class of '79, he attended his 50th high school

reunion. Mark retired from his finance job last July. He feels privileged to have enjoyed working with his colleagues and the professionalism of his corporate clients. Mark's job was in New York City, and he doesn't miss the long commute. He fills his time getting together with family and friends.

Ira Leff, my former housemate from Martin House, sent the news that he and wife Sandy were expecting grandchild number seven. They have three married children: two living in Baltimore and one in Brooklyn. This past year, Ira and Sandy visited the family in Baltimore and also took a trip to Chicago. **John Weitz** and wife Gail visited with Ira in Atlanta while attending a family wedding. Ira was able to give John and Gail a tour of Emory University, where he received his law degree.

Finally, your class reporter notes three significant events that helped shape his 2025. As I mentioned, my surgery was in April of last year. Three days prior, our sixth grandchild was born. Our three daughters are married, and this past year, our oldest son married as well. This was the second marriage where the in-laws also live in our hometown of Efrat, which is close to Jerusalem.

Looking forward to hearing from more of you. Remember, all your

news is eventful and appreciated. — *Alan Schriger*

1980

From the Facebook group posts, it looks like there have been some classmate reunions in all sorts of places. Assuming we all have more free time than we used to, what overdue visits will finally come to fruition this year?

Meredith Taylor, in addition to sending a great photo of the "ladies who lunch" in Hilton Head, S.C., updated me. She owns and runs Gifted Hilton Head, a gift shop, but returns to Pittsburgh several times a year to visit and play golf. So, if you aren't able to visit her in Hilton Head, you might catch her in the Ohio Valley.

News has been generally thin. Christmas cards have lots of family news and photos, including many grandchildren. Other than meeting up with old friends, how do you all spend your time? No doubt, many of you volunteer, have great hobbies, have written books, have taken classes, have played music or have done other creative things. Share, please, what inspires you or keeps you motivated.

As for me, I'm continuing my part-time work as a GED teacher, which means that I have the privilege of helping

adults improve their lives. I can't even believe that I teach math. I'm also active in arts/cultural/service organizations here on Chincoteague Island, Va., and I volunteer 175 steps up at the top of the Assateague Lighthouse, which is the best gig ever because visitors are thrilled that they made the climb. I have nothing, however, to do with the famous ponies, but I do get to see them herded past my house on Pony Swim Day each July. If that sounds quirky, Google it. It is. Be well and keep in touch.

— *Deborah L. Hennel*

REUNION 2026

1981

By the time you read this, we will be weeks away from celebrating our 45th Reunion. If you haven't already made plans to join us, please make the effort to do so. It's fantastic sharing time together in a place that means so much to all of us.

Sadly, we lost three classmates in July and August. **Mary DeCredico** died suddenly July 22 in Annapolis, Md., having retired in June from the U.S. Naval Academy, where she taught history and served in many leadership positions. Mary received her Ph.D. from Vanderbilt and was a recognized scholar of Civil War history. She served as the provost at Bucknell for several years

"WHO WAS RESPONSIBLE FOR SILENCING DON HOAGUE'S MORNING TRUMPET PLAYING BY PLACING IT ON THE NEARBY RAILROAD TRACKS ONE NIGHT?"

Jay Giardina '65

and was a beloved member of our class.

Lisa McComsey died Aug. 2 after living a life full of purpose. She was an avid cyclist, runner (ran 25 marathons) and hiker, and became a vegan and, later, a "seagan." She caught the travel bug while studying in Paris during our junior year and spent time in Costa Rica and Key West, Fla. (with husband Rick), among many other places. She was a published author, a competitive Toastmaster and a friend to many. Her dad (who predeceased her in 2021) was Bucknell Class of '52.

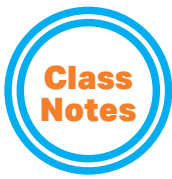
Barbara Nowak Salvitti '82, who played on the Bucknell women's basketball team, died Aug. 20. She lived in Danbury, Conn., with her husband of 40 years, Stephen. She was a mother of five and grandmother of eight. Her obituary captured her beautifully: "Barbara's passions were centered on her family, faith and the simple joys of life."

On a much happier note, **Kathy Nemes Cassidy** and **Tom Ganter**

married in Toms River, N.J., June 21. **Larry D'Amico** served as the officiant; Tom's Sigma Chi brothers serenaded Kathy with "The Sweetheart of Sigma Chi," and many of our classmates attended the wedding.

Kathy and Tom's connection began thanks to **Chris Brown's** encouragement. Kathy (a recent widow) reached out to Tom (a more recent widower) to offer support as he grieved the loss of his wife. That friendship turned into a romance and then a marriage. **Jamie Bougioukas James** shared on Facebook: "I had the privilege of attending the wedding of my college roommate — a beautiful second marriage between two classmates who each tragically lost their first spouse to illness. Over 300 guests filled the room, but Bucknell's presence was unmistakable.

"As I looked around, it hit me: Nearly 45 years since graduation, so many of us had traveled to be here, together again. In that moment, I



realized that being a Bucknellian puts you in a class unlike any other. We are more than alumni — we are a family. Bucknellians marry Bucknellians. They raise Bucknellians. They become their children's godparents.

"We live near each other or far away; it does not matter. We support each other and celebrate life's highs and comfort each other in its lows. Doctors, lawyers, teachers, engineers, CFOs, actuaries, advisers, mothers, fathers — the titles vary, but the bond stays the same. There's no competition, no pretense — only deep, lasting connection."

Beth Clouser Hare, ever the kind and gracious friend, shared the news of **Janet Engels Downing's** promotion to vice president, head of global investments, for RBC. Janet oversees investment teams in the U.S., Canada, Europe and Asia.

Beth continues to work at her executive

search firm in Philadelphia, advising clients, including the mayor of Philadelphia. Her daughter, Cordelia, finished grad school at Sciences Po in France and traveled to Indonesia with Beth to celebrate. Beth purchased a home in Cascais, Portugal. Beth and **Carolyn Cipolla Stewart** spent a weekend in Seattle visiting **Christina Greer Dawson** and found the years since Lewisburg just melted away.

See you at Reunion!
— *Carol Christie Rosner*

1982

Carl Nablo moved to Scottsdale, Ariz., from Atlanta in 2004 and has never looked back. He really enjoys living in that area. He has made numerous visits to **John Altamura's** ranch in Yellowstone with fellow KDRs **Tom Bloomquist** and **Steve Coppinger**. In July, he was in Santa Barbara, Calif., for Steve's wedding, which included an incredible rehearsal dinner

overlooking the Pacific Ocean. In November, Carl was in Las Vegas for the Formula One race and his car club's events; Steve and he took in the fun trackside as cars zipped by at 210 mph. To stay involved with Bucknell, from 2022–25, Carl helped out in the start of Bucknell's entrepreneurial program after the experience of co-founding a manufacturing incubator in Arizona for business development. He is glad that Bucknell's program has wings now and is sure it will yield some interesting ideas and companies.

Professionally, he is enjoying running his business. He says, "From travel to the Middle East to improving global entities, it keeps me engaged; the ability to apply what you've learned is really fun." He'd love to hear from classmates if you're ever in Arizona at Carl_Nablo@hotmail.com.

Speaking of Bucknell's entrepreneurial program, **Fred Thomas M'90** served as Bucknell's innovator in residence for a week in September, hosted by the Perricelli-Gegnag Center for Entrepreneurship & Innovation. He spoke on "The Craft of Becoming an Inventor" and also delivered a presentation for a larger audience as part of the 2025 Bucknell Fall Founders Speaker Series. "It was an incredibly rewarding experience. I had the

opportunity to meet with and begin mentoring several engineering and business students, and I thoroughly enjoyed the week on campus." Fred works for HP as a distinguished technologist for emerging technology in its Advance Compute and Solutions Business. A prolific inventor, he has more than 100 U.S. patents.

I shared previously that **Scott Armacost** took a 2,340-mile canoe journey down the length of the Mississippi River in 2021. Last year, he was invited by one of the many unforgettable River Angels he met along the way to embark on another epic paddle: the Erie Canal. Scott set off to trace its full length to the Hudson River, then turned south toward the Statue of Liberty — 516 miles in just 20 days. There was no current to help on the canal, a headwind that refused to quit and more than a few close calls with ships the size of the Washington Monument. He muses, "Who knew New York State was hiding so many trees, critters and moments of wild serenity? Who needs a gym when you've got a canoe and questionable judgment? Turns out, 'vacation' is Latin for 'extreme upper body workout.'"

George '81 and I had the pleasure of attending **Glenn O'Brien's** wedding to Jeanne Mauritzen in September. They got

married on a sunny but blustery afternoon at the Avon Pavilion in New Jersey. I had fun reconnecting with **Ed Stark, Joe Donato, Pete Black, Gary Bartlett** and their wives. **Tom '81** and **Kathy Nemes Cassidy Ganter '81, Tim '83** and **Donna Petty Christie '83** and **Andrew Komjathy '84** also attended. Tom's daughter-in-law is in a band, Take Five, with her dad, and they provided the music.

In October, I celebrated my 65th birthday with fellow 4th West-ers: **Susan Kincaid, Martha Gilman Pradhan, Becky Turkington Congdon, Carol Israel Casten, Helen Roby Kennelly, Nancy Pultz Blackmore** and **Lonnie Jones Pera. Lauren Shiffrin Huelsebusch** and **Kris Harris Elwell** were there via FaceTime. We found a former bed-and-breakfast turned Vrbo in Chadds Ford, Pa. We had a birthday dinner complete with specially made 4th West champagne glasses and visited the Brandywine Museum of Art, Winterthur Museum and Longwood Gardens, where we saw the after-dark light show. It's hard to beat 47 years of friendship.

It's time to start thinking about Reunion — just one year away.
— *Becky Goodwin Kangos*

1983

Jim '82 retired in June from HM Insurance

"NEARLY 45 YEARS SINCE GRADUATION, SO MANY OF US HAD TRAVELED TO BE HERE, TOGETHER AGAIN. IN THAT MOMENT, I REALIZED THAT BEING A BUCKNELLIAN PUTS YOU IN A CLASS UNLIKE ANY OTHER."

Jamie Bougioukas James '81

Group after almost 20 years. Our family immediately went to the beach to start Poppy's retirement off right. At the end of our stay, we brunchd with **Catherine "CJ" Kolb Stroup** at her magnificent Kiawah Island, S.C., home. Relaxing on her patio overlooking the marsh was welcome after chasing our five grandkids all week.

In mid-July, we headed north to celebrate a Marren family wedding. **Dave and Caroline Dillon Marren** hosted a perfect weekend in Chatham, Mass., in honor of daughter **Meg '17's** marriage to Prince Kudolo. Our class was well represented; it was great catching up with **Cari Cardaci, Ed '84** and **Ann Joyce Berrigan, Andy Kimball, Dan Willcoxon, Steve Girden, Deane and Jim Hiles, Paul and Mary Stark Bamford '85, Mark and Sue DeKimpe Glenn, Kim and Chet Simmons, Scott and Meg Barron Born, Craig and Eileen McCarthy Born, Mark and Laurie Holben Fine, Brian and Karen Fracas Monaghan, Tim and Stacey Bernhard Smollen and Eric and Nancy Harvey Worrell.** Nancy and Eric arrived in Cape Cod early and managed a visit with Steve and **Carol Christie Rosner '81.** In addition to the wedding reception overlooking Wychmere Harbor, we enjoyed walks around town and on the beach, lobster rolls and

just being together. After a lovely breakfast on Sunday, we spent the afternoon with Molly and **James Nicol '82,** who were at their summer place in Harwich Port. They're retired and divide their time between the Cape and their home in Savannah, Ga. They celebrated their daughter's wedding in London and the arrival of two more grandchildren this year. Our final stop was Bristol, R.I., to visit **Jim '82** and **Beth Chittenden Flynn '82.** They have restored a centuries-old home near downtown and the harbor.

A quick trip home, and we were off to a family wedding and hiking trip in Scotland. We were completely enchanted with the country. Many thanks to **Nancy McGrath O'Neal,** whose two daughters attend the University of St. Andrews, and to **Ken Quaas '82** for their immensely helpful travel suggestions.

Another Bucknell gathering was a few weeks later in upstate N.Y., where Lisa Hanger and **Larry Esposito '82** hosted us with Yvonne and **Rick Wambach '82** at their Peck Lake cabin. We were joined one evening by Karen and **Bob Mulrooney '82,** who have a cabin across the lake. Larry and Lisa are enjoying retirement and split their time between Peck Lake and Franklin, Tenn. Rick and Yvonne are also enjoying

retirement and celebrated by purchasing a bigger boat with plans for adventures on the Great Lakes.

We wrapped up our travels this year by visiting the Monaghans at their home in Brevard, N.C. We hiked past a few waterfalls, visited Asheville and the Biltmore Estate. The couple plans on splitting time between New Jersey (and their precious granddaughter) and the mountains of western North Carolina. They're getting familiar with their new surroundings by hiking, playing golf and visiting breweries.

Jared "Jed" Lans wrote in about the sudden

passing of **Steve Reich.** "He and I were best buds, and it was very difficult. [Steve] passed away June 15 from a heart attack while golfing with friends. Steve lived in Pittsburgh his entire life and loved everything about the city. At Bucknell, he majored in English literature and was a member of Kappa Sigma. He spent the spring semester of our junior year in London and traveled across Europe with Jed, **Dave Potter** and **Jonathan Baum.** After graduation, he attended the University of Pittsburgh Law School. Steve became a prominent NHL agent, representing some of hockey's most

iconic Hall of Famers, including Mario Lemieux, Chris Chelios, Ron Francis and Luc Robitaille, among others. He is survived by his wife, Tanya, his children, Arlene, Jack and Estelle, his son-in-law, Daniel, and granddaughter Sofia." (everloved.com/life-of/stephen-reich/obituary/) — *Tracey Trusk Eick*

1984

Jerry Jurick wrote with some fun news that grew out of our 40th Reunion in 2024. There, among others, he caught up with the late **Jeff Hines,** who recommended that Jerry inquire about alumni

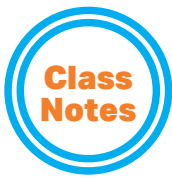
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“WHO KNEW NEW YORK STATE WAS HIDING SO MANY TREES, CRITTERS AND MOMENTS OF WILD SERENITY? WHO NEEDS A GYM WHEN YOU’VE GOT A CANOE AND QUESTIONABLE JUDGMENT?”

Scott Armacost '82

volunteer activities at Bucknell as he winds down his career. Jerry took Jeff’s advice and ultimately joined the Bucknell Engineering Alumni Association (BEAA), a diverse group of engineering alumni with a common interest in supporting the College of Engineering. As a board member, Jerry will be engaged with faculty and students. He looks forward to spending even more time with BEAA as he reduces his day-to-day activities at the engineering firm Johnson, Mirmiran and Thompson this year.

Jerry’s wife, Margie Brassil, retired from the State of Maryland General Assembly in August after serving as the chief of staff for the speaker pro tempore in the House of Delegates. Margie and Jerry welcomed their second grandchild, Jackson, last Halloween. He is a beautiful addition to the family, and Jerry plans to spend a lot of time with him, as well as with his first grandchild, Grayson, who turned

4 in December. Jerry would love to hear from classmates at jfjurick@gmail.com.

Some of us have had regular gatherings with Bucknell friend groups for many years, while others are newly embracing the ability to gather or travel together now that retirements are afoot. Please share how you and your Bison pals are reconnecting at this exciting time of our lives.

Alex Cameron reported on his Bucknell friend group that endeavors to get together on a semi-regular basis. This past September, the group spent a fabulous weekend on the Cape at the Chatham, Mass., home of Bill and **Kerry Dell Stratton**. In addition to the hosts, in attendance were Ann and Alex, **David Grossman**, **Kate Higgins**, Linda and **David Katz**, **Jan Suter** and partner Kent Wallace, **John** and **Susan Diperna Comerci '85** and **Doug '83** and **Elisa McKay Medina**. — *Allison Abouchar Cross*

REUNION 2026

1986

Matt and **Kathy Ferrara Baxley** hosted Dean and **Kathy Natale Thompson** and Chris and **Felicia Griffin Sperry M'89** at their home in Vermont this past October. The women were freshman hallmates on 3rd Harris. They spent their time reminiscing and catching up, with lots of laughs. They are all planning on attending Reunion this spring. What about you? — *Joan Daughen Cadigan*

1988

In the fall, we hosted a Pittsburgh wedding for our daughter, **Julia de la Parra '19**, and **Scott Burian '17**. It was an absolutely perfect weekend. Fourteen Bucknellians were part of the wedding party, including Julia’s brother, **Jack de la Parra '22**, and Scott’s brother and best man, **Marc Burian '12**. Bucknell guests over 30 included my former roommates and hallmates **Heather McBride Leef**, **Alison Beech Valli**, **Kathleen Healey Hogan** and **Kathy Pandelidis Granbois**. **Mel Blount** reports, “There was a lot of golf starting in mid-July with **Dave Miller**, **Don Triolo '89** and **Adam Rubin**. Later in July, it was back to Bucknell for the Bud Ranck-Tom Gadd Memorial Kickoff Classic golf outing, including **Bob Sill**

'84, **Shane Snyder '84**, **John Sullivan '86**, **Bobby Maute '86**, **H.J. Willcox**, **Scott Lillis**, **Dave Henry '86**, **Will McFarland '86** and **Mike Morrow '87**. The outing also included our new vice president and director of athletics, **Tim Pavlechko '91**, **M'93**, and Associate Athletic Director **Todd Newcomb**. **Doug Williams '63**’s spirit now hovers over every Ranck-Gadd.”

Mel also played golf at Pine Orchard in Branford, Conn., with **Tom Collins '87**, **Jack Baker '20** and **Charlie Greenwood '20** (FIJIs beat the SPEs again) and at Shelter Harbor in Charlestown, R.I., with **Bobby Leblanc**, **Gregg Smith '87** and **Brian Le Blanc '18**. Brian and Bobby welcomed their first daughter and granddaughter, respectively, on New Year’s Eve. Mel helped arrange a Phi Psi golf foursome in August with **Kevin Gerrity '86**, **Mark Stanisci '86**, **Ken Schmalz '86** and **Mike Gamboli '86**.

The Blounts went to **Kevin '87** and **Stacey Gardner Mullins**’ annual Summer Bonanza, which included **Rob** and **Corinne Cole Ryan**, **Jon Jones Ladda**, **Maureen Carroll**, **Chris Glavin Cheo**, **Karen Karlovec Humm**, **Jill Manuel Coughlin** and **Adam Rubin**. They also saw **Henry “Tripp” Hilles** over an annual Labor Day weekend at Lake Paupac in the Poconos.

The whole Blount Family went to their last

Family Weekend — after 12 years — that included a Thursday night at Towne Tavern. Over the weekend, they saw **John Rigney '89**, **Susan Wallace M'93**, **Ed Robinson '86** and **Dan Willcoxon '83**.

Bucknell Homecoming included several Phi Psi back to celebrate **Bob Rhein '85**’s induction into Bucknell’s Hall of Fame, including Rob and Corinne Ryan, Mark Stanisci and Ken Schmalz, as well as **Bryan Huber '87** and **Tom Cusick '87**. Mel attended the football game with **Gary Scott** and a soccer game with **Greg Prime '89** and **Bryan '89** and **Sandy Stine Aprahamian '90**. He had a Bull Run drink on the Bull Run’s famed Market Street porch with **Meg Samek-Smith**.

Mel adds, “We went to weddings for the kids of **Katie Simpson Caste**, **Karen Detwiler Bascom** and **Susan Orth Cleary**, which included **Dave Fehnel** and **Ande Gabriel**, **Leigh Smith Petras**, **Linda Fleming Zolper**, **Paul** and **Cindy Phillips Freud** and **Nancy Payne Bruns** (sadly, the Caste wedding conflicted with Julia de La Parra’s wedding). The Bascom wedding was in Lancaster, Pa., and I reached out to **Scott Radcliffe** for the first time in 30 years to see if he would host me at Lancaster Country Club. He was willing, and that round included **Gary Fritz.**”

Mel went to a Rutgers

football game in October with **Harry** and **Janine Farrell Buell** and **Doug Fastuca '87**. Of course, they also saw Coach **Greg Schiano** at the game.

"On that same coaching note, I made it back to Bucknell in mid-November for an early basketball game and ran into **Jay Wright '83**, **Mike Ferguson '83**, **Doug Allen** and **Mike Joseph '90**."

Mel was at **Andy Yost '87**'s 60th birthday party with Andy's wife, **Calli Williams Yost '87**, **Jack Reiner '87**, **Bob Lalevee '87**, **Rob Boyle '87** and **Fran Sharkey Moum '87**, and also Kevin Mullins's surprise 60th in December. Other attendees included Ed Robinson, **John Byren '87**, **Jerry Guterl '87**, **Scott "Boj" Bojczuk '87**, **Andy '87** and **Katie Zuberbuhler Klaber** and **Pat Donohue '87**.

"Finally, the last non-family Bucknellian I saw in 2025 was **Karen Shelton '90** at her nephew's New Year's Eve wedding. The groom went to Colgate, but his younger brother, **Tim Andersen '27**, is on Bucknell's football team." — *Stacie Velisaris de la Parra*

1990

Jen Adams Faulkner and her husband are in Atlanta, where they have two businesses. Their triplets are graduating from college soon, and the "pay raise" has been

postponed while they apply to grad schools. Jen remains in touch with **Lynn Carlson Toombs '89**, who is the godmother of one of my kids. She and **Susan Korzick Spencer** try to get together periodically.

Christine Barry Sielecki and her husband moved to New Hampshire after 25-plus years in Michigan. They purchased a small lakefront home and plan to make major renovations. They will be just two hours from their daughter, who lives in Boston.

Keep the updates coming. Stay safe and be well. — *Laura Michaelec Olszewski*

REUNION 2026

1991

So many thriving Tri-Delt women took trains, planes and automobiles to gather Dec. 14 for a holiday brunch at The Ned NoMad in New York City. The annual reunion, organized by **Carolyn Petersen**, was a big success.

Attendees were Carolyn, **Ellen Hogan Elsen**, **Jillian Munro**, **Kirsten McAuliffe Raleigh**, **Lisa duBusc Miller**, **Paula Mistretta Why**, **Karen Cestari Kenney**, **Dana McAleer Guild**, **Samantha Rhulen**, **Melissa Orme von Summer**, **Janet Senft Pearce**, **Tracey Tatter Brunner**, **Kim Higgins Haggerty** and **Pam Wilderotter Pokorny '90**. In addition, **Kelley**

Nicholson-Flynn, Andrea Apuzzi Mortati and **Andrea Calise** joined up for a festive dinner the night before. — *Lisa duBusc Miller*

1995

How I wish we had another Reunion to look forward to this year. It was so fun to be back on campus. I'm dreaming of 2030.

I spent a long weekend in Ormond Beach, Fla., in October with **Tara Hooper Contiliano**, parent of **Kate '29**. It was so nice to spend a few days together in a sunny, warm spot. **Chris** and I spent New Year's Eve with **Dave** and **Colleen Taylor Lukens '94** and **Katie Malague '94**.

It was also great to see them and to continue our tradition of ringing in the New Year together.

In September, I saw an announcement that **Jennifer Flax Mamlet** is joining the Ad Council as chief development officer. In this new position, she will "lead all corporate and philanthropic giving, forging strategic partnerships and expanding funding to power a portfolio of high-impact initiatives tackling some of the most pressing social issues in America — mental health, firearm injury prevention and skills-based hiring. In addition to enhancing fundraising efforts,

Jennifer will oversee the management of the organization's board of directors of 150 senior-level executives from across the media, marketing and tech industries."

Finally, it is with deep sorrow that I bring you news of the passing of **Gino Frank** Nov. 4, following a courageous battle with cancer. His obituary captures him so well, stating, in part, "Gino was known for his fun-loving spirit, bold personality and unwavering passion for the sport of wrestling. He was also deeply dedicated to education, especially in subjects he was passionate about, including Egyptian and

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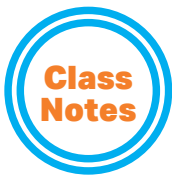
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Roman history, wrestling and geography.

“Over more than 20 years of teaching, he inspired countless students — whether in the classroom or in the weight room — with his lessons, humor, standards and belief in personal growth and discipline. He will always be remembered as a devoted husband and ‘cat dad,’ a loyal family member, a committed coach, a dedicated teacher and a sincere friend — fierce in his convictions, passionate in his pursuits and generous in his love for others.”

I hope you will join me in extending my condolences to his wife, Amanda, his family and his friends. — *Jennifer Blob Boner*

1998

Jake Keys reports that wife **Liz Woodrow Keys** “was promoted to senior vice president of human

resources with Hooker Furnishings. She will lead the company’s human resources strategy and oversee all aspects of HR operations. She joined Hooker Furnishings in 2010 and has served as vice president of HR since 2020.

“Liz lives with her husband, Jake, in Greensboro, N.C., and has two children: a son, Josh (21, a senior at North Carolina State University), and a daughter, Elliott (18, a freshman at James Madison University).” — *Heather Murphy Loudon*

REUNION 2026

2001

Steve Tvardek and **Blaze Berdahl '02** are celebrating the 25th anniversary of their meeting during a social gathering on Market Street in September 2000; they’ve been together ever since. Married in 2007, they have two

children (Beau and Stephen) and live in Weehawken, N.J. Blaze was featured on the cover of the Fall 2020 *Bucknell Magazine*, focused on how professionals were navigating the new era of working from home.

— *Heather Pollard Adrian*

2008

Somehow it’s spring, and many of us are turning 40 this year. I’m astonished at how quickly time has passed, yet when I hear from each of you, it seems as though our years at Bucknell were just yesterday.

Emily Baker marked nearly a decade at the Natural History Museum of Los Angeles and La Brea Tar Pits & Museum. She is the supervisor of museum education for both sites and looks forward to being part of the Tar Pits’ museum

floor-to-ceiling reimagining beginning this year.

Jake Meyer, in his role at WPP Media, is leading the World Cup launch for Adidas — even though he still can’t properly tie his Sambas after all these years.

Allison Hirsch Ascolese got together with **Brandy Newton Eber**, **Jenna Crimaldi Giordano** and **Morgan Johnson Bauer**. Their families enjoyed a barbecue at Brandy’s new home in Cape May Courthouse, N.J.

Katie Asmundson sent a 2025 family update. They welcomed a new puppy, Whiskey, in September and have four daughters and two dogs. They traveled to Dublin and Paris in June and celebrated Katie’s 40th birthday at Disney World, where Guardians of the Galaxy: Cosmic Rewind is her favorite ride.

Brian and **Julie Dlugos**

Fadden welcomed a baby girl in March 2025. Ethel Isobel joined sister Rosalie and brothers Charlie and Pete. The Faddens live north of Pittsburgh and are eager to visit Bucknell to cheer on Ethel’s cousin, **Elizabeth Dlugos '27**, and the rest of the Bison track and field team.

Cordy Elkins had a big year. She married her husband, Dustin, in October in Napa Valley, Calif., — one of their favorite places — and the couple moved from Boston to Scottsdale, Ariz. They’re enjoying the warmer weather for outdoor activities and access to winter when they want it. Cordy welcomes classmates to connect if they are in the area.

Joe and **Kristen Lashnits McGowan** had their second son in October and are settling in as a family of four in Connecticut. She is



IN MEMORIAM

David Boger '61, H'14

David Boger '61, H'14, a pioneering chemical engineer whose work in fluid dynamics led to major industrial advances, died July 5 at age 85.

Boger earned his bachelor’s degree in chemical engineering. He went on to receive his master’s and doctorate from the University of Illinois before launching an academic career that included the University of Florida, as well as Monash University and the University of Melbourne in Australia.

Known for discovering what are now called “Boger fluids” — elastic fluids with constant viscosity — Boger conducted research that transformed the understanding of non-Newtonian fluids and led to innovations ranging from safer industrial waste disposal to improved inkjet printing technologies.

A fellow of the Australian Academy of Science and the Royal Society, Boger was elected to the U.S. National Academy of Engineering in 2017 and was appointed a Companion of the Order of Australia in 2024.

Bucknell recognized his achievements with an honorary doctor of science degree in 2014.

definitely in denial about the big 4-0 coming up.

Mary and **David Mante** reconnected with civil engineering classmates **Joey Smith, Eric Weaver** and **Melanie Buczko Lincoln '07** as co-authors of a construction fashion blog. Following the blog's launch this spring, the group was finalizing plans for a printed edition beginning in late 2026.
— *Laura Leviski Hyde*

2010

Rob and **Christine Reilly Cecot** are expecting their third child this spring, who will join siblings Anabelle (3) and Arthur (2).

Danielle Lynch M'10 was heading to California to take on a new position at Pomona and Pitzer colleges. She will be director of athletics for the Pomona-Pitzer athletics program and chair of Pomona's physical education department.

Nina Olivetti shared that she and her 5-year-old son, Elliott, moved back to Lewisburg, where she is an academic assistant at Bucknell's Humanities Center. She spent much of her time after graduation in New York City and earned her master's in psychology from the New School for Social Research.

After grad school and almost seven years in Virginia, **Annie Leister** is back in Pennsylvania, living in the greater

Philly area. She's worked for the ed-tech company Terra Dotta since 2022, supporting global engagement and exchange programs (and reminiscing about time abroad with Bucknell in Spain and Bucknell in Nicaragua). On the weekend, you can often find her exploring the many gardens, arboreta and state parks in the nation's garden capital.
— *David Iselin*

2012

Alison Nahra married Brian DiNuzzo in May 2025 in Cleveland. In attendance were many Bucknellians, including **Alex Kiefer, Jenna Wadsworth, Emma Grahn, April Soler Manos, Ryan Ottino, Ryan Tomasello, Nicola Beaumont Forman '13** and **Lindsay Horbattuck Henty '13**. Alison and Brian live in Columbus, Ohio.

Ali Keller, a theatre major, had an Off-Broadway premiere as a playwright of her show, *(un)conditional*, which ran Sept. 18–Oct. 26. *If you have a Class Note to share, please submit your update at go. bucknell.edu/classnotes.*

2013

Stephanie Thomas and **Taylor Gray** married on Cape Cod, Mass., in September with many Bucknellians in attendance, including the groom's father, **Stuart Gray '80**.

As for myself, life has been busy as **Greg Epreman '12** and I have marked two years in Amsterdam. As I write this, we've just hosted Christmas and New Year's; I suppose that means we have truly settled in. If you are ever visiting Amsterdam, I would be more than happy to have a coffee or share recommendations for restaurants or places to visit.

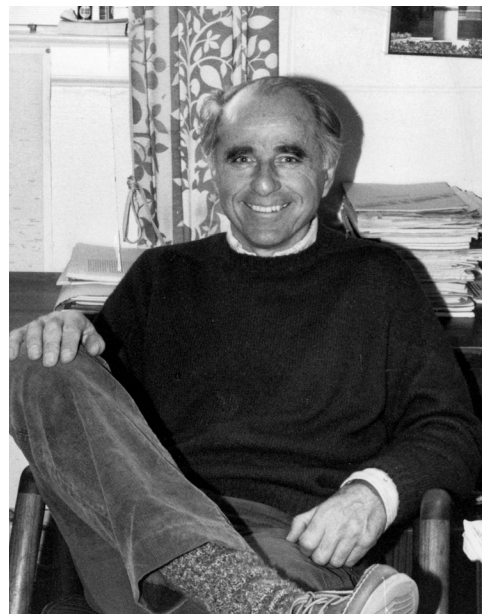
As some of you have probably seen, Bucknell will be discontinuing access to our @bucknell.edu email addresses in July. I'll be sure to notify you all with my new email once I switch over.

Lastly, as I am not back in the U.S. that often, I sadly don't bump into any Bucknellians at the supermarket anymore. Knowing that it can be a bit harder to stay in touch from afar, I would be happy to have a U.S.-based co-reporter. If you stay in touch with many Bucknellians and see yourself in this role, let me know, and we can make it a joint effort.

That's it for now. Have a great spring and hope to hear from you all soon. — *Masha Zhdanova*

2014

Tom Zhu, co-founder and CEO of AlloyX Group, rang the NASDAQ opening bell Oct. 24, marking a merger with Solowin Holdings and a



IN MEMORIAM

Richard 'Dick' Peterec P'82, P'84, P'86, P'01, G'15

→ Professor Emeritus **Richard "Dick" Peterec P'82, P'84, P'86, P'01, G'15**, geography and international relations, a beloved teacher, mentor and global educator at Bucknell, died Jan. 5 at age 94.

Peterec taught at Bucknell for more than four decades, shaping generations of students through his work in political geography and international relations, with particular expertise in the Middle East. He was known for bringing current events and global politics vividly into the classroom.

An avid traveler and proponent of experiential learning, Peterec opened the world to his students through ambitious, low-cost international programs that took them across Europe and the Middle East, often behind the Iron Curtain during the Cold War. He was also active in the Lewisburg community, using his law degree to support student involvement in the Lewisburg Prison Project.

He was married to his wife, Mary, for 67 years and was the father of five daughters, including **Ingrid Peterec '82; Kristen Peterec '86, M'90; Martha Peterec Shaunessy '84, P'15;** and **Sarah Peterec '01**. He also had 11 grandchildren, including **Anya Shaunessy '15**.

new chapter in fintech innovation.

Heather Garvey and husband **Matt Diles '13** welcomed their second daughter, Sutton, July 20. Peyton was thrilled to be a big sister. — *Kaitlin Marsh*

2015

Kevin and **Kate Hickes Burns** welcomed their baby, Owen John Burns, Nov. 15. — *Colin Hassell*

2018

Wesley Morlock got engaged June 28 to Olivia Haskell. — *Anna Millar*

IN MEMORIAM

1945

Elise Miller Schnure P'70, P'75, Sept. 4, Shelburne, Vt.

1946

Dore Miller Stubenvoll, Nov. 4, Duluth, Minn.

1948

Margaret "Margy" Hughes Coats P'72, G'01, Aug. 3, Newtown, Pa.

Stanley Gerla, July 9, Boca Raton, Fla.

Ellen "Elly" Zahn Mahler, Oct. 16, Rochester, N.Y.

1949

Theresa "Terry" Pellegrino MacDonald, July 21, Colonia, N.J.

1950

Patricia Winther Balas, Oct. 1, McKinney, Texas

Chelten "Skip" Smith, Dec. 25, Erie, Pa.

Dorothy Fairchild Wolford, July 6, Milton, Pa.

1951

Betts Houser Appleton, July 8, Wilmington, N.C.

1952

Robert deGroot, Nov. 6, Mystic, Conn.

Charles Gaugler, Dec. 9, Rowlett, Texas

Carl Lillmars, Dec. 24, Phoenixville, Pa.

Miriam "Mim" Baker Naugle P'85, P'89, Dec. 24, Lewisburg, Pa.

Ronald Peterson, Nov. 13, Hagerstown, Md.

1953

James Boughter, Dec. 23, Millville, N.J.

Dale Fowler, Aug. 12, Honesdale, Pa.

Robert Grabowski, Oct. 26, Glenville, N.Y.

Mona Rogers Larrabee P'79, Dec. 16, New Holland, Pa.

Walter McConnell P'81, G'13, Sept. 11, Bolton Landing, N.Y.

James Thorn, Sept. 4, Willow Street, Pa.

Max Van Buskirk P'78, G'09, G'13, Dec. 26, Mechanicsburg, Pa.

1954

Gladys "Bonnie" Mackie Aspinwall, Dec. 1, Fort Myers, Fla.

Eugene Bolter, July 11, Ligonier, Pa.

Katherine Leisman Harkins, July 13, Harrisburg, Pa.

Elizabeth "Betty" Heald Schurmann, Dec. 12, Marlton, N.J.

Nancy Read Zavitz, Aug. 6, Portland, Ore.

1955

Kathryn Nolan Butterworth, Nov. 24, Bennington, Vt.

Roy Gavert, Sept. 27, Beaver, Pa.

Nancy Daddow Gemmell, Sept. 10, Wilmington, Del.

D. Joan Norris Jasper, Aug. 8, Meadowbrook, Pa.

Thomas Kearney, Sept. 1, Fair Lawn, N.J.

Inez Mitchell Sanders, Nov. 9, North Canton, Ohio

Gail Rothenberger Shand P'81, P'87, P'90, G'12, G'25, July 25, Falmouth, Maine

1956

Joseph Brune P'84, P'90, P'93, G'21, Nov. 24, Baltimore

Janet Fleming Dreier, Sept. 11, Barrington, R.I.

Case Foster, July 26, Ashville, N.Y.

Patricia Groff Hershock, Dec. 24, Lancaster, Pa.

Albert Kettler, Dec. 20, Murrysville, Pa.

William Palmer, July 3, Essex, Conn.

Marjorie "Dadgie" Steinkamp Scott, Dec. 11, Royalston, Mass.

Nancy Beasten Speer P'83, G'14, Sept. 18, Pittsburgh

Anne Oesterling Wall, Dec. 12, Doylestown, Pa.

Michael Zaparyniuk, Sept. 22, Lake Worth, Fla.

1957

Evelyn Hickox Gilbreath, Nov. 5, Murrysville, Pa.

Dorothy Reichard Hower G'13, Nov. 18, Milton, Pa.

Christine Snell, Dec. 26, Hanover, Pa.

William Thomson G'15, Aug. 17, Pasadena, Calif.

Mahlon Wagner, Dec. 23, Troutdale, Ore.

1958

Robert Kaye, Dec. 7, Lake Worth, Fla.

David Kilminster, Oct. 28, Savannah, Ga.

1959

Nancy Bryan Bentley, July 21, Las Vegas

Carol McMahon Clowe, Sept. 23, Mississauga, Ontario, Canada

Charles Confer, Oct. 3, Lewisburg, Pa.

George Faries, Sept. 2, Mechanicsburg, Pa.

Richard Fischer, July 25, Basking Ridge, N.J.

Patricia Reish Hemphill P'86, P'88, Aug. 31, Newtown Square, Pa.

William Hodge, Aug. 20, Vero Beach, Fla.

Joseph Kopf, Aug. 30, Hilton Head Island, S.C.

Thomas Millen, Sept. 9, Williamsburg, Va.

Richard Millward, Sept. 1, Shelton, Conn.

Carole Westerman, Dec. 1, Newark, Del.

1960

John Blake M'62, Dec. 19, Fredericksburg, Va.

James Brady, Nov. 8, Jacksonville, Fla.

Jane Reuning English, Oct. 7, Gettysburg, Pa.

Mary Anne Gates Kurz P'93, March 23, 2025, Richmond, Va.

Mary Jane Hohman Lupton, Aug. 9, Cape May, N.J.

Barry Tague P'84, P'86, P'95, Sept. 7, Bryn Mawr, Pa.

1961

Beverly Bedwell Bryars, Nov. 16, San Antonio

Lynne Coffin-Prince, May 25, 2025, South Hadley, Mass.

Cora Lee Five, Nov. 16, New York City

Thomas Keech, Nov. 9, Lititz, Pa.

George Roessler P'92, G'24, July 26, Manahawkin, N.J.

Constance "Connie" Cruickshank Waymer, July 28, Sarasota, Fla.

1962

Linda Gagliardi Abrams, Dec. 11, Skillman, N.J.

Jean Thomas Bell P'85, June 19, Sebastian, Fla.

David Benfer P'89, Oct. 25, Glen Mills, Pa.

Karen Lewis Byrne, June 24, Corvallis, Ore.

Robert Cole, Sept. 20, Hilton, N.Y.

Penny Sine Duff, Oct. 20, Kennebunk, Maine

Anne Wagner Silberfarb, Aug. 14, Norwich, Vt.

1963

James Beltz, July 16, Palm Beach Gardens, Fla.

Carl Bliss, Sept. 23, 2024, West Chester, Pa.

Carol Skinner Husted, Nov. 15, Palm City, Fla.

James Koehn, Dec. 15, Sheridan, Mich.

John "Jay" Arthur Lyons, Oct. 15, Claremont, N.H.

Eric Moore, Nov. 29, New Albany, N.Y.

Allen Stiteler, July 24, Philadelphia

William Sweet P'97, G'26, Oct. 17, Glen Mills, Pa.

Marilyn Wightman, Aug. 24, Cotuit, Mass.

1964

William Badger, Sept. 1, Mount Pleasant, S.C.

Richard Naylor, Oct. 18, Schenectady, N.Y.

William Scherr, Jan. 27, 2025, Columbia, Md.

1965

Carolyn Morton Moore G'26, Aug. 13, Naples, Fla.

1966

David Flamberg, Aug. 6, Alta Loma, Calif.

Mary Kay Daniels Ganning, Aug. 26, Crofton, Md.

1967

Patricia Rose Chiodo, Dec. 25, Richmond, Va.

Scott Duffy, Aug. 25, Cumru Township, Pa.

Charles Johnson P'90, Sept. 16, Camp Hill, Pa.

1968

Fredric "Ric" Byrnes, Nov. 16, Vero Beach, Fla.

John Kelchner, Oct. 9, Portsmouth, R.I.

1969

Marcia Donley, Aug. 15, Fayetteville, Ark.

Henry "Hank" Ingham, June 26, Eureka, Calif.

1970

Barbara Smith Jansen, Aug. 25, Westport, Mass.

William Landsburg, April 24, 2025, Merion Station, Pa.

Kathleen Cook Luke, May 10, 2025, Leesburg, Va.

Linda Deviney Solomon, Aug. 18, Villanova, Pa.

Edward Sprague, Aug. 15, Lawrenceville, Ga.

1971

Carol Kessler DeSilva, Nov. 2, Muncy, Pa.

1972

Carol Kuhlmann, Sept. 7, Chester, N.J.

1973

Pat Drobnek, Dec. 20, Fairfax, Va.

Val Henry, June 30, Brooklyn, N.Y.

1974

Frederick Davis, Nov. 3, Highland, Md.

Sarah "Sally" Gudbrandsen, July 5, Lake Forest, Ill.

1975

Jacqueline Gearity, Oct. 17, Old Saybrook, Conn.

Julie Weigley, July 17, Berlin, Mass.

Richard Wilson, July 5, Sarasota, Fla.

1976

Frederick Mann P'11, July 12, Annapolis, Md.

Edward "Ted" Peterson, July 1, Chevy Chase, Md.

Guy Williams, July 29, Ypsilanti, Mich.

1977

Douglas Fischer, Sept. 28, Chambersburg, Pa.

1978

Harvey Edwards, Oct. 29, Selinsgrove, Pa.

Clifford Muller, Jan. 2, Vero Beach, Fla.

1979

Wayne Carter, Aug. 23, Hartford, Conn.

Charles Harraden, June 26, Aztec, N.M.

1981

Mary DeCredico, July 22, Annapolis, Md.

Lisa McComsey, Aug. 2, Red Bank, N.J.

1982

Barbara Nowak Salvitti P'11, Aug. 20, West Chester, Pa.

Ronald Ulp, Sept. 1, Kannapolis, N.C.

1983

Andrea Bickerton Vernot, Dec. 3, West Chester, Pa.

Larisa Neda Williams, Sept. 16, Huntington, N.Y.

1984

Jeffrey Hines, Dec. 18, York, Pa.

1988

David "Casey" McCracken, July 27, Mount Carmel, Pa.

1989

William Emery, Sept. 26, Williamsport, Pa.

Linda Reddington, Sept. 2, Bengaluru, India

1990

Kirk Luther, Nov. 1, Lititz, Pa.

Mark Williams, Oct. 17, Middletown, Del.

1992

William Courtney, Jan. 13, Coral Gables, Fla.

1995

Gino Frank, Nov. 4, Camp Hill, Pa.

Jason Shade, Aug. 4, Montgomery, Texas

2004

Steven Fowler, July 15, Rochester, N.Y.

2015

Terry Bennett, Jan. 7, Upper Marlboro, Md.

2016

Trevor Duba, July 30, Suwanee, Ga.

Master's

Robert Blyler M'69, Jan. 3, Northumberland, Pa.

Edward Bock M'65, P'92, Dec. 27, Centennial, Colo.

Donald Coscina M'67, Oct. 10, Grosse Pointe Park, Minn.

Robert Green M'59, Dec. 13, Hazelton, Pa.

Hillard Hoffman M'59, Feb. 21, 2025, State College, Pa.

Irene Myint Jensen M'51, July 1, Minneapolis

William Kadryna M'77, Nov. 18, Shamokin Dam, Pa.

Luke Kauffman M'66, Sept. 3, Northumberland, Pa.

Denise Ann Klinger M'90, Sept. 5, Dornsife, Pa.

Tallie Marsh M'64, P'79, G'06, G'10, Nov. 15, Elmira, N.Y.

Donald Morgan M'67, G'11, Oct. 7, Selinsgrove, Pa.

James Sharp M'49, Nov. 20, West Hartford, Conn.

Bernard Shultz M'62, Sept. 11, Benton, Pa.

Raymond Trudnak M'62, Nov. 23, Bloomsburg, Pa.

James Walters M'69, Jan. 1, Rock Hill, S.C.

Faculty and Staff

William Becker, Sept. 28, Lewisburg, Pa.

Bruce Corrie P'86, March 21, 2025, Newton, N.C.

Carl Danzig, Nov. 4, Clarks Green, Pa.

Kay Emery, July 27, Northumberland, Pa.

William Torok, Oct. 26, Danville, Va.

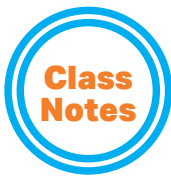
Friends

Alexis Barron P'83, P'88, G'13, G'18, Aug. 15, Philadelphia

Eileen Bosek P'77, P'79, G'02, G'08, Jan. 29, 2025, Beach Haven, N.J.

Marcia Henry P'80, P'86, P'89, G'17, Sept. 30, 2024, Mendham, N.J.

Margaret Loughead P'79, P'81, P'85, Sept. 11, Sarasota, Fla.



CLASS REPORTERS

1950s

1950

HOLLY HINCHMAN REIGNER '96
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1951

FAITH BRADLEY KING
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1955

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1989

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2000s

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2004

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2006

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2008

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2009

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2010s

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2011

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lindsay.machen@gmail.com

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2013

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mz008@bucknell.edu

2014

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2015

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cmh027@bucknell.edu

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2016

REBECCA MOORE
rebecca.moore016@gmail.com

2017

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2018

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aemillar3@gmail.com

2019

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2020s

2020

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2021

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2022

JASMINE MINHAS
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2023

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2024

MEGAN COLLINS
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2025

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EMERITI

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AMY MEDELL POE '89
amyb.poe@gmail.com



The Vaughan Literature Building Benches



Hailey Drapcho '26 and Professor Joe Scapellato connect over their shared passion for storytelling.

“One of my favorite things is talking about books with others. Being able to do that in my ‘West Branch’ internship, in my classes and even while sitting here on these benches truly makes me feel that Bucknell is the place for me to cultivate my literary passions.”

by HAILEY DRAPCHO '26 // photograph by EMILY PAINE

→ I love interacting with people who care as deeply about the humanities as I do, so you’ll often find me on the benches outside the Vaughan Literature Building. It’s a special spot – the trees and Science Quad offer a beautiful view, and the doors to Vaughan Lit are right behind me. Professors and classmates passing by often stop for impromptu conversations about literature, ideas or assignments. These spontaneous connections have given me a deep sense of belonging at Bucknell.

As an English – literary studies major, I’ve found a home here in a place that cultivates literary knowledge. The curriculum is both specialized and expansive, allowing me to explore aspects of the field that interest me most,

like publishing and editing. Even more, the professors make studying literature feel personal and engaging.

I have always found a home within books, and editing appeals to me because it lets me bring new, meaningful stories to others. I worked as an editorial intern at *West Branch* literary magazine with Professor Joseph Scapellato and served as co-head editor for the student literary magazine, *Confetti Head*. We sit and discuss the different submissions that we read, and we bring the work of people who sometimes haven’t been published before to life, which is so fulfilling. My favorite pieces to edit are slice-of-life stories about people being people. It’s important to have those pieces that have heart, to connect people.

Donor support powers **STUDENT SUCCESS**

Before she ever imagined going to college, **Hannah Kosko '27** walked through Lewisburg and wondered what possibilities might exist here. Today, she's helping create them for herself and for students who will follow.

As one of the inaugural **Gamgort Family Gateway Scholars**, Hannah received more than financial support. She found mentors who champion her goals, a community that celebrates her first-gen identity and the confidence to build something new — from curating artwork for the Center for Access & Success to helping launch Bucknell's first Access & Success Affinity House.

"Bucknell gave me the chance to build spaces for students like me — and I want to make sure more students get that, too."

— HANNAH KOSKO '27



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Former Bison football player Devin "Judge" Fitzsimmons '05 (left) earned a Super Bowl ring in February as a member of the Seattle Seahawks coaching staff. He joined the team in 2024 after stints with the Carolina Panthers, Arizona Cardinals, Detroit Lions and Indianapolis Colts.

photo courtesy of the SEATTLE SEAHAWKS